LOCALIZING OF URBAN COMMUNITY RESILIENCE INDICATOR IN PUTRAJAYA, MALAYSIA

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Author’s Biography

Norhidayah Mohamad is an ambitious person that interested in professional development and researching, ongoing learning and growth, who likes to communicate and working with new ideas and people. She currently pursues her Master of Philosophy (M.Phil) in Development Science at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM). She earned a Bachelor of Administrative Science (Honours) in 2016 from Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM). Her main research interests are in the areas of resilience community, urban community and community development.
Research Highlights
A low level of social participation among neighborhoods when organizing activities indicates weakness in urban communities. Based on the research conducted by Rahman, Ahmad, Malek, and Awang (2016) the findings from the descriptive analysis show that the level of social participation of urban residents in the neighborhood of Putrajaya is at a low level. The emphasis of resilience concept helps in building a resilient community with a high-quality, proactive and dynamics which capable of addressing the challenges which significantly affect the social lives of the urban community. This paper aims to localize the urban community resilience indicators for measuring the resilience level of the urban community in Putrajaya. The researcher has adopted method performed by Zautra, Hall, and Murray (2009). They believed in order to get an accurate picture of the resilience of the community requires a mixed strategy by improving existed indicators for forward-thinking, measurement and analysis of community resilience.

Graphical Abstract

Research Objectives
As a well-planned and fast-paced city, Putrajaya also viewed inseparable from the challenges and stresses that affect the development of the urban community. Rising issues such as neglect of social responsibility, no initiatives in social cohesion and decreasing in practicing good values indicate the resilience of the community at an unfavorable level. This is reinforced by the research conducted by Rahman et al. (2016) the findings show that the level of social participation of urban residents in the neighborhood of Putrajaya is at a low level. This shows a situation in contrast to the picture of the community in Putrajaya which comprising elite and educated classes of society. These issues should be discussed comprehensively to implement and maintain the characteristics of a resilient community such an inclusive community, liveability and spirit of unity. To meet the new era of change while moving along Malaysia towards a developed nation by the year 2030, the concept of resilience community should be applied to community development as a balance in society needs to be achieved to create a society of high resilience to meet current needs and drive the transformation of the nation.
Methodology

This research has adapted indicators to assess urban community resilience indicators specifically for the urban community in Putrajaya. The development of the indicator process was developed based on secondary data research from previous studies and the localizing process by conducting consultant expert interviews and key informants to confirm the suitability of the indicators and observation using inductive research. The indicators are made up of one (1) dimension and three (3) themes. This research used a qualitative approach by a semi-structured interview. The population of the study consists of three experts in resilient concept as well as community development and three main informants who lived in Putrajaya. The interview process is done verbally and the answers obtained will be recorded by the researcher. The findings were compiled from them from interviewing participants on urban community resilience concept, current issues among urban communities and localized the local indicators for assessing of urban community resilience level in Putrajaya. All the themes have been developed through the transcript, analysis and coding of qualitative data using ATLAS.ti software. The analysis of qualitative data is described in detail and clear graphics displays together with a summary table of the themes were included in the end.

Results

In assessing urban community resilience level, the researcher has taken the localizing process in order to build a comprehensive guide for this research. In this section, the localized indicators are explained through several sub-themes consists of economic capital, social capital and environmental capital.

Economic capital is one of the important indicators in assessing the resilience of the urban community especially from the economic point of view. From the analysis and localizing, the researcher has found out three additional indicators for the economic capital which are education level, cost of living, ringgit’s devaluation and political change.

Social capital is a major argument especially in identifying suitable indicators to measure the resilience of the urban community. The community that is actively involved is one of the factors that develop resilience in the community. There are two additional indicators for social capital which are networking community through associations and support of the local community in activities.

Discussing environmental capital, the resilience of the urban community involves the environment where the community resides and community governance where communities have a transparent relationship with local governments and their community administrations. The additional indicator for environmental capital is initiatives in utilizing natural resources.

Findings

The current research has adapted the indicators develop by Wilson (2012), ARUP (2015) and Longstaff, Armstrong, Perrin, Parker, and Hidek (2010) before the localizing process has been made. The result findings showed these adapted indicators are not adequate to measure the urban community resilience in Putrajaya. The results of the previous studies found that there a gap in previous resilience research as it more sectoral in nature and in particular perspectives. Resilience studies in Malaysia have given priority to the city’s resilient to natural disasters such as flash floods that occur locally. Therefore, current research acknowledges the additional indicators for urban community resilience by localizing the indicators that have been adapted.
from previous scholars in order to build a comprehensive guide for assessing the resilience level of urban community.

References