

PPR Lembah Subang Pilot Ethnography

Nurfarini Daing¹, Jamali Samsuddin¹, Jeya Sheila K.¹, Athirah Nor Kamarudin¹, Khairil Imran Md Khair¹, Khor Siew Yee²

¹Youth Trust Foundation, Selangor Darul Ehsan.

²Institut Sosial Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur.

nurfarini@myharapan.org, khor@ism.gov.my.

Introduction

The ~~proposed~~ research ~~aspires~~ was conducted to provide deeper insights into the lives of ~~understand the lack of participation and interest of youths in PPRs. programs organized by~~ ~~myHarapan and other agencies for urban poor youths.~~ Urban poor youths are considered as high risk, ~~therefore as such many various~~ programs ~~were~~ have been planned and organised for them ~~which in an attempt could to~~ enhance their ~~future lives by providing access to~~ opportunities through knowledge and skill building by many NGOs, Government Agencies and relevant bodies. ~~The study was conducted for the purpose to understand the youths of~~ PPR Lembah Subang which include their relationship with the society and culture ~~However, these~~ programs have mostly been through this understanding, it will enable myHarapan to tailor ~~a~~ specific and positively impactful programs more relevant and meaningful to the youth, w ~~hilst~~ providing data and information for policy makers to ~~come out with~~ generate policies ~~specifically for~~ more attuned to the needs of PPR youths.

=

The scope of this 2-weeks ~~pilot~~ ethnography focused on society and culture, ~~which cover~~ ing 5 topics as listed below:

1. Family Values and Social Relationship
2. Identity
3. Hygiene, Healthcare and Physical Activities
4. Access to Information and Knowledge
5. Interests and Capacity

Methodology

A convenience sampling technique was used to interview the ~~respondents~~ informants. They were explained about the study and provided with a letter of consent and was able to ~~can~~ withdraw from the study. There ~~was no~~ ~~ithout~~ obligation to participate in the study. In total, 90 people were ~~are~~ engaged in ~~this 2-week~~ this ethnography. The number of female

~~informants~~participants is 34 and male ~~participants~~informants is 46, aged between the ages of 15 -20 and 30 – 40 years old. The total number of youths aged 30 and under, is 39 (25 males and 14 females). Key community leaders -(surau imams, heads of blocks and -parents) were also interviewed in order to gain their perspectives.

Findings

Family Values and Social Relationship

Due to economic constraints, parents are away most of the time to earn money to support their families and many working double shifts. Therefore, ~~the~~ contact and interactions between working parents and children are minimal. Some youths said that they do spend time with their family when time as a family was invested in certain tasks such as running the family business. Neighbours reported that some parents ~~are~~were willing to send their children away to either boarding schools, schools for juvenile delinquents or to work as young as 10 years old to ease ~~the~~ family burdens and to teach them independence. ~~While~~Problematic parents (unstable relationship, divorcees in new relationships or engaged in substances abuse) however, left their children unattended to fend for themselves. From teachers' perspective, they ~~felt~~ that parents ~~are~~were unable or unwilling to spend time with the school administration and facultys to understand and be involved in their children's academic performance.

PPR youths who submit to the same circle of friends regard their group as close knit comrades. On the other hand, existence of many subcultures amongst them causes a form of disunity, causing accusations when conflict arises. Some see themselves as individuals who are misunderstood by many, especially by older generations when their ~~part~~ mistakes are taken as their identity hence buffering their efforts to become better. Underground mobs and gangsters have strong presence within the area.

Identity

There is very minimal interaction between races (Malay, Chinese and Indian). The community leaders estimated that there are only 2 Chinese ~~f~~Families in each block and their presence is very minimal. The immigrants have more interaction with the Malays but usually stick to their own. Non-Malays and immigrants rarely participate in local politics and engagements. Despite that, Indians have strong authority in the area through gangsterism. The Malays attributed ~~to~~ some social ills towards the Indians in certain block.

The non-Malays do not send their children to SK and SMK Lembah Subang, [and](#) instead are sent to day-care/preschool provided by the church nearby. Cases of intermarriage between Malays and the immigrants (Indonesians) are quite common but [are](#) not well accepted. Children born from these marriages are stateless and ostracised by the society. These kids cannot go to school therefore, leaving them uneducated and uninformed which lead to the chances for increasing cases of delinquency and deviance.

The lingua franca is casual Malay. The proficiency of Indians in both written and verbal are weak. For the case of Chinese youth, the Malay language was not observed because of minimal interaction. Due to language barriers, Malays and non-Malay children are not seen playing together. The youths who spend a lot of time out [of the](#) PPR by either studying or working have better English proficiency than youths who spend their time with the PPR circle.

On necessities and concerns, the items [which](#) have been specified according to priority such as clothing, house, work, healthcare, phone and cigarette. While other concerns are financial stability, lack of personal space and comfort, limited career opportunities, exposure to drugs at young age, lack of functional facilities for sports and entertainment, absence of identification card (no nationality) and image insecurities especially regarding the perception [from from](#) the outside.

Hygiene, Healthcare and Physical Activities

The water tank has only been cleaned once since the residents started moving in more than 10 years ago. The sewage system in all the blocks are clogged and almost [on a](#) daily basis, wastage spills on the ground floor corridor. The residents are irresponsible with their trash beyond their home unit because not a single trash bin [can be](#) found. There are no major issues in regards of access and affordability to healthcare facilities for the youth. Among the healthcare facilities that are accessible are Klinik 1Malaysia, Hospital Sungai Buloh, Hospital Kuala Lumpur and Sunway Medical ~~Center~~[Centre](#).

Access to Information and Knowledge

Sources of news and information used by the residents are WhatsApp, TV3 for news and Facebook. PPR Lembah Subang has no wifi facility because the cables [s](#) are either stolen or vandalised. Therefore residents purchase WiFi packages from service providers. Youths loaf at the laundry mat and restaurants for free access WiFi. [Program information also is limited to](#)

the few due to the existence of “group” power dynamics. As such, some interventions are only able to address a segment of the much larger population.

Truancy and leaving-skipping school has become a norm, especially at the age of 16 years old. Some youth schemes behind their parents by skipping school. While some are working outside the school hours, causing them to feel exhausted and too sleepy to focus while in class. Earning money to support life is more important for them.

Interests and Capacity

The table illustrates the activities, the youth are currently doing and activities they wish to partake given the capacity:

Doing	Wishlist
<i>Business</i>	
Food and beverages, automotive workshops printing and stationeries, online retail (fashion and electronics)	Urban Faming, event and project management
<i>Arts and Culture</i>	
Music, dance, theatre and graphic	Photography, fashion design and culinary arts
<i>Sports and Entertainment</i>	
Football/Futsal, cricket, netball, martial arts, snooker, online games, television and film	Gym, games and application design
<i>Others</i>	
Cosmetics, electric and electronics	Healthcare and Medicine

Conclusion

Bronfenbrenner’s ecological systems theory emphasises the importance of every interactive system involved within an adolescent’s environment in influencing his or her developmental framework with microsystem being the most influential in indeed true in the case of PPR Lembah Subang (Bronfenbrenner & Moris, 1998). The neglected state of the environment indeed affect the behaviour of the residents, more significantly, of the children and youth (Lloyd,2002). The sociocultural also plays an important role in shaping the youth especially at the age of adolescents that are crucial to perceive between the correct and wrong decision (Vimala & Shalini, 2001). According to Sharkey (2013) study showed that neighbourhood influences are more destructive when exposure takes place over multiple of generations from the mother’s child rearing practices which are affected by the neighbourhood environments

and by the environments in which the mothers themselves are raised. He also added the consequences of multigenerational exposure to poverty not only for academic performance but for family income, labour force participation, adult occupational status and wealth. And to overcome the inherited poverty will take multiple generations more to come.

In conclusion, it can be established through this study that many of the programs catered are very much on the doing list. In order, to gain ~~the~~ more commitment from the youths and ensure long term positive impact, programs by to attend, myHarapan and other- agencies with shared objectives programs must be catered around the wish list.

References

- Bronfenbrenner, U., & Morris, P. A. (1998). The Ecology of Developmental Process. In W. Damon & R. M. Lerner (Eds.), *Handbook of Child Psychology, Theoretical Models of Human Development* (pp. 993 – 1028). New York: Wiley.
- Lloyd, B. 2002. A Conceptual Framework for examining Adolescent Identity, Media Influence, and Social Development. *Review of General Psychology*, 6(1), 73 – 91.
- Sharkey, Patrick. *Stuck in Place*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2013. Print.
- Vimala, V. & Shalini S. 2001. *Teenage Blues: A Guide for Parents, Teachers & Counsellors*. New Delhi: Mosaic Books.