

Study To Identify The Status And Socio-Economic Development Needs Of Kampong Pusa, Betong, Sarawak

**Jelani Razali
Chong Vui Hok
Abdul Jabbar Abdullah**

Abstract

Economic development is a vehicle for uplifting the income and standard of living of the people in a country. The fruits of economic development needed to be equally enjoyed by all to ensure social justice. This study found that poverty is widespread in Kampong Pusa. The average monthly household income is only RM384.35. 86.7% of households earned incomes that was below the poverty line income. 48.8% of households were found to be hardcore poor. Factors accounting for the poverty was the shortage of agricultural land, lack of capital to undertake business ventures, lack of formal education and skills, inadequate value-added economic opportunities and the high prevalence of single-parent households. It was also found that rural-urban migration among the residents was widespread. A number of suggestions were made to improve the socio-economic status of the residents. These include the creation of high value-added activities within the fisheries and agriculture related sectors, the alienation of the surrounding lands to the residents for agricultural purposes, the initiation of a formal system of skills assessment and certification, the creation of opportunities to utilize the skills of the residents and the provision of requisite formal training and loans for the residents.

Keywords: *socio-economy, development needs, living standard, indigenous people, poverty*