



**NEW VILLAGE COMMUNITY PROJECT
REPORT**

NAME OF NEW VILLAGE:

BATANG BERJUNTAI 八丁燕帶

SELANGOR

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ABSTRACT

Batang Berjuntai is a new village in Kuala Selangor. In 2007, the name Batang Berjuntai was renamed “Bestari Jaya” by the government. This village is located 55 kilometres away from Kuala Lumpur, 30 kilometres away from Rawang, and 20 kilometres away from the town of Kuala Selangor. It is a multiracial village. The majority of villagers are Muslims and Hindus. The main languages spoken are Mandarin and Malay. There are several kindergartens, 10 primary schools, 11 secondary schools and 1 university in this village. However, there are only 1 police station and 1 fire station in the village. Bestari Jaya was once a quiet village but ever since the establishment of Universiti Industry Selangor (Unisel) in 1999, there are many young local and foreign students who are living here. To develop tourism in the village, the villagers would have to cooperate with travel agencies, which organize trips to Bestari Jaya to promote their tourist spots like “Yu He Swallow City” and “Kampung Kuantan Fireflies”. Some of them are entrepreneurs who create employment opportunities by expanding their oil palm plantation, as well as catfish and goat farming industries. Basically, most of the villagers work as fruit pickers, oil palm farmers, estate workers. There are also those who work as oil palm factory workers as oil palm is the biggest plantation in Bestari Jaya.

HISTORY

Batang Berjuntai, which is now more commonly known as Bestari Jaya, is located in Kuala Selangor with a distance of roughly 20 kilometres from its town. “Batang Berjuntai” is a Malay term, which means a dangling branch. There used to be a railway from Batang Berjuntai to Batu Arang, but it was dismantled during World War II.

Batang Berjuntai was founded during the British rule in Malaya in the 1920s, and was mainly the land for rubber plantation initially. The land was also rich with tin ore and in the 1940s ‘Berjuntai Tin and Pacific Tin’ was established for the purpose of mining the rich earth. Consequently, the village was then named as “Kampung Berjuntai Tin” by the local people. Its name was then changed to “Kampung Berjuntai Jaya” in 1998, and finally the Sultan of Selangor renamed it as “Kampung Bestari Jaya” in 2006 to avert the phallic connotation of “Batang Berjuntai”.

The state government intends to transform Bestari Jaya into a Selangor Knowledge City by the year 2011 and keep the residents in sync with the development that is taking place currently. One of the actions taken is the establishment of Universiti Industri Selangor (UNISEL) in 1999 on the abandoned tin mine. UNISEL, which is the first state funded private university in Malaysia aims to provide a world-class tertiary education as well as research and development in industrial technology, with the motto ‘Ke Arah Kecemerlangan Industri’, which is in line with the vision of transforming Bestari Jaya into a Selangor Knowledge City.

POPULATION & HOUSING

The population at Bestari Jaya is mainly made up of 3 races which are Malay, Indian and Chinese. 90 percent of the residents are Malay, followed by Indians and Chinese. Besides, there are also Indian Muslims living here. Although they are multiracial, the residents live in peace, harmony, and are always helping one another.

The residents of Bestari Jaya stay in houses along the roads, living on their own land or in housing estates. The types of houses that can be found are terrace, single-storey terrace, and shop houses.

SOCIAL, CULTURE & REGIONAL PRACTISE

Bestari Jaya is a small and peaceful village. The Kuala Selangor Municipal Council (MPKS) has provided the people with basic amenities and infrastructure such as roads, clean water, and electricity.

There are only one police station and one fire station in the whole village. Even though security is the responsibility of the police, the villagers help out as well by forming the Village Development and Security Committees (JKKK) in Bestari Jaya. The “Pertubuhan Ikatan Relawan Rakyat” (RELA) is also formed, and locals who are 16 years old and above are welcome to join. Unlike JKKK, RELA consists of members who are volunteers, who usually perform on shifts to patrol around the village, and this has been very effective in decreasing the crime rate.

Only one clinic is located in the village, which operates from 8 am to 5 pm during week days. However, emergency services are provided even during non-working hours, to handle any emergencies that may occur. Only a small fee of RM1.00 is charged for every outpatient treatment.

Facilities such as community hall, library, mosque, ‘surau’, playground, and bus stop are provided for the convenience of the villagers in Batang Berjuntai.

EDUCATION

The government has been working hard in educating the younger generation, not only in town area but also in the new village area. Education is important for every child; hence Bestari Jaya is equipped with kindergarten, primary school, secondary school and university.

There are several kindergartens in Bestari Jaya. Some of the kindergartens are Kindergarten Kemas Kampung Jaya Setia, Kindergarten Yuk Chih, Kindergarten Kanak-kanak Fatimah and Kindergarten Imej Bestari. All the primary schools in Bestari Jaya also have a Unity Nursery. Pre-school education is available for children from the age of five to six.

There are 10 primary schools in Bestari Jaya. The schools are mainly divided into 3 categories, which are Sekolah Kebangsaan, Sekolah Jenis Kebangsaan (Tamil) and Sekolah Jenis Kebangsaan (Cina). The examples are Sekolah Kebangsaan Jaya Setia, Sekolah Jenis Kebangsaan (Tamil) Bestari Jaya and Sekolah Jenis Kebangsaan (Cina) Yuk Chih. It is compulsory for all the Standard Four, Standard Five and Standard Six students to attend curricular activities on every Wednesday. Students could join clubs and societies, uniform bodies or sports and games.

Sekolah Kebangsaan Bestari Jaya is a primary school where the medium of instruction is the Malay language. The current headmaster, Mr. Rahmat Hj. Siraj Ada has been working there for 7 years. The school was established in 2002 and currently it has a total of 38 teachers and 420 students. There are 360 Malay, 55 Indian and 5 Chinese students. The school is well-equipped with classrooms, library, canteen, experimental lab, computer lab and office. However, the school

does not have a field and hall, which makes it inconvenient for the students to perform their sport activities.

Sekolah Jenis Kebangsaan (Tamil) Bestari Jaya uses the Tamil language as the medium of instruction. Mr. M Ramamoorthy who is the 5th headmaster of the school has been working there for 7 years. The school was established in 1964 and today it is made up of 46 teachers and 808 students. Lately the school is confronting the problem of not having a proper playground, students playing truant and air pollution. The school has worked hard to raise the Ujian Penilaian Sekolah Rendah passing rate by having extra classes for Standard Six students on every Saturday. The 2010 UPSR passing rate for the school has improved from 43% to 60%.

Sekolah Jenis Kebangsaan (Cina) Yuk Chih, which uses the Chinese language as the medium of instruction, is a primary school, made up of 22 teachers and 231 students. The current headmaster is Mr. Lim Kim Seng who started serving the school a month ago. The school is equipped with classrooms, canteen, field, hall, experimental lab, computer lab, and office. The main problem faced by the school is the car parking space. Every Saturday, extra classes will be conducted for the Standard Six students. The 2010 UPSR passing rate is 50%, which is a rather high achievement for the school.

Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Raja Muda Musa is one out of eleven secondary schools in Batang Berjuntai. The school was established in 1965. The current headmaster is Ms. Hajjah Nor Salwati Hasan. The school consists of 115 teachers and 1,446 students, which include Malay, Chinese and Indian races. Basically, the school divides the teaching session into two, which are morning session and

afternoon session. The students are also provided with facilities, such as classrooms, experimental lab, canteen, field, computer lab and office. In addition, various activities are conducted every year such as cross country, science and technology week, and language week. It is also compulsory for the students to join a club, an association, or uniform body. This shows that the school administrator is focusing on both students' academic and curricular achievements.

University Industry Selangor (UNISEL) was founded on 23 August 1999. It has campuses located in Shah Alam and Bestari Jaya. It is wholly owned by the Selangor State Government, represented by Pendidikan Industri YS Sdn. Bhd. There are more than 12,000 local and international undergraduates and more than 4,300 postgraduate students. The university offers foundation, diploma, bachelor and postgraduate programmes. The campus has a building for the Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Science and Biotechnology and, Faculty of Industrial Information Technology. In addition, the campus is also equipped with sufficient facilities and services for the students. There are hostel, student community centre, mosque, cafe, mini market and clinic on the campus.

ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

The economic activities in Kampung Bestari Jaya are mostly based on agriculture such as plantation and farming.

Plantation

The main plantation in the village is oil palm, which has greatly contributed to providing job opportunities. Kampung Bestari Jaya with its fertile soil and preserved ecosystem enables it to become a suitable place for oil palm cultivation. Metaplex Plantation Sdn Bhd is a company in Bestari Jaya that owns one of the many oil palm plantations. The oil palm plantation provides jobs for fruit pickers, farmers, and factory workers.

There are several oil palm processing factories that are located in Bestari Jaya, and one of them is Anitha's Manufacturing & Trading Sdn Bhd. This company manufactures cooking oil and exports palm oil to other countries.

There are oil mills in Bestari Jaya which are used for oil extraction and they belong to Sime Darby. The Tennamaram palm oil mill that belongs to Sime Darby Plantation is also situated in Bestari Jaya. The farmers can save cost on transportation as the mill is near to the plantation. Tennamaram palm oil mill is the first of its kind in our country and it has paved the way for the prolific expansion of oil palm industry in Malaysia.

Poultry

There are some villagers who rear commercial chickens in Bestari Jaya with the use of a big chicken coop.

In addition, goat rearing is also one of the economic activities in Bestari Jaya. The goats are fed with silage grass and Napier Taiwan grass planted by the owner. One of the farmers, Mr. Khamzah Abdullah who owns 150 goats mentioned that each goat could be sold for between RM450 and RM600.

Other Commercial Activities

There are some villagers who depend on commercial activities to earn their living in Bestari Jaya. There are many kinds of shops in the village such as grocery shops, wet market, stationery shops and others, which cater to the villagers' convenience.

According to Mr. Abdullah, who is one of the stall owners of the wet market, the market starts operating from five o'clock in the morning to two o'clock in the afternoon. Usually, he can earn a profit of approximately two thousand ringgit per month. He also claimed that the stall owners have formed a society, which helps to prevent stealing activities from going on in the market. Their market is safe from snatch theft.

TOURISM VALUE

Yu He Swallow City

One of the main attractions in Bestari Jaya, Kuala Selangor is the Yu He Swallow City. It is a journey of 45 minutes away from Kuala Lumpur and Klang. It is a man-made swallow habitat which spans 5 acres and also a place to get good quality bird nests.

Yu He Swallow City is Malaysia's first and largest bird-nest ranch and it is open to public. Since 11 April 2008, it has allowed visitors to uncover the secrets of swallow rearing and to get closer to the mysterious swallow nests. This new place exposes tourists to the benefits and qualities of bird nest. Recently, Yu He Swallow City has been chosen as one of the Selangor's latest tourist attractions, which makes it the best choice for a Kuala Selangor day trip.

In Yu He Swallow City, tourists will have to purchase the entrance ticket, which is priced at RM 7 for an adult and RM 3 for a child. The ticket price is reasonable, which makes it a worthwhile place to visit. Professional English and Chinese speaking tour guides would lead and enlighten the visitors during the excursion. Visitors will be able to gain first-hand knowledge on the life cycle of swallows, the formation of bird nest, and even the ideal conditions where swallows live in. The guides will also explain the daily activities of the swallows and how the bird nests are being processed. Besides that, tourists are also introduced to the whole piece of high quality and hundred percent purely cultivated golden bird's nest. Their product is naturally nutritional as there are no chemicals or contaminants that are added to it. During the visit, tourists will also be provided with various business and educational information.

Yu He Swallow City has a built-in seafood restaurant which provides tourists with delectable set meals. Its luxurious air-conditioned hall has a capacity of 180 tables and it is undeniably a fine place for local villagers to hold their wedding banquet. Meanwhile, it also consists of a spacious conference room which is utilized for meeting needs.

Kampung Kuantan Fireflies

The colony of fireflies in Kampung Kuantan, Bestari Jaya is one of the most popular tourist attractions in Selangor. Tourists will be amazed by the spectacular light displays from these unique insects, which shine in the night like fire to attract their mating partners. There are millions of them that live on the “berembang” trees, which grow along Kuala Selangor’s riverbanks. The mangrove tree species, called “berembang”, with open foliage is suitable for the breeding of fireflies. These trees thrive in a humid climate and swampy surroundings. The fireflies will suck out the nectar from these trees as food.

Back in the 1970s, when Kampung Kuantan is still a small humble village, villagers use the river to obtain food resources and for transport. There were only a few people who paid attention to the night time glowing insects. During the 1990s, in order to supplement the villagers’ incomes, the government promoted tourism and supported their businesses by giving them row boats. Kampung Kuantan Fireflies now attracts over 2,000 visitors a month. Villagers benefit as boat operators, tour guides or from the sale of handicrafts and food to tourists.

The park opens at 7.30 pm and closes at 10.30 pm. The best time to visit the park is during sundown approximately from 7.30 pm to 7.45 pm. Once the fireflies have found their mates, the flashing will stop, usually by 11.00 pm. There is ample parking space and a visitor booth for information and souvenirs. Each boat can carry 4 passengers and a boat ride costs RM 10 per person. There are plenty of restaurants and food stalls in the park. Besides that, public transports are provided from Kuala Selangor town.

Yeen Keng (Hoi Kee) Restaurant

Yeen Keng restaurant is located in the town of Bestari Jaya. It started its business 60 years ago when there was still no electricity. As it is situated in the middle of the town, Yeen Keng restaurant focuses more on its Indian customers. It opens every day from 11.00 am to 9.30 pm. Yeen Keng is famous for its Har Lok. A long time ago, it was the only type of prawn dish that you can order from restaurant. It is a simple stir-fry of onions and chillies with tamarind sauce. The deep fried prawns are allowed to simmer in the sauce. Western people know the dish as Tamarind prawn. The other famous dish in Yeen Keng restaurant is the sweet and sour pork. In Chinese, it is called “Gu Lou Yok”.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Contribution of Green Vision Sdn. Bhd.

Entrepreneurships in Kampung Bestari Jaya are moving towards the rearing of catfish and also the offering of courses related to animal farming. A villager in Kampung Bestari Jaya, Mr Mohammad Fadzil Ibrahim has set up a Catfish Incubator project under his company, Green Vision Sdn. Bhd. (GVSB) and Tabung Ekonomi Kumpulan Usaha Niaga (TEKUN) in Taman Agroteknologi Bestari Jaya. This project has been operating since 2007 and Mohammad Fadzil Ibrahim has been involved in the freshwater fisheries for about 20 years. He has a lot of experience in rearing different types of freshwater fish such as catfish, tilapia, puyu, and etc. Currently, there are 240 ponds with about 10,000 catfish in different growing stages. A land size of about 60 hectares is rented from the Selangor Agriculture Department as a centre for rearing catfish.

Mr Mohammad Fadzil Ibrahim dreams of creating something on a great scale that can process plants and produce quality and halal fish food in order to reduce the cost of fish food production for farmers. Establishing a central collection of fish seed and becoming a distributor to farmers who need the seeds are his main objectives in doing this catfish rearing business. Besides providing trainings and courses in freshwater aquaculture for anyone who is interested, he also provides guidance and consultancy services to the new farmers. Furthermore, he is looking for local and foreign investors to assist in the marketing of freshwater fish.

Currently, Mr Mohammad Fadzil Ibrahim owns 240 ponds and his farm is producing about 2 tonnes of catfish per day. He also manufactures fish-based products such as dried catfish, smoked catfish and catfish floss.

All freshwater fish is fed with hundred percent pure and clean pellets. Mohammad Fadzil Ibrahim focuses on both the wholesale dealers and retailers. The prices of the catfish are based on their sizes. Normally, a size of 6 or 7 is considered a kilogramme. If it is less than 50 kilogrammes, he will charge RM4.00 per kilogramme and if it is more than 100 kilogrammes, he will charge RM3.80.

Many students from various universities, such as Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT), Universiti Industry Selangor (UNISEL), Universiti Malaya (UM), and Unversiti Islam Malaysia (UIM) had completed their practical training in Mr Mohammad Fadzil Ibrahim's farm. There are also many local and foreign visitors who visited his farm. He is looking forward to train more young entrepreneurs in the catfish rearing business. His farm offers courses to train young and aspiring entrepreneurs.

Semi-Intensive Rearing of Goats

The commercial rearing of goats requires a very high commitment. A semi-intensive rearing can be defined as a situation whereby the goats are allowed to graze freely in the day and kept in their pens at night. Mr Khamzah Abdullah has been involved in the semi-intensive goat rearing venture since 2003. Currently, he rears 150 goats. Besides grazing, the goats are also fed with silage grass. The grass is stored and fermented in air-tight containers for three weeks until it is softened. This helps to facilitate the chewing, digestion and excretion of a goat.

Mr Khamzah also plants Napier Taiwan grass which is used to feed the goats. Napier Taiwan grass contains 15% protein and it is able to stimulate the growth rate of goats. Local grass alone is insufficient as it only contains 5% protein.

As goats are easily infected by bacteria and worms, Mr. Khamzah is also very concerned about the health of his goats. For instance, when the goats are fed on grasses that contain worms, they will live and multiply in the goats' stomachs. Eventually, these goats will become thin and limp with bloated stomachs. The health of the goats becomes critical when their hair stand upright. The goats' suffering would end in death if there is no proper treatment on the infected goats, and the disease will spread to other goats.

In order to venture into goat breeding, Mr Khamzah had attended a course in goat breeding organized by the Farmers Organisation Authority (LPP) in Melaka. This programme has helped Mr Khamzah to realise the mechanics of goat breeding. The programme emphasizes the aspects of hygiene and cleanliness of the pens, techniques on looking after new-born kids, preparation of medication, and weather.

The Selangor LPP has assisted Mr Khamzah by providing 10 storage containers for grass, 25 local goats and 2 cross-bred goats. They also provided him on contract a few Jamnapari buck for cross-breeding with the local dam in order to produce better offspring. Jamnapari breed originates from India. After the breeding process, Mr Khamzah has to give to LPP the cross-breed kid or sell the kid to LPP at cost price.

Mr Khamzah also rears other breeds such as Koplo and Malin from Indonesia and Blackbelly from South Africa. Most often, goats are sold according to their weights but Mr Khamzah sells his goats by size, which is between RM450 and RM600 per goat. On average, he sells about 10 goats per month and earns RM500.

PROBLEMS

During our visit to Bestari Indah, we noticed that there were several aspects that need improvement.

First, the residents of Bestari Jaya should be more conscious of their responsibility towards the cleanliness and well being of their community. Most of the small rivers along the residential area are polluted with garbage and wastes. On several occasions, heaps of rubbish piles occupy vacant areas nearby the shop houses as well as residential area despite signboards placed to discourage garbage dumping and warn that a fine could be imposed for littering. This lack of consideration encourages mosquito and rodent breeding. Such thoughtless act would cause diseases such as malaria and other related diseases.

Second, during an interview with a local restaurant owner, it was found that many of the local shop owners were afraid to extend their opening hours. They would close their shops at around 5 pm. This was after a case where one of the shop owners was attacked violently by robbers at night and subsequently the shop owner passed away. The fear of extending their opening hours has robbed them of the opportunity to increase their sales.

Next, most of the schools are located next to a broad main road. This serves to aid the students for ease of public transportation to and from their respective schools. However, there are no proper crossover bridges and zebra crossings. The safety of the students is worrisome as they risk their lives, battling against the traffic to get to the opposite side of the road. Besides that, the schools do not have a proper field. The students have to use a public field, which is often shared with a nearby school. This may cause unnecessary exposure and risk of kidnapping or accidents

to the students as they might have to share the field with random strangers during their physical education period, or if they want to play sports.

Fourth, a chat with Mohd Fadzil Ibrahim, who is the Green Vision Shd Bhd owner, reveals that freshwater fish economy is relatively slow and mundane due to the low demand for freshwater fish. Currently the production of freshwater fish exceeds the demand from the local community; hence the breeding of fish needs to be controlled to avoid losses. If the people can be persuaded to start eating freshwater fish instead of saltwater fish, there will be a better demand for the former, and many of the leftover mining holes can be turned into a farm for breeding freshwater fish.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Several measures can be taken to upgrade the living quality of the community of Bestari Jaya. The community can conduct “gotong royong” days to clear the rubbish from the rivers and infested areas. Talks and campaigns can be held to educate the community of the importance of hygiene and cleanliness. Legitimate actions and fines can be imposed and enforced against those who defy the littering prohibition.

In order to reduce crime rate and protect the safety of the villagers, the police can conduct regular and frequent patrols. The villagers can also establish “Neighbourhood Watch” in their respective housing areas, and the residence can volunteer to work together by taking turns in making rounds around the neighbourhood and help one another to look after their property, especially during the festive season when most people are away from home.

Proper overhead crossing bridges and zebra crossing equipped with timed traffic light should be built in front of all the schools.

The government can also implement steps to cultivate an interest for eating freshwater fish. Perhaps by providing sufficient funds for fillet-making machines, the introduction of freshwater fish fillet can be made easily available to the public. Much can be learned from how the people in Thailand fillet their “ikan patil” and market them as frozen “dory fish” that we find in the market today; this move will definitely be a stepping stone for the freshwater fish industry. Filleting the freshwater fish helps to mask the texture and smell - the main characteristics that distinguish them from the usual saltwater fish; which is generally the reason most people choose to refrain from eating freshwater fish. The demand for freshwater

fish can be encouraged by marketing freshwater fish fillet and introducing it as a delicious diet. This will also provide an alternate mode of protein and enhance the economy for freshwater fish breeding in Bestari Jaya.

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