



LIVELIHOOD SUSTAINABILITY AMONG ROHINGYA REFUGEES:
A CASE STUDY IN TAMAN SENANGIN, SEBERANG PERAI,
PENANG

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Research Highlights

This study aims to understand and determine the current household income to create a sustainable livelihood. And the findings indicate that majority of household income are within the normal production workers salaries, however, the expenditures increases as income increases, while savings, were allocated only a small percentage of their remaining income.

Research Objectives

This study aims to understand and determine whether the current household income for Rohingya refugee family is able to create a sustainable livelihood.

Methodology

Target population are the Rohingya refugees reside in Taman Senangin, Seberang Perai. Taman Senangin is one of the residential areas located near to Perai Industrial Zone, where the refugees have access to generate income by being a workforce member within the industrial zone. In order to identify the sample, we used simple random sampling method. By using Exploratory Data Analysis that comes with a mixture of graphical and quantitative techniques to understand and to maximize the insight into our dataset in order to achieve the objective. It helps to uncover the underlying structure by extracting the important variables, detecting the outliers and anomalies, performing test on assumptions, develop a parsimonious model and determine the optimal factor settings. The insight implies the detection and uncovering the underlying structure in the data. The key variable that is used to imply and connect the dataset variables is total income per household.

Results

Income, expenditure and savings are linked. Ismail & Tendot Abu Bakar (2012) mentioned, according to the theory of consumption, consumption patterns differ based on the income levels of households, higher income household tends to allocate smaller percentage for daily needs. Saving percentage is low at low income levels and increased as income increased, then decreased again when the income continues to expand (Ismail & Tendot Abu Bakar, 2012).

From the study, majority earnings are from the factory workers which takes up 67.5 percent of households monthly income. We can see that the range between the minimum income to the maximum income earned by the household who worked in a factory earned between RM500 to RM1800 monthly. The salary range given are still within the average range of normal production salaries which is between RM400 to RM2400 (Indeed, 2019).

The expenditure between RM501 to RM1000 reflects 54 percent of households, where the majority of them, that takes up to 24 percent of households are able to save 20.01% to 40% income monthly. And at least 15 percent of households are able to save more than 40.01% income. Meanwhile, 3 percent of the households do not have any saving in place.

Findings

Maintaining a livelihood involves the ability to access their basic necessities of life, for example, education, healthcare, and food. Also being able to take chances to make a living (Bebbington, 1999; Chambers and Conway 1992; Scoones 2009). From the study, we can see that, they do have fixed amount of income between the range of RM500 to RM1800 monthly and the expenses are within RM501 to RM1000. This indicates that with the current income,





expenditure and saving pattern, they able to survive day-to-day life, however to sustain, they need to improve their saving percentage to comply with the future.

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