DATA NEEDS FOR INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT – Sociological perspectives from Malaysian experiences

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Introduction

• Thank you for this opportunity
• Sharing my reflections
• Drawing from field study data to inform on what data is needed to ensure ‘no one is left behind’

Outline for Talk

• From Development literature
• Drawing from SDGs and the 11 Malaysia Plan – policy framework
• Ground data & experiences
• Drawing some conclusions for Statisticians
From Development literature

Amartya Sen (1999), Development as Freedom

• Development is seen “as a process of expanding the real freedoms that people enjoy”

• Development is not just about a narrow understanding of GNP or rise of personal incomes

• Not just education & health care but also about political & civil rights
From Development literature

Amartya Sen (1999), Development as Freedom

- “poverty must be seen as the deprivation of basic capabilities rather than merely as lowness of income” (pg 87)

- Income deprivation vs capability deprivation

- From capability improvement to greater earning power

- Social exclusion – leads to losses of self-reliance, self confidence & psychological & physical health (pg 21)

- need for greater inclusive reach to basic education & health care
From Development literature

Statisticians could incorporate 3 key ideological principles in their framework:

• **Social Inclusion** – to ensure all irrespective of ethnic, gender, age, disability have access.

• **Social mobility**– to ensure there is a change which can be measured from one socio-economic level to another

• **Social Cohesion**- to ensure all groups especially ethnic & religious minority communities feel a sense of belonging & solidarity in the neighbourhoods experiencing harmony, cooperation & joint participation.
SDGs Mirror the New Economic Model and 11 Malaysia Plan

**Sustainable Development Goals**
- Social
- Environment
- Economy

**New Economic Model**
- Inclusivity
- Sustainability
- High Income

**11th Malaysia Plan**
- Anchoring Growth on People
In the SDG – Agenda 2030 there is commitment to addressing not just poverty but rising inequalities in societies

(Para 14) - ref to “rising inequalities within and among countries”.

(Para 34) – ref to sustainable urban development & management for quality of life of people

(Para 35) – interlinkages between various factors such as violence, insecurity to inequality, corruption, poor governance & illicit financial & arms flows

(Para 41) – role of diverse actors which state (each country has primary responsibility – civil society organisations have a place

(Para 47) – accountability to our citizens
TWO SPECIFIC SDG REFERENCES

REDUCING INEQUALITY
- SDG 10:1 – Income growth for the B40
- SDG10:2 – Social, eco & political inclusion of all
- SDG10:3 – Equal opportunities & reduce inequality of outcome; eliminate discrimination
- SDG10:4 – Social protection & greater equality

RESILIENT CITIES
- SDG 11:1 Access to adequate, safe & affordable housing
- SDG 11.2 Access to safe, affordable, accessible & sustainable transport system
- SDG 11.7 access to safe, inclusive, accessible, green public spaces
Other SDGs are relevant too

- SDG 3- Health
- SDG 4 – Education
- SDG 5 – Gender equality
- SDG 8 – Decent work
- SDG 10- Consumption
- SDG 16- Access to justice & participation in decision making

- SDG’s Policy agenda & target outcome: “Leaving no one behind”

SIX-FOLD ACTION PLAN:-

- People
- Planet
- Prosperity
- Peace
- Partnership
Malaysian Development Planning: 11th Malaysia Plan (2016 – 2020)

Building a better Malaysia for all Malaysians.

The 11th Malaysia Plan places people as the centrepiece.

All segments of society irrespective of geography, ethnicity or income levels are expected to experience an increase in their income and wellbeing. (pp. 1-6)
11th Malaysia Plan (2016 – 2020)

The goal is nothing less than a better quality of life for all Malaysians. (pp. 1-6)

To ensure that all Malaysians are able to participate in and benefit from this growth…” (pp. 1-8)

“Protect all Malaysian equally.” (pp. 1-17)

“Inclusiveness so that no Malaysian is left behind, improved wellbeing for all, human capital development that is future-proof.” (pp. 1-18)
11th Malaysia Plan (2016 – 2020)

**INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT**

- Inclusivity is a key principle.
- To ensure all citizens enjoy the fruits of growth and development regardless of gender, ethnicity, socio-economic status and geographic location.
- Increasing wellbeing and quality of life across all segments

**MULTI DIMENSIONAL POVERTY**

- Previously poverty measurement is singular – income poverty
- Using the “basket of goods approach” - how much is needed to buy food, shelter, clothing, health, transport
- Now a shift singular to multi dimension capturing the dynamics of poverty & low income
11th Malaysia Plan (2016 – 2020)

- There are **2.7 million B40** households in Malaysia
- Of these 56% are in urban and 44% in rural area
- Of these 68% are Bumiputeras and 32% non Bumiputeras
- The mean monthly household income is **RM2,537** (2014) & the target is to raise this to double to **RM 5,270.00** by 2020 (11MP pg 3-17)

**Poverty measurement is different**

Multidimensional poverty measurement (MDI)
- Income
- Health
- Education
- Housing and living conditions

MDI 4 dimensions & 11 indicators for measurement:-
TRENDS IN URBANISATION

• Urbanisation can be defined as a shift in the ration of people living in urban & in rural areas
• Malaysia from rural to urban society
• From agriculture to manufacturing
• From grounded housing to high rise housing

DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES

• 1957 – 60% in rural
• 2017 - 80% in urban locations in Klang valley (KL Selangor), mostly urban
B40 neighbourhoods

• Majority of B40 families in urban location live in low cost high rise flats
• These could be public housing – rented by local authority or it could be low cost flats built by private sector
B40 neighbourhoods

Impact of rapid urbanization & modernization - both positive & negative consequences

Urban B40 Neighbourhoods - Breakdown of traditional
• Social Support systems
• Social Control systems
Describing B40 neighbourhoods

In a study undertaken by KITA-UKM we identified 4 main challenges:

• Infrastructure requirements
• Social Ills
• National Unity & Harmony
• Management & local governance concerns
Methodology

• 25 neighbourhoods of B40 communities with about 68,245 people (multi ethnic neighbourhoods)

• We undertook – community profile, focus groups discussions & field visits to the locations

• Each neighbourhood has various grassroots organisations & we worked with one of the major groups (RT- Community security committee)
Sri Semarak Flats (KL)
Kampong Baru (KL) by the Twin Towers
PPR HILIRAN AMPANG, KL
PPR GOMBAK SETIA, KL
About B40 flat dwellers

- As indicated these are multi ethnic neighbourhoods with a majority being Malay Muslims (64%), Chinese (16%), Indians (about 15%) and others (5%)
- **Ethnic Indians** are majority Tamils who are former plantation workers/displaced shifted from squatters to Long houses and finally to flats
- **Ethnic Malays** too from rural to urban for better quality of life & better paying jobs
About B40 flat dwellers

All ethnic & religious groups in similar socio-economic status:

- Low income
- Low paying job
- Low educational achievements
- Face similar challenges in the city/urban locations – related to crime, gangs & violence, drug & alcohol abuse

- Different communities might have different access to public sector services
- Minority Indians in B40 feel there are disadvantaged & discriminated in comparison with their Malay Muslim neighbours.
- Disaggregated data shows – local demography differs from national average by ethnic representation & therefore demands for services will differ. Delivery agencies need to note this in multi ethnic societies
Feedback on issues faced by B40 families in their flat based neighbourhoods

**Socio- Economic**
- Urban poverty
- Space for micro business
- Day care for children so mothers can work or do micro business

**Crime related**
- Drugs & alcohol relates concerns
- Safety & security – high rise
- Social issues like lepak (youth loafing)
- Gangs

**Infrastructure related**
- Lift maintenance
- Cleaness & garbage clearance
- Inadequate public spaces & community facilities
- Parking issues
- Vandalism

**Participation related**
- Majority busy with jobs
- Social cohesion issues
Feedback on issues faced by B40 families in their flat based neighbourhoods

**Governance related**

- No local government elections, all appointed leaders including Mayor of the city
- Dialogue sessions by public sector – not regular
- No Grievance mechanism – complain system
- Local community empower if weak
Ten key lessons - Lessons Learnt

• L1 Recognise that issues are multi dimensional in nature. A lot relates to quality of life issues & local governance.

• L2 Grassroots people know the ground issues & if empowered can facilitate change at the ground level

• L3 Reluctance of political leadership in empowering people – too much of top down & hand out, creating dependency
Lessons Learnt

• L4 Grassroots leaders have good potential but they need to be respected and provided the opportunity for their voices to be heard

• L5 Governance must shift from top down to bottom up approaches – identification of issues, solutions undertaken & monitoring of implementation
Lessons Learnt

- **L6** Citizens action in fostering good governance is key to ensuring there is accountability.
- **L7** A rights based approach which provides a voice & say for grassroots is most essential.
- **L8** Ensuring the participation of all especially women & ethnic minorities is key.
Lessons Learnt

• L9 Fostering a sense of belonging is also key as urbanisation & displacement has negative dimensions with need to be addressed

• L10 Social cohesion & social mobility with people empowerment
Concluding suggestions to Statisticians

• There is a complementary role among social science experts, activist & statisticians

• From just data to people too. From just numbers to seeing a face, their story, their deprivations & capturing the data for policy & implementation

• In the Malaysian context there is no report from the multi-dimensional poverty focus till income data & B40 categories (very poor, poor, vulnerable poor & aspirational poor —

• Statically there might not be an issue but in reality on the ground experiences of deprivation might be high

• Disaggregated data & adopting an SDG framework will definitely ensure that ‘no one is left behind’

• Noting sub-ethnicity, gender, class, age, location, vulnerable condition including documented/non documented people are essential.
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