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URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND ADOLESCENT BEHAVIOUR IN SOCIAL PROBLEM: A CASE STUDY OF NORTH EAST PENANG, MALAYSIA

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Abstract

The purpose of the study is to explore a possible connection between urban development and the social problem faced by an adolescent, the group who considered to be a trivial problem and less been discussed detailed in previous studies. The establishment of theory and research procedure to mitigate this subject's exploration leads to the analysis of the relationship of determination factors between adolescent social problems and urban development, the exploration study approach used with the questionnaire that equips with nominal and ordinal scales as a tool. The random sampling method practically implemented to the target group, which is an adolescent from several residential in Penang, Malaysia. George Town, Bukit Jambul, Ayer Itam, Gelugor, Jelutong, Tanjung Tokong and Tanjung Pinang select as areas of study. The preliminary findings show a significant connection between urban development and adolescent behavior pattern. This study's results indicate that the event and the elements of municipal facilities and family ties include the role of parents as a strong influence on youth involvement in social problems. It can also be used as a reference for future research in urban development factors and enrich the study of welfare and social security of adolescents towards sustainable urban communities.

Keyword: Urban Development, Adolescent, Social Problem, Sustainable Communities

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INTRODUCTION

Urban growth influence by various reasons and factors, namely physical, economic, social, technological, environmental, and others. Previous researchers have conducted various studies on urban development, whether it is a historical city (Latip et al., 2018) or a new city. (Simon, 2015; Vreeker et al., 2008) argue that cities are the focal point of physical and public activity to meet individuals' and organizations' needs and interests according to the process, human (people), and growth (construction) will create a joint. Instead of physical, socioeconomic, and institutional factors, the event also affects the social problem in the urban area. The most vulnerable group that changed is an adolescent.

The period for adolescents (Casey et al., 2008; Ruffin, 2014; Santrock, 2014) begins at the adolescent stage until adulthood and according to the age of development. It coincides with the World Health Organization (WHO) definition that it starts at the age of 10 to 19 years (Diane et al., 2003). According to (Qidwai et al., 2010), adolescents must be seen differently from the average population, and it is imperative to take into account the current reaction of this group in determining the direction of development of a city. This is to provide a conducive space for this group to thrive with good and positive values and norms.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND ADOLESCENT

Rapid urban physical development (Simon, 2015; Haughton, 1997) and quality of life (Serag El Din et al., 2013; Theofilou, 2013), primarily involving human resources and physical aspects. It leads to socio-economic development and growth especially in the fields related to the industry, services, tourism, municipalities, and others. The continuity of growth must be adapted to the needs of their population. Especially, consideration for the value-added in social factors involving adolescents and youth. (Michael & Ben-Zur, 2007) quote that the group have different thinking patterns and are always looking for easy ways to meet their needs and wants. Globalization and the process of urban development consistently put pressure on the group who are not ready in terms of maturity of thought and behavior to face challenges. According to (Guidi & Placido, 2015; Lesinskiene et al., 2015; Verma et al., 2014) statistical figures show a definite increase in the problems of adolescents and youth around the world who face social problems, especially those involving big cities.

Generally, adolescents (Casey et al., 2008) and youth's developmental patterns begin through physical and social touch, domains and cognitive skills, morality, and adapt to change. In fact, (Arnett, 1999) states that this group always assumes that living in the city and associating with its heterogeneous population requires excellent communication and decision-making skills.

The phenomenon of social problems among adolescents and youth occurs in parallel and line with the process of modernization, either physically or emotionally. Cultural shock seems to play an essential role in changing the

landscape of adolescent thinking, emotionally and physically. At the adolescent level, an understanding of self-efficacy and self-advantage often leads to an identity crisis among adolescents. As a result, some behaviors are unusual in the norms of life that interpret bad or harmful behavior.

Misinterpretation or confusion in this identity crisis must be handled well to prevent it from getting worse and out of control. This development will directly have a significant impact on the development of the country in the long run.

Therefore, the social problems faced by this generation must be handled well and take into account all the factors that affect the mental and physical development of this group. Planning for their social environment must be the main thrust to monitor and control this group's personality development, which is radical and curious. According to (Fagan et al., 1986; Ballester et al., 2010; Thornberry et al., 1994), those who violated the norms of the community known as deviant group behavior and explained that their abnormal behavior would be known as delinquent when they are in school or youth. (Azmawati et al., 2015) emphasize that risk-taking practices (Leather, 2009) are a hallmark of adolescents that cause them to engage in practices that potentially harm themselves and others. It belongs to the public health problem and significantly requires special attention and action by the relevant bodies. In the urban aspect of adolescents, there are various researchers and discussions from different countries and academic backgrounds to the observed experience of young people in the city. Most of them highlight the most affected group in the urban area and the risk they have to overcome.

RESEARCH BACKGROUND

The whole study discusses social issues and problems among adolescents that occur in the city. Due to the lack of research information related to this group and the effect of rapid urban development towards their behaviour.

Malaysia has been experiencing rapid urbanization since the 1970s and even became the fastest growing country in Southeast Asia in the 1980s. This rapid growth is due to the economic growth of the city under national development policies and strategies in line with the New Economic Policy. With the New Economic Policy initiative, Malaysia has been able to create an excellent municipal network system and meet the people's current needs. It started in the 1970s and is one of the fastest-growing countries in the Southeast Asian region in the 1980s. This rapidity has given many benefits to all groups. There are also adverse effects that must be addressed by all parties. Among them are the social impact and quality of life to adolescents.

The development assumes that the family institutions will play an essential role in providing these groups with the currents of urban modernization. Authentic evidence is needed to support the assumption. However, until now, no

study can be linked between urban growth and social problems of adolescents in the area.

Therefore, this study conducts to explore the relationship between urban development, the utility facilities provided, adolescents, and family institutions in the city. This study will generally evaluate the following questions:

1. Is there a relationship between the structures of adolescent social problems of urban development in the municipality?
2. Is there a relationship between adolescent and family ties in the city?
3. Which family ties, urban structures, and facilities in the town have more influence on teenagers' social problems in the city?

Hypotheses

Hypothesis 1: There are elements of urban development contributing to social problems.

Hypothesis 2: There is no significant relationship between adolescent social problems and urban development.

Hypothesis 3: There was a statistically significant correlation between family ties, urban structures, and facilities in the city closer to the social problems of teenagers in a city

North East Penang is one of the five administrative districts in Penang State. Penang population estimated total out to 1,746,300 with 252,000 from the community is an adolescent ranging from ages 10-19 years old. They were opened in 1786 by Captain Francis Light, George Town, which located in this district and Penang, Malaysia. The area is also the area's most advanced and the most populated in the state of Penang. Penang City Council is the local authority for the study area. It is one of the largest cities in Malaysia supported by other satellite cities, namely Sungai Dua, Tanjung Tokong, Jelutong, Bayan Lepas, Tanjung Bungah, Air Itam and Bayan Lepas. Before the development of Kuala Lumpur, the city of George Town served as a port and financial center in Peninsular Malaysia. It is the oldest city in Malaysia crowned by Queen Elizabeth II on 1 January 1957 as an urban status area.

Formerly the local authority for the city of George Town was the George Town City Council, which established in 1957. However, it was replaced by the Penang Municipal Council (MPP) in 1976. In 2010, it was replaced by the Penang City Council (MBPP) to manage and regulate the rapid development and activities of the growing population.

George Town designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2008. It has become a significant tourist attraction from within and outside the country. Many shopping malls, namely Gurney Paragon, Gurney Plaza, Prangin Mall, Ist Avenue, Midland, Bukit Jambul Plaza, Queensbay Mall, Penang Times Square, are the focus and interest of the public, including adolescents in the surrounding

area. The growing residential area around the Northeast province of Penang causes teenagers to gather at school or any of their meetings in the city center.

In general, local activities have led to the development of settlements in the surrounding area. It consists of two central districts administered by the Penang City Council, namely the Northeast District, and the Southwest District. This study will focus on the Northeast district area, namely the city center, Tanjung Pinang, Pulau Tikus, and surrounding villages such as Kampung Makam, Kampung Masjid Bagan, Kampung Dodol, Pengkalan Weld, Kampung Rawa, Jelutong and others. The selection of this Northeast area is due to the vibrant economic activities of the population and excellent facilities in terms of infrastructure and utilities that produce an active and harmonious environment. The existence of unplanned and unplanned housing areas, shopping malls, recreation areas, recreational parks has made this area suitable for the characteristics of the study needs.

This environment seems to have a close relationship with the pattern of teenage life (Azmawati et al., 2015; Reijneveld et al., 2010) and contributes to the social problems (Arnett, 1999; Davis & Grier, 2015; Knöll & Roe, 2017) that are increasingly spreading among themselves. This research intends to study the first indicator that is physical changes in urban areas. The continuous increase in population, migration activities, and the expansion of economic and physical space in urban areas have resulted in changes in the urban environment that directly and indirectly affect adolescent activities and their surroundings.

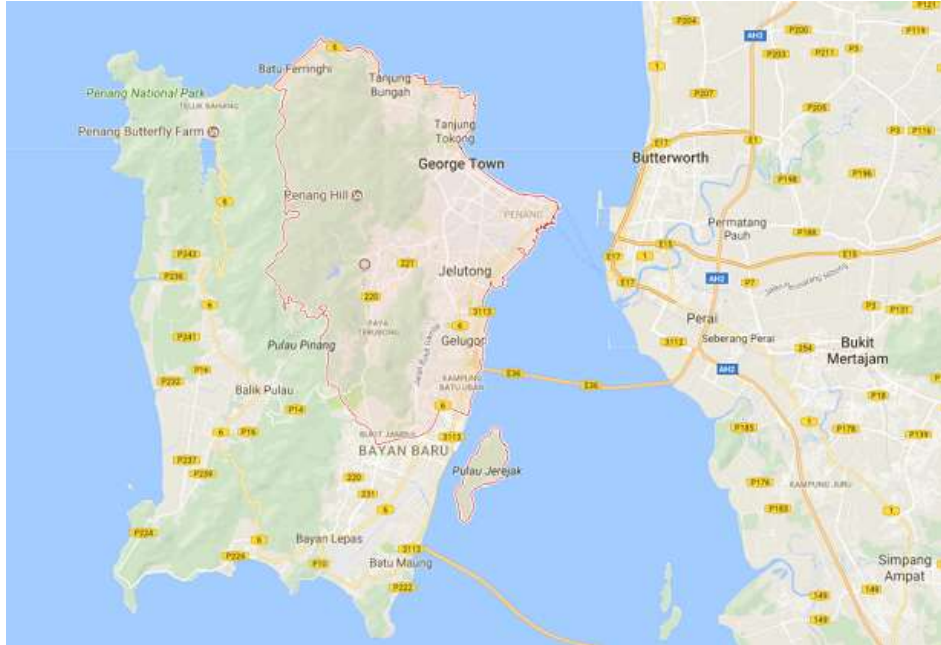


Figure 1: Location Map of North East Penang
Source : Google Map, 2019

METHODOLOGY

The study approach using descriptive analysis (Paul A. Jargowsky, 2005; Henry, 2008; Thompson, 2009) to discuss current situations and circumstances. The purpose of the research design of this study is to answer the central questions of the study and technically to control the variance. The research design's effectiveness and robustness can provide relevant information related to the characteristics and facts of the study population in selected areas. Thus, using the descriptive analysis will provide a more accurate perception of the adolescent and his relationship with urban development and municipal facilities. Therefore, this questionnaire will examine, evaluate, and understand the relevance and relationship of urban development with adolescents who are vulnerable and involved in social issues and problems. For example promiscuity, hanging out, immorality and adultery, alcoholism, smoking and drug addiction (cocaine, marijuana, alcohol, and glue). According to (Babbie, 2015), biases can be reduced with the use of questionnaires as there is no direct influence from the researcher, but the different situations might happen if the researchers are in the same place because they have advantages to ask more specific questions. Interview method can be problematic bias with the times required to interview respondents are very limited.

In this study, the population that determines problem areas needs to be justified. The extent to which and how much data and information should collect and analyzed structurally organized. Random sampling method (Frerichs, 2008; Vitter, 1985) used to levels up the equality and opportunity been to choose in the established cohort. The population of this study includes the high school youth around the Northeast District of Penang Island. There are a total of 37 secondary schools, and their students estimate at 35, 562 people.

A set of questionnaires developed to suit this study—information obtained from a survey containing 53 questions used as the primary data. Likert scales (Likert, 1932) are used for reliability and managed to measure individual characteristics effectively. Also, the instruments used in this study are a questionnaire that divides into four parts; A, B and C, and D.

1. Part A: Consists of subject age, gender, race, religion, educational level of parents, and family income per month.
2. Part B: Consists of the perception of high school teenagers against the city. How often are they go to the town? By whom and how their way into the city? What are they looking for in a town? The number of items is nine items.
3. Part C: This section measures the level of teens' consent on the public structure and its relationship with adolescents itself, namely, infrastructure and facilities that exist in the city, entertainment, and shopping center.
4. Part D: This section consists of the questionnaire related to the profile of the respondents. It is including the measurement of the kid's consent about social problems affecting the youth and its relation to the structure of the municipality. The questionnaire is divided into four parts, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1 : Methods of Data Collection

Section	Variables	Item
A	Background of respondents	9
B	Perception of the city	9
C	The structure of urban development and youth	8
D	Municipal and adolescent	45

Source : Authors 2019

A total of 470 adolescents interviewed for this study. They consist of boys (204) and girls (266) from various schools around the Northeast district of Penang Island aged between 12-18 years. Instrument devices comprise a questionnaire designed to discover the concept of a city public review, urban

setting, and relationship between social problems in urban adolescents, adolescent behaviour, and family ties in the urban community. The questionnaire as a research instrument was done manually to secondary students around the Eastern district of Penang Island. The data collection period took about three weeks to complete. Approximately 470 sets of questionnaires prepared, and interviews conducted at the shopping mall and identified the spot area. At the period, the researcher received and validated only 300 sets of questionnaires. The response rate was 63.8%.

ANALYSIS DATA

Statistical analysis made on the raw data taken through the questionnaire made with the help and using SPSS Version 24. In general, the data analysis made includes descriptive analysis, reliability analysis, and correlation. Table 2 below indicates a response rate of 63.83%. The rest at 36.17% refuse to cooperate because of personal reasons and confidential matters.

Table 2: Response Rate

	Total	Percentage (%)
Questionnaires	470	100.0
Collected Questionnaires	300	63.83
Qualified Questionnaires	300	63.83
Disqualified Questionnaires	0	0
Questionnaires were not collected	170	36.17

Source: Author2019

Table 3 shows the demography profile, namely age group, gender, academic stream, religion, and parental control.

Table 3: Demography Profile (n = 300)

	Frequency	Percentage (%)
<u>Age Group</u>		
12-15	93	25.7
16-18	207	74.3
<u>Gender</u>		
Male	132	43.4
Female	168	56.6
<u>Academic Stream</u>		
Art	67	22.3
Commerce	44	14.7
Science	121	40.3

Vocational	15	5.0
Others	53	17.7
<u>Religion</u>		
Muslim	205	68.3
Cristian	79	26.4
Buddhist	3	1.0
Hindu	13	4.3
<u>Parent Occupation</u>		
General Worker	95	31.7
Government Servant	52	13.3
Businessman	115	38.3
Others	38	12.7

Source: Author 2019

Five comprehensive profile indicates that dominantly 74.3% age group at 16-18 and the rest age at 12-15. As for gender, female respondents at 56.6% extra 13.2% from the male. With an academic stream at 40.3% for science followed by art at 22.3% and the lowest at 5.0% for Vocational. The rest of 14.7-17.7 percent. The religious profiles reveal that more than 50% of the respondents are Muslim, with 68.3% followed by Cristian at 26.4%, the rest Buddhist, Hindu, and others. People in business with 38.3% lead the parent occupation, followed by general workers at 31.7%, and the rest are government servants and others.

Table 4: Relationship Between School and Town (n = 300)

	Frequency	Percentage (%)
<u>Residential Town</u>		
George Town	181	60.3
Bukit Jambul	46	15.3
Ayer Itam	18	6.0
Gelugor	10	3.4
Jelutong	17	5.7
Tanjung Tokong	18	6.0
Tanjung Pinang	10	3.3
<u>School Near to Shopping Complex</u>		
Yes	260	86.7
No	40	13.3
<u>Distance from School to the Nearest Shopping Complex</u>		
More than 1 km	85	28.3
Less than 1 km	77	25.7
Less than 500m	50	16.7

School in the city	46	15.3
Other	42	14.0

Source: Authors 2019

Table 4 revealed that 60.3% of the respondents come from the George Town area, followed by the Bukit Jambul area with 15.3% and the rest from the nearby area. 86.7% admit that the school near to shopping complex and the rest answers is no. Distancing school from shopping complex indicates that 28.3% respondent school is more than 1 kilometers. They are followed by the rest with below 1-kilometer distance from their school.

Table 5: Relationship Between Urban and Youth (n = 300)

	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Time frame to town		
After school hour	83	27.7
At night	54	18.0
Weekend	120	40.0
Other	43	14.3
Companion to Town		
Parent	41	13.7
Relatives	54	18.0
Friends	161	53.7
Couple	44	14.6
Purpose to town		
Personal Accessories	75	25.0
School Accessories	27	9.0
Food	55	18.3
Cloth	24	8.0
Cyber Café	17	5.7
Cinema	48	16.0
Snooker	27	9.0
Bar/Night Club/Disco	27	9.0
Favorite Place in town		
Shopping Mall	186	62.0
Cinema	54	18.0
Cyber Café	42	14.0
Restaurant	13	4.3
Other	5	1.7

Time frame spending at town	142	47.3
Less than 5 hours	158	52.7
More than 5 hours		

Source: Authors 2019

Table 5 indicates the relationship between urban and youth with five indicators to town: time frame, companion, purpose, favorite place, and time spending. 40.0 % of respondents initiate to went to town during the weekend, followed by 27.7% went after school hour, and 18.0 % went at night hour. The rest 14.3% depending on the situation. Half of the respondents went to town with their friends as companions. Relatives followed them at 18.0% and their parents at 13.7%. The rest went out as a couple with 14.6%. The purpose of the outing to the town with various reasons from individual needs to grouping and gathering. 25% of them indicate buying or finds personal accessories, followed by searching for food and beverages at 18.%. 16.0% of the respondent went for cinema, and the rest at 9.0% each go for cyber cafe, snooker, and night club. Approximately 62.0 % or more than half of the respondents go to the shopping mall. Respondents follow them to the cinema with 18.0% and to the cyber cafe at 14.0%. The rest at 4.3% to restaurant and other at 1.7% depends on the situation. Finally, times spending indicates that most of the respondents spend more than 5 hours with 52.7%, and the rest is going back not more than 5 hours.

Table 6: Reliability Analysis

	No Item	Cronbach's alpha
City Development Structure	8	.860
Teen perception on city development	9	.910
Municipal and teen social problems	45	.984

Source: Author 2019

The result from Table 6 indicates that the minimum values of Cronbach's alpha (Christmann & Van Aelst, 2006; Bland & Altman, 1997; Cronbach, 2016) reliability coefficient are more than .8. According to (George & Mallery, 2003) and quote by (Hanafi et al., 2018), following rules of thumb: “_ > .9 – Excellent, _ > .8 – Good, _ > .7 – Acceptable, _ > .6 – Questionable, _ > .5 – Poor, and _ < .5 – Unacceptable”. It should also note that an alpha of .8 is probably a reasonable goal. It should also note that a high value for Cronbach's alpha indicates the good internal consistency for the items in the scale (Gliem & Gliem, 2003)

Table 7: Correlation Analysis between Variable

		Gender	Age	Religion
Gender				
	Pearson Correlation	1	-.188**	.237**
	Sig.(2-tailed)		.001	.000
	N	300	300	300
Age				
	Pearson Correlation	-.188**	1	.074
	Sig.(2-tailed)	.001		.200
	N	300	300	300
Religion				
	Pearson Correlation	.237**	.074	1
	Sig.(2-tailed)	.000	.200	
	N	300	300	300

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed)

Source: Author 2019

Table 7 summarises the relationship between the variables in the study. The hypothesis assumes almost no significant differences between the two variable elements, adolescent and municipalities. The result shows that adolescent problems happen to the city have no specific relationship to gender and youth. The average social delinquents nearly the same between boys and girls, and they are young is increasing, i.e., in the range of 12-18 years. However, there are significant differences concerning religion, which shows that adolescent Malay Muslims are most heavily involved in social problems in cities. The results as follows:

Hypothesis 1: There are elements of urban development contributing to social issues.

- The relationship between the aspects of the municipality tested against the involvement of social problems among teenagers. The findings show that urban elements influence the social issues that exist among adolescents. The mean for all questions related to local factors in Part B, C, and D is between 4.14 - 4.78. Hence, Hypothesis 1 accepted

Hypothesis 2: There is no significant relationship between adolescent social problems and urban development.

- The relationship between adolescents, social issues, and urban development. The results indicate a significant relationship between these two variables ($r = 0.156$, $n = 407$). The finding means that there is a relationship between variables on the adolescent with urban development. Thus, Hypothesis 1 accepted

Hypothesis 3: There was a statistically significant correlation between family ties, urban structures, and facilities in the city closer to the social problems of teenagers in a city.

- The relationship between family ties, the building of the city, and the city's facilities closely associated with the social problems of teenagers in a city. The result shows that there is a significant relationship between the two variables ($r = 0.132$, $n = 407$, $p < 0.05$). The relationship between family ties and structural variables municipal adolescents is equally significant, indicating equal contributed to social problems in urban adolescents. Thus Hypothesis 3 also received equally.

CONCLUDING REMARK

On the whole, rapid modernization or development has changed our society's way, especially the youth. The results showed that the elements of urban development and family ties have a significant relationship in the adolescent. Among the aspects of the city and the municipality that contribute to teens' social problems are shopping malls, entertainment centers, and many discos around this study area. Also, loose family ties with busy working parents cause neglected and abandoned youth drifting in the current city dreamy opulence. The objective of this study is to find the relationship between adolescent social problems and urban development. The findings revealed from this study suggests that the bonds of kinship, urban structures, and facilities in the city are equally contributing to adolescent social problems. The result indicated that teens who live in the city or near the city are more vulnerable to social problems. These issues are no longer sweeping the developed countries but also have spread to developing countries like Malaysia. It has become another social issue that needs to be shared to create a sustainable society. In conclusion, this study shows that the development and elements of municipal facilities and family ties that include parents' role have a strong influence on youth involvement in social problems. Thus, further research needs to explore in gaining more information about these issues and values through a viable urban development strategy in addressing social problems among adolescents in the city.

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