THE SOCIAL FACTORS AFFECTING ECONOMIC STATUS OF THE ELDERLY IN SABAH AND SARAWAK

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PERPOSTANAAN UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA SABAB

THESIS SUBMITTED IN FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ECONOMICS BY RESEARCH

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA SABAH 2013

UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA SABAH

BORANG PENGESAHAN STATUS TESIS

JUDUL: THE SOCIAL FACTORS AFFECTING ECONOMIC STATUS OF THE ELDERLY IN SABAH AND SARAWAK

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I wish to express my deepest gratitude and appreciation to my academic supervisor Dr. James M Alin, senior lecturer from School of Business and Economics who has been patience enough to be with me academically and provided me plenty of valuable knowledge and advices throughout my study. Apart from that, my special appreciation goes to my co-supervisor Assoc. Prof Dr. Fumitaka Furuoka who is a Research Fellow in Universiti Malava who has been continuously giving support along my study journey especially providing me chances to explore and experience the exchange programme funded by Japan Foundation to study in Sophia University Tokyo and participate research activity in Tokyo, Japan. Nevertheless, my second co-supervisor Prof Dr. Balakrishnan Parasuraman and Prof Dr. Iwao Kato who also gave endless moral support and academic advices throughout this research. I am truly thankful to all of you who guided me in elderly research project. Nonetheless, special credit goes to the Kementerian Pengajian Tinggi (KPT) and Universiti Malaysia Sabah for funding this research as Fundamental Research Grant Scheme for me to be able to collect data for this research also joining as part of the research team to contribute and assist in this research. Here, I would like to thank all the other research team members, Assoc. Prof Dr. Balan Rathakrishnan, Dr. Caroline Geetha, Mr. Vivin Vincent, Miss Hanim and Mdm Sharija Che Shaari. Last but not least, I would like to thank my family members and my life partner Ms. Erinn Yapp for supporting me all these while without them I would not have achieved this.

Derek Kho Lip Teck 8 September 2013

ABSTRACT

THE SOCIAL FACTORS AFFECTING ECONOMIC STATUS OF THE ELDERLY IN SABAH AND SARAWAK

As growing number of senior citizen would increase the dependency ratio and this would trigger the importance of caring the elderly in a way to support and provide more concern on them. The study of this topic is crucial to identify social factors that affecting economic status of the elderly in Sabah and Sarawak. The study employs Binary Logistics Regression to predict the social factors towards economic status of the elderly. A total sample of 205 data has been used to predict the Independent Variables (demography, level of education, living arrangement and health status) towards Dependent Variables (employment status and income status). In the key findings, the employment status was predicted and has a significant relationship with living arrangement and physical health status of the elderly. However, the income status was predicted by significant variables namely gender and level of education of senior citizen for primary level and secondary level of education.

Keywords: Senior citizen, Elderly, Social, Economic Characteristics, Ageing, Living Arrangements



ABSTRAK

Berikutan dengan peningkatan golongan warga tua, nisbah tanggungan akan meningkat dan penjagaan golongan warga tua dalam member perhatian kepada golongan ini semakin penting. Kajian topik ini adalah amat penting untuk mengenalpasti faktor-faktor sosial yang mempengaruhi status ekonomi di kalangan warga tua di Sabah dan Sarawak. Kajian ini akan mengaplikasi Binary Logisics Regression untuk menguji faktor-faktor sosial ke atas status ekonomi warga tua. Sejumlah 205 data telah digunakan untuk menguji Pembolehubah Bebas (demografi, tahap pendidikan, corak perancangan tinggal dan status kesihatan) ke atas Pembolehubah Berkait (status pekerjaan dan status pendapatan). Dapatan kajian status pekerjaan dapat diramal dan mempunyai hubungan signifikan dengan corak perancangan tinggal dan status kesihatan warga tua tersebut. Manakala, status pendapatan dapat diramal dengan pembolehubah signifikan iaitu jantina dan tahap pendidikan warga tua iaitu tahap pendidikan rendah dan tahap pendidikan menengah.

Kata kunci: Wargatua, Ciri-ciri Sosial, Ciri-ciri Ekonomi, Penuaan



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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

- BLR Binary Logistics Regression
- **EPF** Employees Provident Fund
- GDP Gross Domestic Product
- NEW New Economic Model
- H&L High and Low
- SOCSO Social Security Organization
- U.S. United States



CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Population ageing has been one of the happening phenomenon in the world especially in developed countries now (Pala, 2005). Population ageing regard as a process of older person account for the proportionally larger share in the total population, it will be of the most distinctive trait of population during the twenty-first century (United Nations, 2009: pg1).

The changing of demographic trend has resulted in growing numbers of elderly proportions. This is basically due to several demographic factors namely the effect of improved nutrition and health increases the life expectancy among the elderly where the number of years expected to live by an individual is increasing. Furthermore, the fertility rate in the past until recent has shown a huge dedine to low fertility rate. This is the reason that the family chose to have fewer children in a family. Trade off between quality and quantity of the children in a family (Becker 1960) marked one of the leading factors to the families to have lesser children in the family. However, this leads to the issues of declining in fertility rate not only in developing nations like Malaysia but experienced significantly in every industrialized and developed countries. Generally, in the initial stage of fertility decline, the "young" dependency rate would decline. This could have positive effect on the economic growth. This phenomenon is known as "demographic dividend". However, in the latter stage of fertility decline, share of working population in total population (working population plus non-working population) would decrease. This would have negative impact on growth. The shrinking proportion share in population of the youth becomes lesser and smaller size in the proportion of total population where to support the middle age group and older age group in the society. The declining in mortality rate also belongs to one of the factor that contributes to the population ageing.

Population projections for Malaysia as shown in Diagram 1.1 produced up to the year 2020. Thus, assume this same trend and the age-sex structure clearly indicates the increasing proportion of senior citizens over time. At the same time, the decreasing proportion of the young age as a result of declining birth rates is evident. The age-pyramid shown in Diagram 1.1 for the years 1991 and 2020 portrays the expected trend in the population structure as the shape moves toward a pyramid with a much smaller base. The reduced proportion of young age group eventually leading to ageing population (Zarinah et al., 2011) thus, we can notice on the shrinking younger age proportion on population pyramid.

There are several indicators for ageing namely, median age and dependency ratio. As shown in the table the median age is obviously in the increasing rate from 17.4 to 19.6 earlier in 1970 to 1980. This remarkably increased steadily following the next year to 21.9 and it expected to be at median age 27.1 in the year 2020. Dependency ratio shown burden of support placed on the working age group (15-59 years) which recorded with the ratio declining from 100.4 in 1970 to 65.1 in the year 2020. The declining rate since 1970 can be explained as the high fertility cohorts of 1960 and 1970 which the cohorts belong to the group of support ratio (aged 15-59 years). It started to rise again after year 2010 as this indicated that rise in the old-age dependency as larger proportions of senior citizen increases and a greater support will be in need in the future.

Malaysia received the demographic dividend from 1970 to 2010 (see Table 1.1). During this period, due to decline in the fertility, the young dependency rate rapidly declined. Thus, the overall dependent rate decreased from 100.4 per cent in 1970 to 61.5 per cent. However, due to decline in share of working population, dependent rate would increase to 65.1 per cent in 2020. This would have negative impact on economic development in Malaysia.

However, the old-age index reflects the proportion of the old over the young group (0-14 years) showed significantly increase over the 40 years from 1970-2010 from 11.7 to 23.8 and continually expected to increase to 31.7 in 2020.

2



Diagram 1.1: Percentage Distribution of Population by Age Group and Sex, Malaysia, 1991 and 2020

Source: Pala, J. 1998. Warga Tua dan Penuaan Penduduk di Malaysia. Siri Monograf Banci Penduduk no.4. Kuala Lumpur: Jabatan Perangkaan Malaysia.

Indicators	1970	1980	1991	2000	2010	2020
Median age	17.4	19.6	21.9	23.7	25.7	27.1
Dependency ratio	100.4	82.6	74.0	64.3	61.2	65.1
Old age index	11.7	14.3	16.0	18.5	23.8	31.7
<i>Life expectanc</i> Male	γ 61.6 [*]	66.4 [*]	69.2	69.3**		74.7***
Female	65.6*	70.5*	73.4	74.1**		

Table 1.1. Age and Related Demographic Indications, Malaysia, 1370-207	Table 1.1: Ag	ge and Related	Demographic	Indicators,	, Malaysia	, 1970-202
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Note: Definitions of above indicators are provided in the 'Explanatory Notes'

For Peninsular Malaysia only

** Figures are for the year 1996 (preliminary)

*** UN projections (average for both sexes); World Population Prospects, 1994 revision .. Not available

Source: Pala, J. 1998. Warga Tua dan Penuaan Penduduk di Malaysia. Siri Monograf Banci Penduduk no.4. Kuala Lumpur: Jabatan Perangkaan Malaysia.

One person may said that he is going to be a senior citizen or elderly when he is in his retirement period. There is no exact defined that the exact of senior citizen age should be. It is differed or varied between nations. The cut-off age in this research will be set at the age of 60 years and above (Visaria, 2001; Palloni, 2000). As this is also clearly defined in the United Nation World Assembly on Ageing held in Vienna, 1982 which the age of 60 years and above will be used in the ageing issues.

In year 2009, there are estimated figure of 737 million persons were aged 60 years or over and this reflects the terms of "older population" of the world, which contribute to nearly two thirds of whom lived in developing countries (United Nations, 2009). According to the United Nation statistically review that now it is to be said that the reflection of average one (senior citizen aged 60 years and above) out of every nine persons in the world. The population of Malaysia by age has been alarmed where the ageing population became one of the crucial element that need to be paid attention in terms of the contribution and the role in the society. In Malaysia, it is recorded 1,398,500 senior citizens which constituted to 6.3 per cent of the total population in year 2000. In year 2010 it was earlier expected to increase to 2,134,900 of senior citizens which to the percentage of 7.4 and projected in year 2020 will be over 9.9 per cent of senior citizens in total population (Department of Statistic, 2005). Currently, the population in Malaysia might still consider as "youthful". The ageing population may give a strong impact to the economy as well as society influences which can be hardly imagine in the current situation.

Malaysia is a country comprises of multi-racial with more than 70 identified ethnic groups. The major groups are namely, Bumiputera (inclusive of Malay and Indigenous), Chinese, Indians and Others (include non-Malaysian citizen).

The Table 1.2 will show the number of senior citizen in Malaysia from year 1960 to 2030. As it is clearly stated that since the year 1960 the number of senior citizens were reported at 386,600 constituted of 4.8 percent of the total population, it almost doubled over the twenty years from 1970-1991 from 546 thousand persons in 1970 to 1.03 million persons. The numbers have increased by another 35 per cent over the last 10 years to 1.4 million persons or 6.3 per cent of the total population in 2000. Based on population projections, the number of senior citizens is likely to more than double to 3.4 million in the next twenty years.

	Number of	Derestof	Grov	wth rate of:
Year	Senior Citizens ('000)	Total Population	Elderly population	Total population
1960	386.6	4.8	-	
1970	546.1	5.2	3.5	2.6
1980	745.2	5.7	3.1	2.3
1991	1,032.3	5.9	3.0	2.6
2000	1,398.5	6.3	3.4	2.6
2010	2,134.9	7.4	4.2	2.2
2020	3,439.6	9.9	4.8	1.9
2030	4,933.4	12.0	3.6	1.7

 Table 1.2: Past, Present and Future Trends of Senior citizens, Malaysia,

 1960-2022

Source: Rabieyah Mat & Hajar Md. Taha, Department of Statistics, Malaysia, 2003.

Whereby, in the state level, Sabah and Sarawak constitute to the increase percentage of proportions of senior citizen which respectively recorded as 3.33 per cent and 5.91 per cent in year 1991 and increased to 3.85 and 6.45 per cent in year 2000 (see Table 1.3). In current, the percentage of senior citizen in Sabah and Sarawak is recorded as 4.32 per cent and 8.55 per cent. The figures in Sarawak shows higher percentage of senior citizen compared to Sabah, however, the both states indicated the rising trend on the percentage of senior citizen over total population each year. From this point of view, Sarawak has almost double up percentage of senior citizen than Sabah. Sarawak is facing aging at fast increasing rate than Sabah and this significantly can be due to the fertility rate has been drop as we can found the total population between Sabah and Sarawak, Sarawak population size is greater than Sabah and it seems the proportion of the elderly has been increasing much greater compared to Sabah which has total population about 3 millions while Sarawak has only 2 millions.

Table 1.3: Number of Senior Citizen, Total Population and Percentage of Senior Citizen in Sabah and Sarawak from 1991, 2000 and 2010

Year	Number of Senior Citizen	Total Population	Percentage of Senior Citizen
IZ		<u>Sabah</u>	
1991	60,500	1,814,500	3.33
2000	100,200	2,603,500	3.85
2010	138,386	3,206,742	A SAB 4.32
		Sarawak	
1991	101,900	1,723,800	5.91
2000	133,600	2,071,500	6.45
2010	211,181	2,471,140	8.55

Source: Malaysia (2010), Population Distribution and Basic Demographic Characteristics 2010, Department of Statistics, Malaysia, 2010.

1.1.1 Social Characteristics

Table 1.4 reveals the marital status that represents one of the social characteristic components and stated the highest portion of numbers among senior citizens regardless male or female. The "Currently Married" status remains the majority figures. As we can clearly see "Never married among male who aged 60-74 years with 4.3 per

cent and at the age of 75 and above it increased to 8.0 per cent. Meanwhile, for female who aged 60-74 years more or less at the same portion at 4.9 per cent and 6.3 per cent at the age of 75 and above. In total number among senior citizen it recorded at 4.6 at age of 60-74 years and 7.1 per cent at 75 years and above. The male with "Currently married" status recorded the highest compared to female with 86.3 per cent at 60-74 years old and 70.6 per cent at 75 years and above; 60.1 percent for 60-74 years old female and big contrast on 75 years old and above which recorded only 34.3 per cent. Contrary, "Widowed" status for male recorded extremely low at 8.8 per cent at age of 60-74 years and 20.9 per cent at 75 years and above; while this is contrast for female which recorded 33.9 per cent at age of 60-74 years old and 58.6 per cent at 75 years old and above. For "Divorced/ permanently separated", female recorded slightly higher contrary to male and in overall percentage is still below 1.0 per cent.

 Table 1.4: Percentage Distribution of Senior Citizens by Marital Status, Sex

 and Broad Age Group, Malaysia, 2010

	TI	Male		F	Female		Total		
Marital Status	60-74 years	75+ years	Total	60-74 years	75+ years	Total	60-74 years	75+ years	Total
Never Married	4.3	8.0	5.0	4.9	6.3	5.2	4.6	7.1	5.1
Currently Married	86.3	70.6	83.1	60.1	34.3	54.2	73.2	50.7	68.4
Widowed	8.8	20.9	11.2	33.9	58.6	39.6	21.4	41.5	25.6
Divorced/ Permanently Separated	0.6	0.5	0.6	1.1	0.8	1.0	0.9	0.7	0.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Malaysia (2010), Population Distribution and Basic Demographic Characteristics 2010, Department of Statistics, Malaysia, 2010.

In Table 1.5 the case in Sabah, the marital status comprised the highest is "Currently married" which recorded a total of 81.3 per cent for male and 53.9 per cent for female and this constitute the average total of 67.8 per cent. Meanwhile, for "Widowed" it has a big difference between male and female where male constituted of 13.8 per cent in total while female has higher number 40.3 per cent in total. For

"Never married", it is constant percentage for male and female recorded 3.9 and 4.4 per cent. The lowest percentage is "Divorced/ permanently separated" where in total male percentage recorded 1.0 per cent and 1.4 per cent for female.

Marital Status	Male			Female			Total		
	60-74 years	75+ years	Total	60-74 years	75+ years	Total	60-74 years	75+ years	Total
Never Married	3.5	5.5	3.9	4.2	5.1	4.4	3.8	5.3	4.1
Currently Married	84.5	68.7	81.3	59.2	34.8	53.9	73.1	59.7	67.8
Widowed	10.9	25.0	13.8	35.1	58.9	40.3	22.8	42.3	26.8
Divorced/ Permanently Separated	1.1	0.8	1.0	1.5	1.1	1.4	1.3	1.0	1.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

 Table 1.5: Percentage Distribution of Senior Citizens by Marital Status, Sex

 and Broad Age Group, Sabah, 2010

Source: Malaysia (2010), Population Distribution and Basic Demographic Characteristics 2010, Department of Statistics, Malaysia, 2010.

In Sarawak as revealed in Table 1.6. The "Never married" recorded as slightly higher than in state of Sabah. Male percentage among senior citizen recorded 4.8 per cent and female at 6.1 per cent. However, "Widowed" has comparatively slight lower for male and female in Sarawak at 10.5 per cent and 34.4 per cent. For "Divorced/ permanently separated" it has lower percentage below 1 per cent for male and female. Meanwhile, for "Currently married" still remained the highest percentage 84.2 per cent and 58.5 per cent for male and female. This particularly shows that marital status of "Married" in Sabah and Sarawak are still in the highest category among elderly as compared to previous years ago.

Table 1.6: Percentage Distribution of Senior Citizens by Marital Status, Sex and Broad Age Group, Sarawak, 2010

Marital Status	Male			Female			Total		
	60-74 years	75+ years	Total	60-74 years	75+ years	Total	60-74 years	75+ years	Totai
Never Married	4.3	1.9	4.8	6.1	6.2	6.1	5.2	6.3	5.4
Currently Married	87.2	73.3	84.2	64.5	40.8	58.5	76.2	56.0	71.4
Widowed	7.9	19.7	10.5	28.3	52.3	34.4	17.8	37.1	22.4
Divorced/	-								1.00
Permanently	0.5	0.4	0.5	1.1	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.5	0.7
Separated									
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Malaysia (2010), Population Distribution and Basic Demographic Characteristics 2010, Department of Statistics, Malaysia, 2010.

In Table 1.7 reveals that the percentage distribution of senior citizen by education level in Malaysia from 1970, 1980, 1991 and 2020. At "No schooling" the percentage in 1970 was high recorded at 75.0 per cent and slowly decrease to 73.2 per cent in 1980. In year 1991, it was recorded at 63.1 per cent and projected to further decrease at tremendous rate to 20.3 per cent in 2020. Meanwhile, for "Primary" education level, it was initially 22.3 per cent in year 1970 and it will slowly increases to projected percentage of 45.5 per cent in coming 2020. Lower education level and upper secondary level at initial percentage only 1.3 per cent and 1.2 per cent in 1970, it increases every decades at slower rate but in 2020, the percentage rate will be projected to record as high as 15.1 per cent and 13.2 per cent at respective education level. In tertiary level, during 1970 until 1991 the percentage was below 1 per cent recorded respectively 0.3, 0.4 and 0.9 per cent. However, it expected to further increase to 5.9 per cent in the future. It implies that the future cohort of senior citizens in Malaysia will be more educated in the sense that the education attainment level will be even better than the previous decades.

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