POVERTY ERADICATION IN THE FISHING COMMUNITIES: GENDER PERSPECTIVE

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Outline of presentation

• Malaysia in brief
• Poverty eradication strategies in Malaysia
• The fishing sector
• Poverty eradication programs in the fishing sector
• Gender perspective in poverty eradication
Malaysia in brief

• An independent country since 1957
• Three region: Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak
• Multi ethnic nation (Malay, Chinese, Indian)
• Population 27 millions, aged nation by 2035
• Vision: achieve developed and high income nation by 2020
Malaysia’s Development Efforts

3 National Policies
- The National Vision Policy 2001 - 2010

3 Outline Perspective Plans (OPP)
- OPP 1 1971 - 1990
- OPP 2 1991 - 2000
- OPP 3 2001 - 2010
Poverty Eradication Strategies in Malaysia
BACKGROUND

NATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICY (1971-1990)

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY (1990-2000)

NATIONAL VISIONARY POLICY (2001-2010)

POVERTY RATES
1970 - 49.3%
1990 - 16.5%
2004 - 4.5%

POLICY

ACHIEVEMENT

Basic infrastructure
Human capital investment
Rural development

Targeted poverty (Hard core)
Urban poverty

Pockets of poverty
Vulnerable group
Relative poverty
The Fishing Sector in Malaysia
Quantity and Value of Marine Fish

Metric Ton

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Quantity ('000)</th>
<th>Value (RM Mill)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>1,120</td>
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<td>2006</td>
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<td>2009</td>
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Quantity and Value of Aquaculture

Metric Ton

Value

Quantity

RM Mil

2,500

2,000

1,500

1,000

500

0

2005 2006 2007 2008 2009

Quantity

Value
Third National Agriculture Policy (1998-2010)

- Enhance food security
- National income and export earning
- Maximize income of the producers and
- Poverty eradication

Fish Consumption:
- 2000 - 49kg per capita
- 2005 - 53kg per capita
- 2010 - 56 kg per capita
Agencies Responsible

- Economic Planning Unit
- Inter Agency Coordinating Unit (ICU)
- Ministry of Agriculture.....
  - Department of Fisheries
  - Fisheries Development Board of Malaysia
- Ministry of Rural and Regional Development
- Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development and many other Ministries
Non Government

- Fishermen’s Association (NEKMAT)
- Amanah Ikhtiar Malaysia (Micro Credit NGO)
- Religious based group
- Sejahtera foundation
Programs for Fishing Sector 2010

• Fishermen’s fund: December 2007, a total 2,442 beneficiaries and 61 association received the fund

• Enriching fisheries resources: 421 location benefiting 50,000 fishermen

• Aquaculture using fish protech system: 4 states with 100 target

• Diversifying fishermen’s income: 118 KUNITA with 5,010 members
Programs

- Fish Landing facilities: 27 complexes and 108 jetty built, benefiting 5,000 vessels
- Village infrastructure: 15 projects involving 2,978 houses
- Village modernization: 750 fishermen in 4 villages
- Village infrastructure: 308 projects, 43,383 beneficiaries.
Poverty Eradication Programs in the Fishing Sector
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
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<td>Fishing gear and food processing</td>
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Fishery Development Authority Malaysia, 2010
Poverty in the Fishing Sector

PLI (2009):
Poor- RM660
Hard core- RM275
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Poverty Among Fishermen</th>
<th>Poor household</th>
<th>Hardcore poor</th>
<th>Total Fishermen</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Household Income Survey 2004</td>
<td>20,695 (29.7%)</td>
<td>5,882 (8.3%)</td>
<td>69,680</td>
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<tr>
<td>e-Kasih 2006 (poverty database)</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,036 (9.0%)</td>
<td>22,745</td>
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<td>Traditional fishermen 2008</td>
<td>1,604 (38.2%)</td>
<td>340 (8.1%)</td>
<td>4,201 (total 15,974)</td>
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<td>Bruit Island (2010)</td>
<td>1,668 (93.7)</td>
<td>36 (2%)</td>
<td>1,780</td>
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Income Categories

- <691, 1641, 9%
- 691-1000, 2952, 15%
- 1001-1500, 3842, 20%
- 1501-2000, 2457, 13%
- 2001-3000, 2817, 15%
- 3001-4000, 1513, 8%
- >4001, 3759, 20%

Sendi Report, 2007
Gender Perspective in Poverty Eradication
Gender Perspective

• Poverty eradication programs targeted the household heads (automatically men).

• The gender perspective looks at the impact of gender on people's opportunities (men and women), social roles and interactions.

• Poverty is a multi-dimensional social problem.
Poverty As Social Problems

**Individual:**
- Lack of skills
- Absenteeism
- Lack of capital
- Under-employment

**Environment:**
- Lack of markets
- Poor infrastructure
- Poor leadership
- Bad governance

**The factors:**
- Ignorance
- Disease
- Apathy
- Dishonesty
- Dependency
Gender Issues in Poverty Eradication

• Fisher women marginalized, discriminated and deprived of their rights to receive support since fishermen=men (example: Bruit Island, Sarawak) due to gender stereotype.
• Women’s roles invisible and unrecognized.
• Focus on income poverty eradication only.
• Women only program addressing practical needs, lack of integration in the mainstream development.
Recommendations

• Redefine poverty target: the head of households
• Regards poverty as social problems
• Focus on family as unit and identify the most at risk persons and the potential contributors to poverty eradication program in the short term and long term to ensure sustainability.
• Increase gender sensitivity among policy makers, program planners and researchers to rethink assumption and practice
Rethinking Assumption
Rethinking Practice

Gender-sensitive policies

Gender-neutral
Interventions intended to leave distribution of resources and responsibilities intact

Gender-specific
Interventions intended to meet targeted needs of one or other gender within resources and responsibilities

Gender-redistributive
Interventions intended to transform existing distributions in a more egalitarian direction
Conclusions

• Despite growth in the fishing sector in Malaysia, poverty remain a concern especially among small scale aquaculture and fishing communities.

• Lack of sex disaggregated and household data to enable better understanding of poverty among fishing households.

• Mainstreaming gender in the fishing sector.
Thank you