



A CASE STUDY OF SOCIOE-CONOMIC FACTORS
INFLUENCING THE LIVES OF ELDERLY
RESIDENTS AT TAIPING, PERAK GERIATRIC
HOME

BY

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ABSTRACT

This case study explored the influence of socio-economic factors such as age, ethnicity, education, occupation, income and health on the lives of elderly residents at Taiping, Perak geriatric home. Their religion and the nature and quality of relationship with their children were also examined. Information was collected from June 24 to July 4 1998. A structured interview questionnaire was used on a purposive sample. Simple descriptive statistics were applied for the analysis of the data.

First, the study identified the general demographic characteristics of the respondents. In general, the average respondent admitted to this place was above the age of 60 years, male, unmarried, did not have high level of education and was financially dependent. They were predominantly urban, Malays and Muslims, had stayed at this facility from less than a year to three years, were reasonably healthy and nearly half of them were able to perform certain physical tasks. It was also discovered that religion was considered important in their daily lives, but further research is needed to investigate its actual relationship with their life pattern.

The respondents seemed to possess neither the knowledge nor the skill that could enable them to secure better jobs with pension or insurance benefits. Thus, they depended solely on the facility for their support and sustenance. In terms of health, they were relatively healthy, although a small number of them suffered from failing health and physical disabilities, which required constant assistance from the staff. Most of the time, they would however exercise their personal independence especially in carrying out their personal and private activities.

Their psychological feelings were explored by studying their relationship with the people close to them like their children, relatives, friends and staff of the facility. It appeared that respondents who had children were admitted there because the latter did not have adequate time and/or income to support them. In addition, strained relationships between respondents and their children also hindered the latter to fulfill their responsibilities towards their parents. Consequently, the respondents felt disillusioned with and rejected by their children and thus sought solace among friends and the staff at the facility. We also found out that more than half of the respondents were unmarried (single, divorced or widowed) and did not have a spouse or children to rely on. This fact also became the reason for their admission. Regardless of the reasons for their admission to the home, they were in general grateful to be taken care of and regarded it as their permanent home. They also had accepted their fate and tried to make the best of their presence there.

خلاصة

كشفت "دراسة حالة" هذه تأثير عوامل الاقتصاد الاجتماعي مثل العمر والعرق والتعليم والوظيفة أو المهنة والدخل والصحة على حياة الكهول الذين يسكنون هذه البيوت أي بيوت الكبار في كل من تايننج بقيراك. وقد استقصت هذه الدراسة الدين وطبيعة العلاقة ونوعها بين هؤلاء الكهول وأبنائهم. وقد جمعت البيانات المعنية في الفترة بين 24 يونيو إلى 4 يوليو سنة 1998م، حيث استخدم استبيان المقابلة على العينة القصدية لجمع البيانات. أما التحليل الإحصائي فقد استعمل التحليل الوصفي البسيط للبيانات الإحصائية.

أولاً، أبانت الدراسة الخصائص السكانية العامة لدى المستجيبين، وعموماً فإن متوسط عمر المستجيب عند إجراء الدراسة يتراوح إلى الستين سنة، فهو من الذكور، غير متزوج، لا يحظى بمستوى تعليمي عالٍ ويعتمد اقتصادياً على الآخرين. وغالبية هؤلاء الكهول من الريف، من الملايوين المسلمين، ويقيمون في هذه المساكن منذ أقل من سنة إلى ثلاث سنوات، وهم في حالة صحية مقبولة ونصفهم تقريباً قادرين على ممارسة أعمال جسمية معينة. وقد وقفت الدراسة على أهمية الدين في حياتهم اليومية، إلا أن الأمر في هذا المجال يحتاج إلى دراسات عميقة أي ما يختص بالعلاقة الدينية الحقيقية بنمط حياتهم.

يبدو أن المستجيبين تنقصهم المعرفة العلمية والمهارة للحصول على وظائف أفضل بمعايش أو بفوائد التأمين، لذلك يعتمدون كلية على السند والقول. ومن الناحية الصحية فهم نسبياً أصحاء على الرغم من عدداً قليلاً منهم يعاني الضعف الصحي والعجز الجسمي وهذان يتطلبان المساعدة المستمرة من المساعدين القائمين بالأمر في هذه البيوت. ومع ذلك في معظم الأوقات يمارسون نوعاً من الاستقلال الشخصي خاصة في أداء الأنشطة الشخصية.

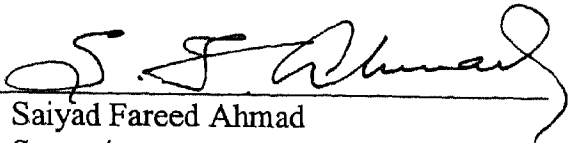
وقد كشفت الدراسة كذلك المشاعر النفسية لهؤلاء الكهول من خلال العلاقة بينهم وبين الناس الذين لهم العلاقات وثيقة بهم مثل الأبناء والأقارب والأصدقاء والمساعدين الذين يقدمون الخدمات في هذه البيوت.

قد تبين كذلك أن المستجيبين الذين لهم أبناء، أدخلوا هذه البيوت لأن ليس لأبنائهم أو الدخل الكافي لإعالتهم. هذا إلى جانب توتر العلاقات بين هؤلاء الكهول وأبنائهم يحول دون نهوض الأبناء بمسؤولياتهم تجاه والديهم ونتيجة لذلك يشعر المستجيبون بخيبة أمل لأنهم رفضوا من قبل أبنائهم، ويحسون هنا بأنهم يجدون العزاء السلوان بين الأصدقاء المساعدين في هذه البيوت.


وقد ظهر لنا أيضا أن أكثر من نصف المستجيبين غير متزوجين أو مطلقين أو أرامل وليس لهم ما يعتمدون عليه من زوج أو أبناء وهذا يفسر أسباب دخولهم هذه البيوت. وبغض النظر عن أسباب تبرير دخولهم هذه البيوت فإنهم مقدرين وشاكرون للعناية التي يجدونها مما جعلهم ينظرون إلى هذه البيوت بأنها بيوتهم الدائمة، إذ يرضى الكهول بقدرتهم ويحاولون ما في وسعهم تأكيد وجودهم هناك.

APPROVAL PAGE


I certify that I have supervised and read this study and that in my opinion it conforms to acceptable standards of scholarly presentation and is fully adequate, in scope and quality, as a thesis for the degree of Master of Human Science in Sociology and Anthropology.


Saiyad Fareed Ahmad
Supervisor


I certify that I have read this study and that in my opinion it conforms to acceptable standards of scholarly presentation and is fully adequate, in scope and quality, as a thesis for the degree of Master of Human Science in Sociology and Anthropology.


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Examiner

This thesis was submitted to the department of Sociology and Anthropology and is accepted as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Human Science in Sociology and Anthropology.


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21/9/2008

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this thesis is the result of my own investigations, except where otherwise stated. Other sources are acknowledged by footnotes giving explicit references and a bibliography is appended.

Name NOR AISAH Bt. AREFF

Signature 

Date 18/9/2000

INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA

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To

*My father Areff Mustafa, my mother Azian Osman and the rest of my family members
for their love, patience and support.*

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All praise be to Allah, Lord of the universe, the Almighty, the Most Gracious and the Most Merciful, without Whose blessings this thesis could not have been completed.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Background of Study

Prior to the 1997 economic crisis, Malaysia experienced a relatively stable economic condition for more than a decade. This stability, which was brought about mainly by a rapid technological and industrial advancement and modernization process in the recent decades, has resulted in the changes in people's lifestyle and demographic pattern of Malaysia. Significant changes can also be observed in the fields of education and health.

This is evident in achievements of the New Economic Policy (NEP) period, which stretched from 1971 to 1990. During this period, Malaysia was able to sustain its pace of development with the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growing at an average rate of 6.7 per cent per annum. Also, during the Sixth Malaysia Plan period (1991-1995) it recorded a growth rate of 8.7 per cent per annum. For eight consecutive years from 1988, Malaysia has achieved an even more impressive development with a sustained economic growth of 8.9 per cent per annum.¹ This encouraging economic achievement has enabled the Government to carry out other development programs such as alleviation of poverty and restructuring of society as well as raising the people's

¹ *Seventh Malaysia Plan 1996-2000*. 1996. Kuala Lumpur: Prime Minister's Department. pp. 4-5.

standard of living.²

Table 1 contains some selected socio-economic indicators, which also shows the economic, health and educational conditions of Malaysians before the 1997 economic crisis. Although per capita income is not the only indicator to point real economic progress and people's well being, it is however generally accepted in most societies as one of the main indicators. Therefore, it can also be taken to reflect the socio-economic conditions of Malaysia. It is reported that the per capita income of the population has increased from RM 1,106 in 1970 to RM 8,992 in 1994.³ By 1997, it had reached RM 12,102.⁴ In terms of the unemployment rate, the percentage fell from 2.9 per cent in 1994 to 2.8, 2.6 and 2.5 per cent in the following respective years.⁵

In terms of national health, we refer to the ratio of population per doctor as one of the indicators to know the condition of public health in Malaysia. In 1994, there was one doctor for 2,277 Malaysians. However, the numbers had decreased yearly to only 1,521 per doctor in 1997. This shows that an improvement in the health service sector

² Ibid. Further information on the achievements and further planning regarding this matter is elaborated in this document, *passim*. Restructuring of society generally emphasizes on economy – expansion of manufacturing sector through nation's industrialization program, increasing role of private sector, steady decline in unemployment rate, better technical and skillful training, and improved income distribution of the Malaysians. In terms of poverty alleviation, for example, in the rural areas, the incidence of poverty among Malaysians decreased from 21% in 1990 to 15% in 1995, while the poor households was reduced by about 42% from 492,500 to 285,600. The incidence of poverty also decreased from 7.1% to 3.7% in urban areas.

³ Ibid. p. 5.

⁴ Musa Ahmad Ghazali. 1997. "Pendapatan Per Kapita Meningkatkan". *Berita Harian*. August 12. However, there has been also a decline in per capita income in terms of US dollars by 2.9 per cent to US\$4,316 (1996: US\$ 4,446) as a result of the depreciation of the ringgit. Ibrahim Anwar. 1998. "Ministerial Statement". *New Straits Times*. March 25. p. 10.

⁵ *Social Statistics Bulletin 1998*. 1998. Department of Statistics, Malaysia.

was due to the increased number of medical personnel for the population as a whole. However, the overall standard of health care still needs to solve many of its problems.

In the field of education, several indicators like the number of teachers per school, academic achievement, literacy rate, enrollment of students in schools are important to measure its progress. For instance, literacy rate had increased from 89.3 per cent in 1995 to 93 per cent in the following year.⁶

The overall educational improvement can also be seen from the number of student enrollment in government assisted schools. As indicated in the Table, the increase was quite substantial when we refer to the period between 1995 (1,663,118) and 1997 (1,806,903). This improvement was due to various factors including the governmental assistance of its educational sector in its development program.

Table 1. Selected Malaysian Socio-Economic Indicators⁷

S. No.	Selected Socio- Economic Indicators	1994	1995	1996	1997
1	Per Capita GNP at Market Prices (RM)	8, 992	10, 059	11, 339	12, 102
2	Unemployment Rate (Per cent)	2.90	2.80	2.60	2.50
3	Population per Doctor	2, 277	2, 153	2, 076	1, 521
4	Literacy Rate (Per cent)*	-	89.30	93.00	-
5	Enrollment in Government Assisted Schools**	-	1,663, 118	1,747, 764	1,806, 903

* Refers to percentage of population aged 10 and above who ever attended school.

** Includes special schools-vocational, technique, MARA (Junior Science College).

⁶ *Malaysia Statistics Handbook 1998*. 1998. Department of Statistics, Malaysia.

⁷ All figures were taken from *Social Statistics Bulletin 1998*. pp. 10-73. Except the figure of 1995 literacy rate and enrolment in government assisted schools in which they were taken from *Malaysia Statistics Handbook 1998*.

Since the middle of 1997, Asia including Malaysia has been experiencing a tumultuous economic downturn caused mainly by the fall in the value of its currency.⁸ "At first glance, economic anxieties look set to dominate 1998. In this situation painful decisions will have to be made to revitalize banks, restructure industries and resurrect currencies."⁹ In the case of Malaysia, the 1998 GDP growth was predicted to be at only 2.5 per cent.¹⁰ This has affected directly the economic growth of Malaysia. Consequently, other sectors and well being of Malaysians including the lives of the elderly are also affected in one way or another. However, recent information on the economic status of Malaysia shows signs of recovery and hence a promising future for Malaysia. "The Malaysian economy is coming out of recession and going by a recovery trend, it could achieve a growth rate of 2% to 3% for this year, as opposed to 1% projected earlier by the government."¹¹

Meanwhile, the demographic pattern of Malaysia has shown a steadily rising proportion of elderly and a subsequent decreasing proportion of the young. This suggests that the population is aging. As a result, the percentage of the population above 60 years rose, for instance, from 5.17 percent in 1970 to 5.68 percent in 1980.¹² The first six months population estimates for 1996 showed that the percentage has increased to 6.16 percent.¹³ On the other hand, the proportion of the young population

⁸ This fact was mentioned in the opening remark of the former Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister of Malaysia, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's "Ministerial Statement" in the Dewan Rakyat, Tuesday, March 24. *op. cit.*

⁹ Editorial. 1998. "A Year of Living Dangerously In 1998, Political Leadership in Asia will Come under the Spotlight". *Asiaweek*. January 9. p. 14.

¹⁰ Business Forecast. 1998. "What's Ahead for Asian Economies in 1998". *ibid.* p. 50.

¹¹ Sidhu, J. S. 1999. "Out of the Woods". *The Star*. June 24.

¹² Chan Kok Eng. 1987. "Population Ageing and Its Implications for the Quality of Life with Special Reference to Malaysia". *A Collection of Papers Presented at the Seminar on Population and the Quality of Life in Malaysia*. Kuala Lumpur: Population Studies Unit, Faculty of Economics and Administration, University of Malaya. p. 139.

¹³ *Vital Statistics Malaysia 1996*. 1997. Department of Statistics, Malaysia. p. 13.

under the age of 15 has decreased from 37.19 percent in 1991 to 35.43 percent in 1995. It is expected to decrease further to 33.27 percent in the year 2000.¹⁴ The median age is also expected to rise from 19.8 percent in 1980¹⁵ to 21.6, 22.4 and 23.6 percent in 1991, 1995 and 2000 respectively.¹⁶ Assuming that this current demographic trend continues, the proportion of the population aged 60 and above is expected to increase to 15.5% in 2030.¹⁷

The same trend can also be observed in all ASEAN countries and it is expected that the proportion of elderly population will grow very rapidly in ASEAN countries in the next century.¹⁸

“Even were rapid social and economic changes not taking place in these countries, growth of this magnitude would require careful planning to ensure that the situation of the aged was being adequately catered for. In the context of rapid social and economic changes, which would well mean that traditional support mechanisms can no longer be relied on, it is doubly important that forward planning be undertaken.”¹⁹

In the effort to make Malaysia a developed country by the year 2020,²⁰ reform development and projections have been suggested in various areas especially in the socio- economic sphere. Towards that direction, nine strategic challenges have been identified to be overcome by Malaysians before this can be realized. One of them reads as follows:

¹⁴ *Seventh Malaysia Plan*, op. cit. p. 105.

¹⁵ Tan Boon Ann. 1985. “Population and Development in Relation to Ageing”. *Proceedings Seminar on Socio-Economic Consequences of the Ageing and Population in Malaysia*. Kuala Lumpur: National Population and Family Development Board, Malaysia. May 9-12, 1985. p. 38.

¹⁶ *Seventh Malaysia Plan*, op. cit.

¹⁷ Tan Boon Ann. op. cit.

¹⁸ Figures on this demographic changes can be further viewed in Chen A. J. and Jones, G. 1989. *Ageing in ASEAN Its Socio-Economic Cosequences*. Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies. p. 15.

¹⁹ *Ibid.* p.16.

²⁰ Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid. (ed.). 1993. *Malaysia's Vision 2020 Understanding the Concepts, Implications and Challenges*. Petaling Jaya (Malaysia): Pelanduk Publications. pp. 404-405.

“The seventh challenge is the challenge of establishing a fully caring society and a caring culture, a social system in which society will come before self, in which the welfare of the people will revolve not around the state or the individual but around a strong and resilient family system.”²¹

In this context, research on the elderly population of Malaysia, assumes great relevance and importance for development purposes. The main question that needs to be asked is whether our development process and progress has fairly extended its benefits to the elderly population of Malaysia. This includes the question pertaining to the provision of better medical care services for these elderly.

Another important demographic trend relates to the life expectancy whereby females out-live males²², a feature common among the older age groups as shown by available statistics i.e. female dominant sex ratios among older Malaysians. This demographic trend has been observed universally for more than one hundred years.

The sex ratio of the elderly against the total number of Malaysian population is of great interest as this indicates the differential mortality in the two sexes. For the population in general, the sex ratio (number of males to every 10 females) was 10.4²³ males for every 10 females in 1996. However, there were fewer males, i.e. 9²⁴ for every 10 females in the elderly population. This means that in Malaysia, elderly

²¹ Ibid. p. 45.

²² The higher longevity of females than males is shown for example in the 1998 Malaysians' life expectancy at birth of 74.6 years for the former and 69.6 years for the latter. The average life expectancy has improved for both sexes through time, but the higher female than male expectancy has been maintained. *Department of Statistics Malaysia*. 1999. www.statistics.gov.my. Updated by April 1, 1999.

²³ *Social Statistics Bulletin Malaysia 1996*. 1996. Department of Statistics, Malaysia. p. 18

²⁴ *Vital Statistics Malaysia 1996*. o p. cit.

females outnumbered elderly males. This fact alone makes it an interesting phenomenon to study elderly population and why this differential occurs.

The above discussion has set an initial background to our research on aging and the aged, which form the main focus of this study. In addition, we can say that the recent demographic trend in Malaysia has led to an increasing number of older people depending on others for their care.²⁵ This is particularly due to their debilitating illnesses and loss of economic resources. In this sense, aging and the aged has become a type of social problem, which deserves attention and research. Other factors related to the study of the elderly include the transition from the rural to an urban society and the change in the family structure and economic organization. In various ways, these factors have also contributed to the problem of socio-psychological adjustment among the aged in Malaysia.²⁶ This scenario poses a crucial challenge in terms of the transformation of Malaysian society into a caring one.

Another critical and important issue of the elderly population is their living arrangement, as this affects their overall well being. In most Asian countries, including Malaysia, "the governments assume that co-residence, and the familial system of care and support...is the best arrangement for meeting the needs of the elderly".²⁷ In Malaysia, many incentives such as tax exemption and welfare support

²⁵ Detailed information can be found in Chan Kok Eng. 1992. "Statistics and Trends of Population Ageing in Malaysia". *Proceedings on the National Seminar on Challenges of Senior Citizens Towards Vision 2020*. Kuala Lumpur: Ministry of National Unity and Community Development Malaysia, Social Obgyn and Associates, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya (Kuala Lumpur) and Cumberland Foundation Limited (Sydney). pp. 17 - 35.

²⁶ Mohd. Yatim Masitah. 1985. "The Prospects of Ageing of the Population in Malaysia". *Proceedings Seminar on Socio-Economic Consequences of the Ageing and Population in Malaysia*. Kuala Lumpur: National Population and Family Development Board, Malaysia. May 9-12, 1985. p. 49.

²⁷ Asis Maruja M. B. et. al. 1995. "Living Arrangement in Four Asian Countries: A Comparative Perspective". *Journal of Cross-Cultural Gerontology*. Vol. 10. p. 145.

are provided by the government as part of the program to encourage the elderly to live with their adult children.²⁸

“Asian tradition and the many religions and philosophies observed in Asia demand that the children take care of their aged parents while much of the present and emerging conditions would not seem to allow for complete observance of this highly esteemed cultural value, a lot of efforts need to be made to instill this sense of responsibility in the young. This is done through social and religious education and exposure to the plight of the elderly should they be neglected.”²⁹

Living with their adult children, however, presents only a partial picture of the living arrangement of the elderly. Although this is the common form of preferred living arrangement for them, it does not seem to be an ideal arrangement for everyone. There are other alternative arrangements like independent living, living with relatives other than children or living in the institutions for the elderly. This study emphasizes on the institutionalized living arrangement of the elderly and its implications for their lives.

Institutionalization of the elderly is often a neglected subject. It is widely regarded as a peripheral issue by the mainstream society. Although the institutionalization of the elderly is often overlooked or perceived in a negative manner, the fact remains that five percent (60,000 out of 1.2 million) of the elderly live in hospitals, retirement or nursing homes. This alone would suffice to show the importance of research on the subject.³⁰

²⁸ Da Vanzo J. and Chan A. 1994. “Living Arrangement of Older Malaysians: Who Coresides with Their Adult Children?”. *Demography*. Vol. 31. No. 1.

²⁹ Artonang. 1997. “Growing Old in Asia”. *The Asian Editor*. February-March. p. 26.

³⁰ Murugasu S. 1997. “Caring for the Aged”. *The Star*. October 1. Sect. 2. p. 1.

Although family should be the ideal source of care and institutionalized care should be seen as the last option, there is a number of elderly who simply do not have any choice but to accept it. In Malaysia, the Social Welfare Department runs nine Rumah Seri Kenangan (government welfare or geriatric homes) and the Central Welfare Council (CWC), a non-government organization runs an additional 108 homes throughout the country.³¹ In 1995 and 1996, the number of aged people admitted in the former rose by 42.3% percent in the following year. In 1995, there were only 182 admissions compared to 259 admissions in 1996.³² According to the Social Welfare Department's director general Jaafar Abdul Wahid, the increased figure possibly reflects the trend of contemporary people who are not really keen to take care of the elderly at home and because of the nature of modern life today.³³ This trend seems to resemble the ones in the West especially the United States (USA). Comparative figures from Muslim societies are relatively hard to obtain.

This research is limited to the study of the various socio-economic factors, which influence the lives of the elderly at Rumah Seri Kenangan, Taiping, Perak, a government sponsored geriatric home. It is a case study designed to examine specifically, the effect of these factors on the decision of the elderly to stay in this geriatric home.

Statement of the Problem

The study of aging and the aged is a relatively neglected field in Malaysia. "Despite its desirability, it is not yet feasible to probe more deeply into characteristics of, and

³¹ Ibid. p. 2.

³² Chin N. 1997. "Admissions to Homes for the Aged up 42pc". *The Star*. September 15. p. 13.

³³ Ibid.

issues related to [aging population].”³⁴ To correct these lacunae, a more detailed study of the process of aging and what happens to the aged when they are institutionalized is badly needed. This study attempted to fill this gap. It made an effort to identify the socio-economic conditions of the older population that become instrumental in their admission in a geriatric home called Rumah Seri Kenangan at Taiping, Perak. The perceptions of the elderly residents about the care and services provided to them were also among the major concern of this study.

Respondents were asked to give their reasons for being in the institution and why this type of living was preferred or chosen over some other forms of care. It was presumed that this would enable identifying significant causes for their institutionalization. In particular, it has sought to find out if socio-economic variables like income, occupation, rural-urban differentials, age, gender, health, marital status, religion, education, and ethnicity were instrumental in influencing their decision of institutionalization. In addition, it was hypothesized that variables like education, occupation and income of the children of our respondents would be helpful in understanding the decision. It was also presumed that the results would give more insights into the reasons for institutionalization in general.

Objectives

Based on the above presentation, the main objective of this study was to identify the nature of relationship between selected socio-economic factors and institutionalization of the elderly; other subsidiary objectives were as follows:

³⁴ Chan Kok Eng. 1985. “Population Ageing in Malaysia: Some Socio-Economic Implications”. *Proceedings Seminar on Socio-Economic Consequences of the Ageing of Population in Malaysia*. Kuala Lumpur: national Population and Family Development Board, Malaysia. May 9-12, 1985. p. 249.

1. To provide demographic and socio-economic profile of the elderly residents.
2. To describe the importance of religion to the elderly in their lives.
3. To identify respondents' economic, psychological and health problems.
4. To explore respondents' perception on living in the geriatric home.

Limitations of the Study

The study is limited to the exploration of selected key socio-economic factors that influenced the placement of the elderly in the institutionalized setting. It is beyond the scope of this study to identify all other factors that may also be influential for the institutionalization of our respondents. Hence, any generalization beyond these variables would be unwarranted.

In addition, the findings are limited and may only be generalizable to the chosen geriatric home namely, the Rumah Sri Kenangan, Taiping, Perak. This includes the perceptions of both the elderly inmates and the staff there. Furthermore, the selected respondents might not be representative in terms of ethnicity and religion as well as because of the selection of criteria considered, especially their willingness and ability to interact and respond to the interview. Hence, Respondents with mental illness or any other physical and health problems were excluded. Also, the size of the sample is too small, thus, the study is entirely exploratory. The data has only been used to generate some hypotheses. This approach, in sociology is generally referred to as grounded theory approach.