



# CULTURAL HERITAGE

The Foundation For Sustaining And Empowering Of Communal Identity

## E-PROCEEDINGS OF EXTENDED ABSTRACTS THE 1<sup>ST</sup> INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON CULTURAL HERITAGE (ISyCH) 2021

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Department of Heritage Studies,  
Faculty of Creative Technology and Heritage,  
Universiti Malaysia Kelantan

Email: [jpwsych@gmail.com](mailto:jpwsych@gmail.com)

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## URBANIZATION, MIGRATION AND THE DEMISE OF MALAY SETTLEMENT

Julaihi Wahid<sup>1</sup> & Azli Abdullah<sup>2</sup>

Department of Architecture, Faculty of Built Environment, UNIMAS, Sarawak<sup>1</sup>

Department of Architecture, Faculty of Architecture and Ekistics, UMK, Bachok, Kelantan<sup>2</sup>

azli.ab@umk.edu.my<sup>2</sup>

### ABSTRACT

The need for a better quality of life is driving the pace of urbanization in our country. Today, almost 80 per cent of Malaysians choose a metropolis area as their residence, which is arguably far beyond the rate of world urbanization currently at 55 per cent. The loss of Malay craftsmanship and Malay settlements are related to the issue. The current study employed socio-economic data from 350 local respondents from a survey in April 2019 and were analysed using IBM SPSS V26 supported by interview techniques and pictorial documentation. Mapping techniques are performed using the Google Earth application to generate existing settlements patterns. Finally, AutoCAD 2018 software is used to portray the current pattern of the case study area. The study establishes that urbanization and migration by the young generation destroy Malay settlements and craftsmanship skills.

**Keywords:** Malay human settlement, urbanization, Kelantan.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

*“Migration has been politicized before it has been analyzed” (Collier, 2013)*

Collier contends in his new book, *Exodus: How Migration Is Changing Our World*, that this complicated, psychologically motivated globalist thinking has been virtually ignored, despite having a significant impact on economic growth. Whether it is individuals dealing with the aftereffects of brain drain in impoverished societies or wealthy indigenous populations who must accept new migrants, governments' response to this increasing problem directly impacts a society's functionality. Since most urban populations are concentrated in the metropolis, the population rises every year. This process stretches back to the 19th and 20th centuries, which began to grow rapidly around 1800. It significantly changes the population growth, rural-to-urban migration, and the reclassification of rural areas as urban centres (UN-HABITAT and UNESCO, 2008). Changes are beginning to influence population growth, increase job opportunities, and the demand for settlement (Sana & Malik, 2014; Wahid, 2020). The migration also triggered the end of the centripetal cities age in the 20th century, which had the largest population in the United States and Europe prior. Eventually, it is known as the 'era of the middle landscape', where only cities are more densely populated than ever (Kostov, 1992). Whether globalization is beneficial or detrimental, there are two considerations. The advancement of information technology, transformation of media into sophisticated media, advanced modern construction techniques, and other urbanization and internationalization benefits the people. However, it harms humanity's poverty with informal settlements such as slums, squatters, and less efficient living as urban poverty levels increase (Roberts & Kanaley, 2006; Hofmann & Wan, 2013).

Slum settlements in cities are characterized by poor living conditions and a lack of systematic infrastructure with insufficient water resources and sanitary systems (Ahmad, 2020; Aziz et al., 2015). The main issue is the world's growing population. In 1950, only 29.1 per cent of the world's population lived in metropolises (Doxiadis, 1974), before increasing to 37.3 per cent in 1975. Global population increased by more than double in 2007 a 50 per cent increase in human civilization history and expected to increase annually. According to the United Nations, cities are accommodating 60.8 per cent of the world's population (United Nations, 2003; Wahid, 2014), while 43 per cent live in slum areas (UN, 2003: 5). A system known as the New World Order affects 600 million people in Asia through economics, politics, and the environment. United Nations also claims that half of the global population live in cities by the end of 2008, and rises to 70 per cent by 2050. Cities in Asia and Africa experienced the most explosive growth during this timeframe. It is estimated 27 megacities with a population of at least 10 million emerge in this century, compared to 19 megacities previously. More than half of these cities are located in Asia (Mat Jahi et al., 2016 & Wahid, 2014). However, this expansion creates a gap between urbanization planning and experience in the future (Hadi, 2011; Wahid, 2014 & 2020)

## **2. THE DREAMS AND MIGRATION MOTIVATION**

Initially, the development of education in rural areas allowed many farmers to migrate to the city. In India, individuals with limited education have a higher proclivity to migrate to urban areas than those with higher education. They prefer cities to find job opportunities suitable for their educational level. Technology also made it possible for farmers to understand the city environment. Although migration to cities creates problems such as population pressure, a lack of housing, and limited employment opportunities, the "pull" factor is fundamental for them. Any city in the world never guaranteed job opportunities to boost its economy. However, the pull factor's impact on rural areas is expanding. Personal motivation is greater than economic motivation. They migrated because of a lack of interest to continue living in traditional rural environments. Besides educational hub, young people test their luck in the city since there are more opportunities than in villages. Furthermore, motivational pressure factors are driving rural people to migrate. Migrants' ideals and cultures play a significant role during migration preparation to adapt and change to the urban environment through dreams, motivation, and culture (McGee, 1975). It depends on their background and the nature of the city they may have migrated to. African tribespeople from tribal cultures has difficulty adjusting to living in an industrial city. Their rural culture does not correlate to the industrial city environment. These factors allow for adaptation to the urban environment and increase the probability of living with their groups from the same rural area.

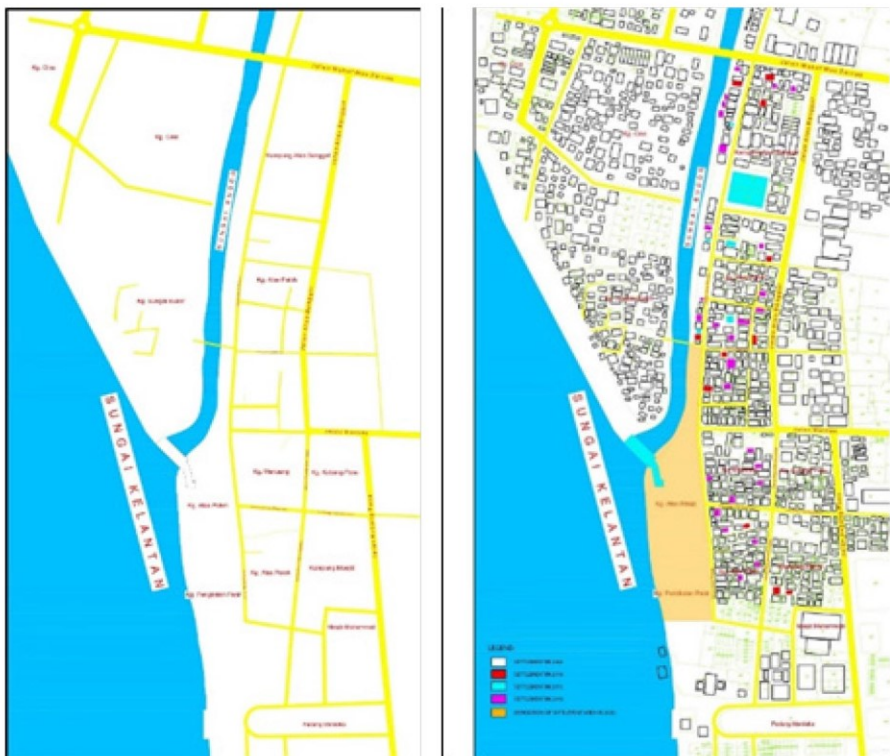
## **3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The Malay settlement has a strong relationship with the river when they started to build boats. The carpentry skills used were then developed through the construction of settlements. Restoring and maintaining the settlements using these skills became a source of income for those who did not migrate to the cities. This paper utilised a mixed-method technique commonly used in social research, integrating a case study and a longitudinal analysis of the urbanization progress, as well as literature reviews on human settlement in Malaysia. A case study of a Malay settlement

in Kota Bharu clarifies the sequential detail scenario of the finding based on the urbanization pace to derive recommendations and discussions. This area was one of the earliest settlements, rich in cultural and historical characteristics. It was traditionally active in metalwork and woodcraft trades which became Kelantan's trademark. The primary data was gathered through a questionnaire distributed to the case study area using a random sampling technique in 2019. Direct and participant observation techniques, visual analysis, and interviews describe the locals' setting and cultural elements, which are heavily influenced by the Malay daily activities. A total of 350 questionnaires were disseminated through various methods, including face-to-face interviews, group discussions, and villagers assistance having access to the area as a native sponsor. The settlement transformation was analysed using Google Maps, Drone Dji Mavic Mini 1, AutoCAD 2018, and cross-examined with the theory of urbanization, human settlements, and interviewing respondents.

#### 4. CASE STUDY: THE MALAY SETTLEMENT IN KOTA BHARU, KELANTAN.

The presence of wooden Malay settlement units is a significant feature of Jalan Atas Paloh Village (Figures 4.1). The village's name is influenced by a past person or activity representing the Malay community glory.

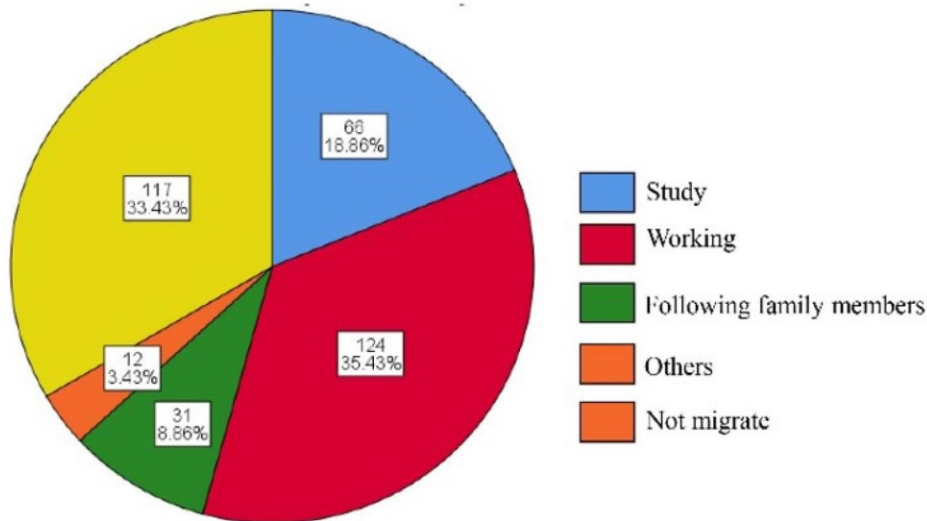


**Figure 4.1:** Malay settlement pattern in the research area (Source: Abdullah, 2021)

It is traditionally common to name a settlement after a historical character. Despite having only a few settlements, they inform the village of any activity or person in their neighbourhood. Menuang Village is one of few surviving settlements. The copper industry, which manufactures pottery and other copper-based handicrafts, sustains most people in these settlements. It also involves gold coins manufacturing known as 'ufti' for the Siamese Kingdom.

## 5. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

Many cultural activities disappeared due to various factors, including population migration. Table 1.0 demonstrates the main motivation for migration is job employment. Another factor that influenced migration is personal motivation. Lack of job opportunities in the settlement areas significantly contributes to migration. From observations, the only job opportunity available in the settlement areas is retail marketing. Due to low salaries, youngsters are uninterested in working there.



Source: Abdullah (2021)

**Figure 5.1:** Purpose of Migration (Source: Fieldwork, 2021)

These findings are supported by the following response from a respondent (R-1): '*... I used to have a grocery assistant. He manages the store, serves customers, and lifts goods. Now he must move to Ipoh to work with his brother. The salary paid is about RM 25 per day, not including meals...*' (R-1).

This response shows the limitation of job opportunities in the settlement area. Working in the retail market does not provide employment stability or better salaries. Average daily wages of RM 25 is no longer appropriate with high living cost in Kota Bharu. Severe consequences may happen in the future. Lack of job opportunities, low salaries, and increasing unemployment rate, especially in the carpentry industry, do not offer any alternatives for the younger generation. Therefore, Malay craftsmanship expertise is bound to disappear within the Malay community. The destruction of culture would lead to the loss of Malay cultural identity and consistency. The concept of culture has moulded the Malays' minds and souls influenced by religious interests, culture, and tradition. According to Kling (1989), these influences also moulded their character and identity. Urbanization negatively affects Malay culture considerably. According to Rapoport (1981), cultural expression is continuously evolving, changing a building or settlement. Based on the questionnaire results, n = 23 (6.6 per cent) people are uninterested in engaging in Malay art, as shown in Table 1. They notice that a lot of Malay artwork is highly complicated and challenging to produce. Furthermore, these products are difficult to sell due to competition from neighbouring countries which is more affordable than local products.

**Table 5.1:** Malay art and culture issues

Item	Frequency	Per cent
The people not interested	23	6.6
Young generations are not interested	6	1.7
High raw material prices	2	.6
Raw materials are difficult to obtain	2	.6
Not involve in that field	316	90.3
Still active in that field	1	.3
Total	350	100.0

*Source: Abdullah (2021)*

The current urbanization pace affects the area, forcing Malays to change their lifestyle. However, their mindset is still incapable of effectively adapting to the implications of urbanization. Although the neighbourhood was originally known for its various arts and cultural activities, the current situation reflects the glory of the past.

## 6. THE DEMISE OF THE MALAY HUMAN SETTLEMENT

The current migration process directly impacted the Malay settlement. Most of the settlements are rented to others who had no family ties to the surrounding communities. Others are ignored, abandoned, and destroyed. Since Malays are equipped with extensive educational opportunities, this process is expected to be prolonged. Excellence at school compels them to move to the city to seek better education and job opportunities. Eventually, the migration of the original inhabitants resulted in the physical destruction of settlements. Observations revealed that many settlements had been destroyed and neglected (Figure 3). Considering most of the settlements are wooden-made, it cannot be restored since Malays have lost traditional craftsmanship expertise. Furthermore, materials cost, lack of skilled labour, and natural calamities contribute to the demise of Malay settlements.



**Figure 6.1:** The Malay settlement (Source: Abdullah, 2021)

## 7. CONCLUSION AND DISCUSSION

The leading cause contributing to the demise of Malay settlements are the urbanization pace and migration. Although they live in Kota Bharu, they are unconscious of the urbanization phenomena. It is also influenced by economic growth due to urbanization. The Malay settlement is currently competing in the Industrial Revolution 4.0. A conservation approach should be utilised to develop a plan that aligns with the Congress of New Urbanism. Malay settlements should be developed based on community needs. It is no longer just a museumification of the architectural object. Even the Malay community should go beyond building conservation approach to sustain their population from migrating to cities.

Modern development disrespecting the Malay aspirations is disadvantageous to the Malay community. Implementation of conservation planning in the Malay neighbourhood is compulsory to strengthen the Malay culture. Eventually, Malay settlement, craftsmanship, and culture continue to suffer as the urbanization pace expands.



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