

**Social and Economic Trends in Selected Villages in Klias Peninsular:  
An Exploratory Study**

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by

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## 1. Synopsis

Sabah is experiencing rapid socio-economic changes based on industrialisation and urbanisation processes. Although the main trends are clear, little is known about the actual changes at the village level and its implications for the rural households. This study sets out to analyse the current situation of the rural and coastal population by focussing on village-based economic activities and the state of the natural resource base on which the more traditional activities rely.

However, this study is exploratory in nature. It does not aim at a comprehensive understanding of the situation of rural and coastal communities but merely aims to identify some of the main socio-economic trends in the rural communities. These trends are a result of the rapid changes in the wider context of the villages and active responses of villagers towards these changes. The study is based on three selected villages in the Klias Peninsular, West Coast of Sabah.

It is argued that more research is required to complete our understanding of the on-going processes at the local level. Consequently, the concluding section of the report points out some interesting issues for further research projects.

## 2. Introduction

Sabah's rural population is experiencing rapid socio-economic changes. In line with the State's development policy, as delineated in the Outline Perspective Plan Sabah (1995 – 2010), industrialisation and urbanisation are some of the main features of contemporary Sabah. Although the main trends are clear, little is known about the actual changes at the village level and its implications for the rural households. There are very few studies in Sabah, which deal with processes at the local level (exceptions are Mash & Gait 1988; Cleary & Eaton 1995).

Based on a study of three selected villages in the Klias Peninsular, this paper analyses the current situation of the rural and coastal population by focussing on economic activities and the natural resource base of the more traditional activities. In particular, the paper identifies socio-economic trends in rural communities in the face of rapid changes in the wider context of the villages. However, this study is exploratory in nature. More research is required to complement our understanding of on-going processes at the local level. In

