



**THE AWARENESS OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES ON
COASTAL MANAGEMENT IN KUALA SELANGOR,
MALAYSIA**

BY

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**A dissertation submitted in fulfilment of the
requirement for the degree of Master of (Urban and
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ABSTRACT

Nowadays, there are many concerns about the environmental protection of coastal areas throughout the developed and developing countries. Malaysia is considered one of the countries, which has the administration of coastal zone management by the Federal Government, and it is also strong in surveillance and enforcement but lacks community-based management. Public participation and local-level involvement are recognized as important components of coastal management. This study will be expected to expose and evaluate the current awareness of local community on coastal management based on both; the provision of coastal management programs and the local community knowledge on coastal environmental issues. Moreover, this study also identified the challenges or constraints impeding effective awareness community practicing coastal management Kuala Selangor are selected to be the study area for this research. Additionally, the study outlined the issues of awareness of local community in coastal management and provided recommendations based on a survey conducted in the study area as well. These recommendations will provide the government agencies, private firms and its associations, with suggestions to improve local community awareness on coastal management, which are vital for the planning of coastal areas and implementing environmentally sound management programs that are involving local communities for effective coastal management.

ملخص البحث

قامت هذه الدراسة على التعريف وتحليل مستوى الوعي لدى المجتمعات المحلية في إدارة المناطق الساحلية في ماليزيا. إن المشاركة العامة وتفاعل المجتمع المحلي في إدارة المناطق الساحلية يعتبر عنصراً مهماً في الإدارة الساحلية. إن المستفيدين من المناطق الساحلية على وجه العموم يجب أن يكونوا على استعداد تام للمشاركة بالمعلومة وتعريف المشاكل البيئية الخاصة بالمناطق الساحلية مما يؤدي إلى نفاذ المخطط المطلوب في تلك المناطق. إن التعريف والتحليل لماهية الوعي عند المجتمعات المحلية في الإدارة الساحلية يعتمد على أمران، أولهما: هو وفرة البرامج التوعوية في إدارة المناطق الساحلية و ثانيهما: هو المعرفة العامة لدى المجتمع عن مشاكل البيئة الساحلية. إن الوعي الغير تام بالإضافة إلى نقص المعلومات عن البيئة الساحلية وإدارتها يؤدي إلى ضعف مشاركة المجتمع المحلية في الإدارة المحلية للمناطق الساحلية. لهذا السبب جاء هذا البحث ليقوم على دراسة الوعي على المستوى المحلي لإدارة الساحل مما يؤثر بشكل إيجابي في إتخاذ أي قرار من قبل ذوي الخبرة في وضع المخططات لتلك المناطق. كوالا سيلانغور أختيرت كمنطقة للدراسة ويرجع ذلك لقرىها من كلانج فالي الذي يعتبر أحد أهم المؤثرات الايجابية على المنطقة من خلال عملية التطور الذي يشهدها. في الجمل الدراسة استطاعت وضع الخطوط العريضة لمشكلة الوعي لدى المجتمعات المحلية ووضع المقترحات الملائمة الخاصة بمنطقة الدراسة. إنه لمن المتوقع أن التوصيات الخاصة بالدراسة سوف تزود الوكالات الحكومية والشركات الخاصة بمقترحات عن وعي المجتمع بالإدارة الساحلية والذي يعتبر جد مهم في تخطيط المناطق الساحلية وبيئتها بالإضافة إلى حزمة من البرامج التي تسهم في تفعيل دور المجتمع المحلي في إدارتها بشكل فاعل.

APPROVAL PAGE

I certify that I have supervised and read this study and that in my opinion it conforms to acceptable standards of scholarly presentation and is fully adequate, in scope and quality, as a dissertation for the degree of Master of Urban and Regional Planning.

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this dissertation is the result of my own investigations, except where otherwise stated. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted as a whole for any other degrees at IIUM or other institutions.

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I hope that this contribution to the theory and practice of local awareness in coastal management helps to build a road towards a further sustainable approach to coastal planning for the benefit of our coast and future generations and our role as Muslims to fulfill our commitment to Allah by protecting this earth.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BP	Planning Block
CB-CRM	Community-Based Coastal Resource Management
CB-ICM	Community-based Integrated Coastal Management
CEC	Coastal Engineering Center
CETC	Coastal Engineering Technical Center
CM	Coastal Management
CRM	Coastal Resource Management
CRMPSJ	Coastal Resource Management Plan for South Johor
CZM	Coastal Zone Management
DID	Department of Irrigation and Drainage
DANCED	Danish Cooperation for Environment and Development
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN
IAPG	Inter-Agency Planning Group
ICM	Integrated Coastal Management
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
JSCC	Johor State Consultation Committee
KSNP	Kuala Selangor Nature Park
MDHS	Hulu Selangor District Council
MDKS	Kuala Selangor District Council
MOSTE	Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment
MPK	Klang Municipal Council
MPS	Selayang Municipal Council
NCECC	National Coastal Erosion Control Council
NPP	National Physical Plan
NSC	National Steering Committee
PU	Planning Unit

RFZPPN	Coastal Zone Physical Plan
UNCLOS	United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

This study emphasizes on the awareness and the involvement of community in the management of coastal area at the local level. Despite the fact that, various researches have been conducted out regarding the management of coastal areas, but there are many questions about how the local level such as local communities can be equipped with the practice of management of the coastal area, particularly in Kuala Selangor. With the increase of environmental issues, the need to control the adverse effect of global warming and the uncontrolled activities of the coast have all developed to the interests in studying the awareness and the functions among the local level communities.

More than 60 percent of the globe's population lives within 60 km of the coast (Post et al., 1996), included urban activities such as industrial facilities, agriculture, aquaculture, tourism, shipping, forestry and other various developments. According to FAO,(1998), The damages are happening increasingly not only because of fragility of populations, but mainly due to the development carried out in the coastal areas. Furthermore, there is much attractiveness for development of coastal areas for people, especially cities in coastal areas. The coastal city is the source of development for most of the coastal habitat. Unmindful developments of coastal areas within which cities sprawl are more vulnerable to environmental disasters.

The challenges are in some cases vast which vary from environmental exhaustion and degradation to management move toward problems and enforcement.

In addition, the difficulty of implementation, financial restraints and lack of skilled personnel which are being experienced at the district and local level have made it rather difficult at achieving a sound management of the environment in these areas. (Mariana M.O., 2008)

On March 11, 2011, Japan was hit by an 8.9 magnitude earthquake that caused great destruction. As a result of the earthquake, a tsunami broke out as well. A tsunami is caused by an underwater earthquake that happens because of the collision of plates ("Tsunami In Japan," 2011). Environmental degradation plays a critical role in triggering some disasters, and in making others worse. Catastrophes strike hardest the countries encounter by deforestation, erosion, over cultivation and over-grazing of marginal lands. The vulnerability to natural disasters is also growing due to increasing population and inadequately planned urban growth. The number and density of people living in cities within earthquake and tropical cyclone zones have risen dramatically in the past two decades (Programme, 2001).

Looking more specifically at the community dimension of Integrated Coastal Management (ICM), several authors e.g. Clark,(1996); Scura,(1992); and Sorensen,(1990) describe the overall goal of ICM as to improve the quality of life of the communities that depend on coastal resources as well as providing for needed development (particularly coastal-dependent development) while maintaining the biological diversity and productivity of coastal ecosystems in order to achieve and maintain desired functional and/or quality levels of coastal systems, as well as to reduce the costs associated with coastal hazards to acceptable levels (Visser, 2004).

In essence, this study provides a better understanding of awareness among the communities of Kuala Selangor being one of communities faced with economic development as well as its role as important part of State Selangor-Malaysia. Because

of this, there is the need for awareness of management of the coastal area so as to sustain these increasing trends in both the population and development in the area of study.

1.2 STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

Public involvement in decision making for numerous environmental impact is important for both local project issues and strategic planning (Petts, 1999). Cross boundary impacts are of particular concern with coastal processes where local solutions can pass on problems further along the coast or inland (King, 1999). Coastal areas and estuaries have complex dynamics and multiple effects on the natural and human landscapes that they influence. Because of these processes, people living in coastal areas have to adapt to change. Unless local people are aware of the changes, comprehend the processes and can be helped to adapt, there is always the potential for conflict with the powers that want to accelerate or impose changes that are not felt acceptable by the people living in the area (Guthrie et al., 2003).

Firstly, rapid urbanization and development in several of these local communities increase the challenges and necessitate the creation of environmental responsive solutions. Discussion is commonly what is perceived to acquire place at present and is a route that involves giving and receiving information and comments about proposals (Petts, 1999). Because of this active discussions, the range of environmental problems perceived to be major threats to human welfare has expanded considerably over the past two decades, from pollution issues at local, regional and then international scales, technical to widespread natural resource depletion and degradation (Colby, 1991). According to Lo, (1996) the urbanization of Kuala

Lumpur impact several district in Selangor state and that is include Kuala Selangor.

Secondly, the key challenges facing local communities in practicing coastal areas management in Kuala Selangor are not only limited to integration, imposition of Federal and State laws, policies and regulations but also in the awareness of the said laws, policies and regulations embedded at achieving a sustainable environment. Coupled with human resources and qualified professionals available to meet the challenges at local level.

Therefore, it is the argument of this research that there is not enough awareness of some stakeholders and the lack of a more responsible approach can be the cause poor participatory approach on coastal management. Participation that allows a quantity of influence on decisions (Htun, 1988), that is perceived, allows greater involvement and a reduction in conflict over the coastal natural resources utilization. A good and successful environmental management exists when the awareness is perfectly presented to accommodate the issues and problems and when the programs and activities set are well implemented and enforced. As such there is the need to study the awareness of local level communities practicing integrated coastal zone management/coastal management in coastal areas. This research aims to suggest ways in which such lack of participation could be avoided and propose some recommendations for better participation which will result in greater involvement in the practice of coastal management in Kuala Selangor.

1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Based on some of the issues highlighted in the statement of problems, the aim of the study is to analyze the awareness of local communities in practicing coastal zone

management in Kuala Selangor. In order to achieve this aim the following objectives have been formulated:

1. To provide a better understanding of awareness of the local communities in the coastal area of Kuala Selangor.
2. To identify the challenges or constraints on education impeding effective awareness of community practice on coastal management for the purposes of environmental protection.
3. To outline recommendations to improve the role and functions of the awareness on local communities in practicing Coastal Zone Management (CZM) or Coastal Management (CM).

1.4 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Based on the aim and objectives of the study, research questions have been identified as follow:

1. What are the levels of awareness amongst local communities in managing coastal areas?
2. What are the constraints for local-communities impeding successful coastal environmental management programs initiatives/participation?
3. Which approaches are possible to achieve effective engagement of local-community on coastal management programs?
4. How the awareness of public on coastal management and the participation in coastal management can be improved?

1.5 SCOPE OF STUDY

The study is also based on data and information available, which includes various experiences and areas local people have been involved in over the period of time in Kuala Selangor.

Firstly, the study focused on key aspects regarding the awareness of local communities in coastal areas in Kuala Selangor about the management of its coastal environment. However, because of time limitation and availability of resources, a few areas/zones were focused upon for data collection.

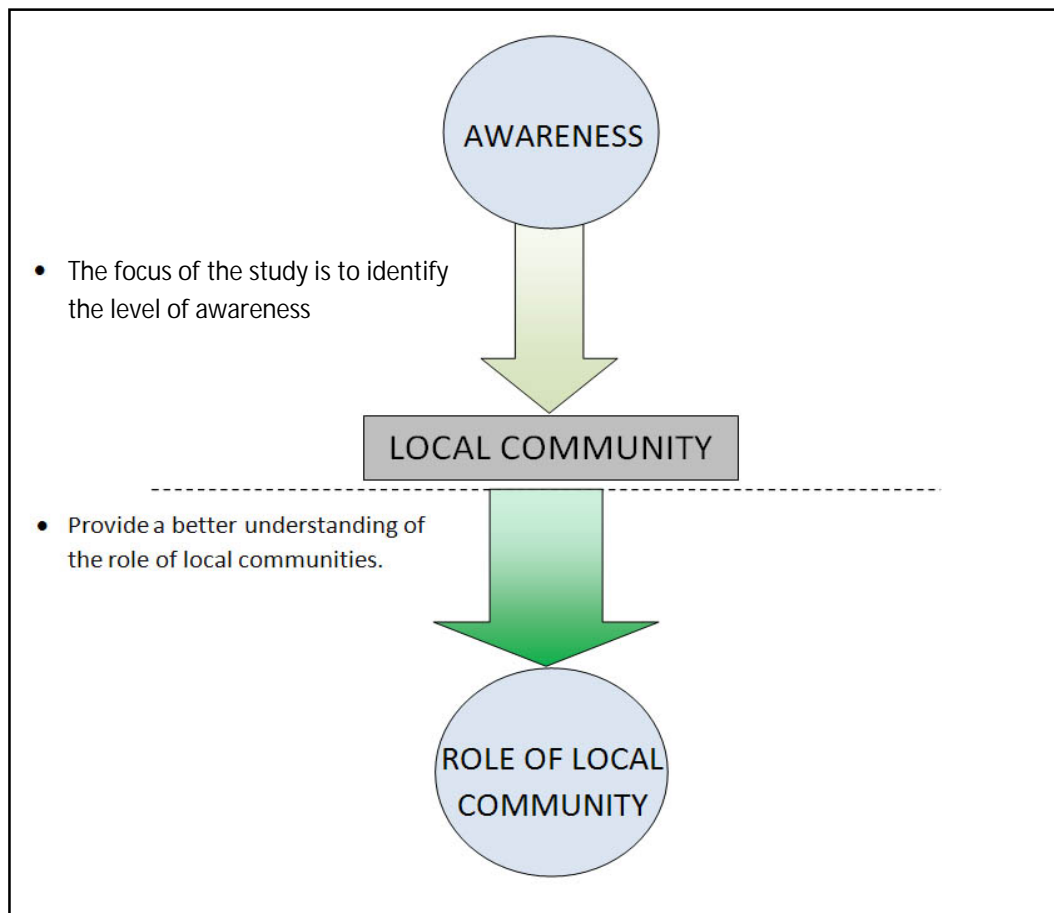


Figure 1.1: The Scope of the Study.

Secondly, the study looks into various roles of local communities coupled with human resources availability which include experience of each area regarding coastal environment, expertise and professionalism and availability of programs and activities carried out in managing the coast. These, together with other information available (level of education of community and local people, awareness on coastal environmental management and availability of training and its frequency among the public) and their various functions and roles, as well as the existing interaction within them, (Refer to Figure 1.1).

1.6 SIGNIFICANCE OF STUDY

There are reasons why I have chosen to focus on the roles played by local communities and their awareness on coastal management. Firstly, the coastal environment issue is a very dynamic one that concerns all. Secondly, the local communities have a very important role to play in the practice of coastal management since the direct consequences of the environmental crisis greatly falls on them. Furthermore, there is a need to find a resolution as to how the awareness of local communities can be improved and cooperation can be gained at solving the coastal environmental problems. This study also looks into impediments to effective awareness and coastal management at the practices of local communities.

1.6.1 Significance towards Planning

Community –based management approaches to planning are rely on the principles observed by local coastal communities in managing the resources upon which they depend. Community participation will help to ensure that the plan not only addresses

the full range of planning issues, but also engages local stakeholder support in implementing site-level activities, all of which contribute to successful short-and long-term outcomes. Coastal area management plays an important role in urban activities. There are many benefits in the planning context, especially on environment and economic sectors to ensure a sustainable development on local communities at coastal areas. In this study, awareness and participation of local community will be discussed to improve the planning process. Additionally, local community participation in planning and managing coastal areas provide a good platform for local community to show their role as effective stakeholder and improve the process of decision making. Hopefully, a partnership between local communities and local government in administrating coastal areas will flourish.

1.6.2 Significance towards Community

The community-based approach to coastal resources management is important for a better understanding of the concept of advancing practices of community's management (TEAM, 2001). Understanding of communities to the natural and dynamics of the coastal system is the right track for a successful coastal management. With community-shared responsibility is providing sufficient resource base for future generations, community based management has greater potential for effectiveness and equity (Ferrer, 1997). A fine implementation and enforcement of environmental related programs and activities also means the creation of a sustainable community and development. This will minimize any side effects of development on these areas and communities. People's participation in the management of resources also provides a sense of ownership over the resource which makes the community far more responsible for long-term sustainability of resources. There are two considerable

components of social sustainability that create its foundation. The first one, is social capital, or the investments and services that create the framework for society (Goodland, 2002). The second one and equally important component is human capital or the health, education, skills, knowledge, leadership, and available resources within a given community (Goodland, 2002). The importance of resources such as social and human capital is invaluable to coastal communities such as Kuala Selangor. The study emphasizes the importance of local community as stakeholder on coastal areas management. Identify the awareness as a major problem to be overcome is rational as local community needs to appreciate the purposes/reasons to attend programs on coastal management.

1.6.3 Significance towards Environment

As a result of the United Nation's Millennium Summit in September 2000, collaboration between American universities, the World Economic Forum, and the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission developed the most inclusive Global Environmental Sustainability Index to date (Peacock, 2008). According to this index, the environmental aspects of sustainability encompasses: environmental systems such as air quality, water quality, and biodiversity; environmental stressors such as human population growth, overfishing, freshwater, and ecological footprint; and environmental stewardship indicators that include greenhouse gas emissions, pollution, and conservations efforts (Peacock, 2008). The environmental components of sustainability are desirable to coastal communities such as Kuala Selangor. Environmental sustainability promotes positive outcomes that are enduring and support all aspects of life and society. An environmentally conservative society is by principle, based on conservation and reduced consumption of natural resources