UTAR NEW VILLAGE COMMUNITY PROJECT
REPORT

NAME OF NEW VILLAGE:
MACHANG BUBUK 马章武莫
PENANG

Project carried out by:

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ABSTRACT

Machang Bubuk, is a district in the state of Pulau Pinang. It is mainly a residential area. The head of this village is Chin Nooi Siow and he is 42 years old. He became the head of this village about 4 years ago. This village has 2134 people and 85% of these are Chinese, 12% are Malays and less than 3% are Indians. The major language spoken in this village is Hakka. This village has about 421 houses. Like other new villages, the main economic activity of Machang Bubuk New Village was farming. As time passed, the economic activities evolved from farming to rubber planting and related activities. Many people come to this village for a holiday because the air is fresh and the food is delicious and inexpensive.
HISTORY

Machang Bubuk New Village is one of the existing 450 New Villages remaining in the country. Just like many of the other New Villages, it was built during the proclamation of the Emergency by the British colonial government in 1952 to keep the Chinese people in Malaya under guard so that they would have no contact with any members of the Communist Party of Malaya (CPM). Machang Bubuk village had abundant land for farming in the past, but this changed to rubber planting.

*Picture the Head of Village, Mr Chin Nooi Siow.*

*The unique signboard of Machang Bubok New Village*
ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

The economic activities of Machang Bubuk New Village evolved from farming to various commercial business activities although some villagers do continue with farming.

A market is situated in Road Kedua (Jalan Kedua) in Machang Bubuk. This is a place for villagers to hang out and buy vegetables, fish, meat and fruit. The market has 23 stalls and Machang Bubuk has only a few grocery shops which open from 8.00am to 8.00pm.

*The market in Machang Bubuk New Village*
Many villagers are engaged in agriculture. Machang Bubuk villagers plant oil palm, durian, banana, and rubber trees. Villagers go to their garden plots around 6.00am and return around 2.00pm. There are also villagers who sell the vegetables they grow directly in the market.

Many youths from Machang Bubuk have migrated to the cities for work.

Agricultural gardens at Machang Bubuk New Village
SOCIAL, CULTURAL & RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

Buddhism, Taoism and Catholicism are the most common religions in the village. The Buddhist and Taoist temples celebrate many festivals, e.g. Chinese New Year and Ghost Festivals (中元节). The temples attract devotees during these festivals. For Ghost Festivals (中元节), the temple administrator will hire Chinese drama or opera teams to perform.
A new Temple is built in Machang Bubuk New Village.

There is only one church in Machang Bubuk New Village. This is a Catholic Church. Christmas is a major festival celebrated at this church.
INFRASTRUCTURES

Machang Bubuk has a police station, a fire station, a community hall and a field for recreation.

The police station in Machang Bubuk is located close to the residential area. As a result, the police can reach most households within minutes of an emergency.

The fire and rescue station is run by volunteers. This station plays an important role, especially considering the fact that most houses in this village are made of wood.
The fire and rescue station in Machang Bubuk is run by volunteers.

This field is used for recreation such as football games among locals.
This community hall is used for social activities and festivals. It has a badminton court.

This community hall was opened by DATO' SERI ONG KA TING on 25 February 2005.
EDUCATION

(a) Primary school

In Machang Bubuk village, there is a primary school named SJK(C) KAY SIN which was built in 1963. According to one of teachers, the school has only 15 classrooms, about 630 students, 40 teachers and 9 staff members. Basic facilities in this school include a canteen, a library, a school hall, and a basketball court. The headmaster of this primary school is YEW TECK HUAH.
(b) Secondary school

In Machang Bubuk village, there is a secondary school named SMK Machang Bubuk which was built in 2005. According to the headmaster, NORLELAWATI BT ABDUL AZIZ, this school has 1067 students, 83 teachers and 12 staff members.
FOOD

During our meeting with Mr. Chin Nooi Siow, he suggested that we try the local noodles. He recommended a coffee shop at Jalan tiga, kampong Machang Bubuk. Villagers as well as visitors love to eat at this shop. Popular dishes served include Stew in soy sauce vinegar noodle (卤面), curry noodle and Jawa noodle.
When this stew in soy sauce vinegar noodles was served, we were impressed by its fragrance and taste. This dish has many ingredients such as fresh clam, prawn, pork, fish cake, fried onion and bean sprouts. Their sauce is full-bodied because it is simmered over a long period. The price of this noodle is only RM 2.50 per bowl.

Jawa noodle (or meehom or kueytiew) is served in tomato based gravy. It comes with sliced tofu, bean sprout, prawn cracker, potato, and sliced hardboiled egg. At this coffee shop, the jawa noodle is served with half a lime to be squeezed onto the noodle. The prawn crackers have just the right crispiness and the sauce’s tasty. The noodle (or meehun) is not over done. Overall, the taste is just superb. For only RM 2 per bowl, it’s a steal and worthwhile trying.

Customers may choose either dry curry mee or soup curry mee in this stall. This dish has many ingredients such as bean curd, carob, fried onion, meat, bean sprout, fish cake, ikan bilis. The proprietor has a secret recipe for the delicious and fragrant sambal. The proprietor claims that his sambal is the most famous in Machang Bubuk. Some customers buy their sambal for home cooking. This curry mee costs only RM 2.50 per bowl.

In the Machang Bubuk market sells many different snacks such as yam cake, you zha gui (油炸鬼), red bean you zha gui and ham jib eng. All of these cost only RM 0.50 per piece. There is a stall which sells thin pancake (薄饼), goreng pisang, potato cake and New Year cake (年糕). All these snacks are delicious and customers are advised to come early before stocks run out for the day.
Stew in soy sauce vinegar noodle (卤面)  |  Jawa Noodle

Curry Noodle

Snacks sell in the village
PROBLEMS

Machang Bubuk faces the problem of a declining population. This is because many youths have left the village to look for better employment opportunities in the cities.

Basic infrastructure in the new village is rather limited. In fact, roads in the village are in poor condition. The only fire station in this village does not receive government support and is run by volunteers. There is no clinic in Machang Bubuk.

*Fire station in Machang Bubuk runs by volunteers*
RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the authorities look into providing better and more facilities and amenities to the villagers of Machang Bubuk. This would include the improvement in road conditions, provision of health care facilities, and support for local fire station.

Economic development for this village has to be reviewed and improved. This is important as it could put a halt to the out migration of youths and the declining population.
CONCLUSION

During our visit to Machang Bubuk, we were touched by the warmth and hospitality of the villagers. Our special thanks and appreciation goes to:

1. Staff of Department of Soft Skills Competency in UTAR

2. Village Chief Chin Nooi Siow

3. Villagers of Machang Bubuk

4. Headmaster of Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Machang Bubuk

5. Teacher and the staff of Sekolah Menangah Kebangsaan Machang Bubuk

Finally, we hope that Village Machang Bubuk will benefit from future development.

DISCLAIMER:

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