



ASSURING SELANGOR'S PROSPERITY WITH ADAPT TO POPULATION AGEING

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INTRODUCTION

There have been significant demographic shifts across the globe, with every country experiencing changes in population growth. Malaysia's populace stands at 33.57 million in 2021 indicating an approximate growth of 462 per cent in comparison to the population of 5.67 million in 1950. By states, Selangor holds the position of the largest contributor to the country's GDP (2021: RM 344.0 billion) and highest population (2021: 7.01 million residents). Due to its large population size and continuous population growth, Selangor is one of the states currently entering an ageing stage. This issue has significantly compared influenced the economic development and prosperity of Selangor.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Pham and Vo (2021) examined decreased fertility and mortality rates and an increased life expectancy have contributed to the rise in elderly populations in emerging countries. Sandhu et al. (2016) stated that several Asian nations have encountered the trend of ageing, which has led to an absence of skilled labour, a growing burden on healthcare and welfare systems, poverty and isolation among rural elders and a breakdown of familial networks. Moreover, Muadz et al. (2022) studied the reasons of Malaysia's declining fertility rate and population ageing. The study identified multiple factors; however, the standard of living remained a major factor in Malaysia's fertility rate.

OBJECTIVE

◆ To discuss the current demographic structure of Selangor's population, factors contributing to population ageing and its impacts as well as government response measures.

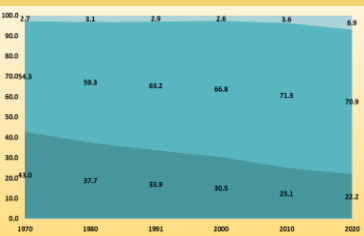
METHOD

- ◆ The data on population obtained from World Data Bank and United Nation's Reports as well as population and demographic statistics published by The Department of Statistics Malaysia.
- ◆ Information on Selangor retrieved from the First Selangor Plan report and the Selangor State Budget Report 2023.

DEMOGRAPHIC STRUCTURES OF THE SELANGOR POPULATION

Age pyramid of Selangor population between the census years of 2000 & 2020

There is declining tendency in the proportion of individuals aged 0 to 14 years within the population of Selangor. Meanwhile, the proportion of individual age 65 and over in Selangor had a notable rise from 2.7 per cent in 1970 to 6.9 per cent in 2020.



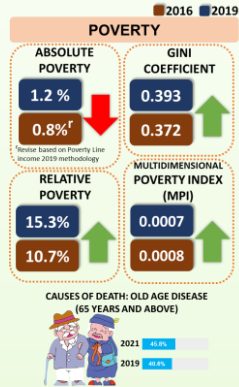
Population structure by age group in the census year, Selangor 1970-2020
In 2020, the shape of the population pyramid appears regressive, with a nearly flat and wide peak, a non-concave slope, and a narrower base, indicating that the number of people aged 65 and older is growing.

FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THE POPULATION AGEING

- ◆ **Reduction in fertility rate:-** The fertility rate in Selangor dropped from 2.4 (2000) to 1.5 (2021) children per woman.
- ◆ **Raise the standard of living:-** Control the size of their families due to the high costs associated with childcare, education, and healthcare. Selangor is one of the highest contributor to inflation which contributed 2.7% in 2021 (Malaysia :2.5%).
- ◆ **Improvement in longevity:-** Selangor's life expectancy has increased from 75 years in 2012 to 77 years in 2021.

THE IMPACTS OF EXPANSION IN THE SENIOR POPULATION

- ◆ **Rise in poverty rates:-** The hardcore poverty registered 0.2% (2019) as compared to 0.1% in 2016.
- ◆ **The elderly face income disparities:-** There is a gender-based income disparity in Selangor, with females earning an average of RM 6,628 less than males (RM 8,210).
- ◆ **High medical costs:-** Malaysia's health expenses increased from RM 8,556 million to RM 64,306 million. Selangor has the highest medical costs, RM 11,399 million in 2019.



THE PROACTIVE ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED BY THE SELANGOR GOVERNMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE POPULATION AGEING

- ◆ **Respite Care (RC) service:-** Serves the requirements of the elderly population as a temporary facility.
- ◆ **Skim Mesra Usia (SMUE):-** a grocery coupon of RM150 is given to members aged 60 and above each year
- ◆ **Pusat Aktiviti Warga Emas (PAWE):-** an activity centre for senior citizens to enroll for free
- ◆ **Bantuan Sihat Selangor (Smart Selangor):-** offer medical aid
- ◆ **Selangor Mental Sihat (SEHAT):-** mental health programme such as mental health education videos, forums, talks etc.

CONCLUSION

A collective awareness among all parties involved, especially the federal and state governments, is required to rid Selangor of population ageing issues. Currently, the Selangor government has implemented numerous programmes and strategies to overcome population ageing issue. These measures aim to enhance the welfare, well-being, and quality of life of the elderly population. However, short-term and long-term planning and strategies are needed to overcome the ageing phenomenon. In addition, senior citizens can still contribute to the nation's economy and society. Thus, this matter needs further analysis and discussion, as well as the collaboration of all parties.

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