UTAR NEW VILLAGE COMMUNITY PROJECT REPORT

NAME OF NEW VILLAGE:

SERI SETIA, SUNGAI WAY 双溪威新村

SELANGOR

Project carried out by:

<table>
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<th>ID Number</th>
<th>Course</th>
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ABSTRACT

Seri Setia (Sungai Way) is located in Selangor, Malaysia. The creation of a local Free Trade Zone has created many job opportunities for the residents. Seri Setia has an unusually large number of foreign migrant workers. A range of businesses are conducted in the new village such as a wet market, convenience stores, clinics, pawn shops and goldsmith shops. The majority of local residents are Hakkas and Hokkiens. The education institutions and associations in Sungai Way new village include the S.J.K(C) Sungai Way, Tadika Harmoni and Sungai Way Youth Club. Many youngsters have left Seri Setia for education or better employment opportunities in neighboring urban areas. Many old folks who remain in the village depend on regular allowances from their children in the cities.
Sungai Way New Village is located in the state of Selangor, Malaysia. The village is named after the river which runs through the village and which also serves as a source of water for the village.

In the late 19th century, Sungai Way had many tin mines and rubber estates. This attracted many foreigner workers from China and India to Sungai Way to earn a living. In 1882, Sir Frank Swettenham built a railway from Kuala Lumpur to Klang, and one of the stations was at Sungai Way. In fact, Sungai Way expanded rapidly since the 1870’s and benefitted from the establishment of the railway station. Many residents from other parts of KL came into Sungai Way because of the job opportunities here.

During the Japanese invasion in the early 1940’s, all business activities in Sungai Way were destroyed. After World War II, Sungai Way once again slipped into chaos. However, the Hokkien and Hakka people moved to Sungai Way in the 1950’s, with some encouragement from the British. According to historical records, at least 3,000 of them settled down in Sungai Way during the period of Emergency.

Sg Way New Village has a more diverse range of businesses than other new villages because of the rapid expansion of Kuala Lumpur and Petaling Jaya. In
the 1950’s the growth of Petaling Jaya provided many job opportunities in the construction sector. The construction of the Federal Highway and Subang airport also provided employment for Sg Way villagers.

In the 1970’s the development of the Sg Way Free Trade Zone meant that more employment opportunities were available in this area. New factories such as Guinness Brewery provided more employment. With the decline in tin mines and rubber estates, Sg Way’s environment and economy evolved. Today, many tall buildings, new roads and traffic congestion characterize Sg Way’s new landscape. Nevertheless, some old houses remain. The village has been renamed “Seri Setia” but prefer to use the old name.

Cities, towns and neighborhoods close to Sg Way are:

• Petaling Jaya, located 4.7 km away from Sungai Way New Village.
• Bandar Sunway, located 2.6 km away from Sungai Way New Village.
• Bandar Utama, located 8.8 km away from Sungai Way New Village.
POPULATION, HOUSING, TRANSPORTATION

As mentioned earlier, an estimated 3,000 Hakkas and Hokkiens moved to Sg Way New Village during the Emergency. As time passed, this new village grew rapidly and the composition of its population also changed. By the 1990’s, there were locals as well as foreign migrant workers in this area. Currently, there are about 30,000 residents in the Sg Way area and it is estimated that about half of them are foreigners. The Development and Security Committee (JKKK) is aware that the younger generation of locals are moving away from Sg Way, leaving many old folks behind. This is an issue which needs to be addressed.
ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

Sungai Way New Village (Kampung Seri Setia) is a small town but it carries the character of a bygone era. The Sungai Way area was sliced in two by the Federal highway. Nevertheless, the development of this highway and the free trade zone created jobs for the residents. Seri Setia has an abnormally large number of foreign migrants.

Most of the businesses in Kampung Seri Setia are located along its main road. All kinds of businesses can be found in this village. For example, restaurants, banks, convenience store, petrol stations, clinics, pharmacies, boutiques, and many more.

The main sources of income and economic activities in Kampung Seri Setia are as follows:

1. Convenience stores
Convenience stores in Kampung Seri Setia are set up by well-known companies like 7-Eleven, and KK Super Mart. Many of these stores sell a wide range of products, especially fast-moving consumer goods such as shampoo, bread and bottled water.

2. Wet market

There is a wet market called Pasar Seri Setia in the village. It is at the basement of a multi-storey building. Most of the residents buy fresh fish, vegetables, meat and many other items from this market every day.
3. Pawn shop

Surprisingly, there are a large number of pawn shops or “pajak kedai” in Kampung Seri Setia, Sungai Way. This social phenomenon needs no explanation. When times are bad, ordinary folks normally pawn whatever valuables within reach. These could be watches, jewellery or even branded clothes.

4. Goldsmith

Left: Kedai Emas Yee Lam, Right: Kedai Emas Kwong Chen
Other than pawn shops, the village also has quite a number of goldsmiths. Most of the goldsmiths in Kampung Seri Setia have been established in this location for decades.
SOCIAL, CULTURAL, AND RELIGIOUS PRACTICES

The majority of local residents are Chinese and the majority of them are aged 55+. This is because youngsters have moved out for education and career purpose.

The main religions practiced in Kampung Seri Setia are Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Christianity. Places of worship include a mosque, a Chinese temple, a Hindu temple, and a church in the village.

The main festivals held in the village are Wesak Day, Chinese New Year, and Hari Raya. There are also many festivals organized by the Chinese in the village, e.g. Tanglung Festival and Nine Emperor Gods Festival.
Education

Sungai Way New Village has the following education institutions:

1. SJK(C) Sungai Way

Sekolah Jenis Kebangsaan Cina Sungai Way is a primary school located in Sungai Way New Village for over 60 years. It is a grade A type Chinese primary school in Selangor. Currently this school has nearly a thousand students, which consists of 594 males and 501 females. Of this total, 65% are Chinese, 25% Malays and 10% Indians. There are 56 teachers in this school which has 30+ classrooms.
Students assemble in the school hall every morning before going to class. SJK(C) Sungai Way conducts many activities in the hall such as speech contests, singing contests and badminton contests. Moreover, talks are held in the hall such as UPSR talks, health and safety talks.

SJK(C) Sungai Way has many facilities to provide students a good learning environment. The canteen in the school is clean and the space is large enough to accommodate all the students. There are ceiling fans and water dispensers in the canteen. The school also instructs students on computer skills. There are 3 computer labs in the school, and the computers are in good condition. Each computer lab has 30 seats and 2 air conditioners. Next, there is a library which has many reference books for subjects, such as mathematics, science and geography. Newspapers are available for students to catch up on current affairs. SJK(C) Sungai Way has a counselling room to help student deal with their personal issues.

Besides these facilities, there is a big field inside SJK(C) Sungai Way. Annual sports events held in the school in June or July every year. Students also use this school field for physical exercise. SJK(C) Sungai Way has facilities for many co
curricular activities such as students attend such as music, calligraphy, chess and sports.

SJK(C) Sungai Way also has its own website (http://sungaiway.sjkc.com.my) and also Facebook page to let students and the public gain access to information about the school. Other than that, through Facebook page the school may build a stronger bond with students by getting feedback from them.

2. Tadika Harmoni

In the village there is a kindergarten, Tadika Harmoni located in the resident’s house. It is a small kindergarten with 20 children and 3 teachers. The students in Tadika Harmoni are mainly Malays and Indians. English is the main communication language with the children. The age of the children are form 3 to 5 years.

Although it is a small kindergarten, Tadika Harmoni provides good facilities and learning environment for the children. The environment is clean and safe for children. Nutritious lunches and afternoon tea are served.
Tadika Harmoni organizes a small event every 4 months. The children will sing and dance in the event and their parents will be invited to watch their children perform.

3. Sungai Way Youth Club

Sungai Way Youth Club is basically a fellowship club founded in 1950. The President of this club is Mr. Yap Thean Seng and the club has a total number of 105 members. The objectives of Sungai Way Youth Club are as follows:

1. To provide a forum for the open discussion of all matters of the public and the opinion of residents.
2. To promote voluntary work among residents and to encourage the residents to serve their community without personal financial reward.
3. To take an active interest in the civic, cultural, social and moral welfare of the community.
4. To unite the club in the bonds of friendship, good fellowship, and mutual understanding between residents.

One proud achievement of Sungai Way Youth Club is the choir. Sungai Way Youth Club Choir was formed in 2008. It has 25 members currently. The Choir performs whenever there is an event held in Sungai Way such as singing
competition, music seminar and festivals. Furthermore, they have choir exchange programmes with youth clubs from other states.
PROBLEMS

The main problems faced by Seri Setia, Sungai Way are as follows:

1. Safety of the residents threatened, due to high crime rate

   In August 2010, a kindergarten teacher was stabbed to death in a robbery attempt at Sungai Way overhead bridge at 7am. In another case on a Saturday in September 2011, six men attempted to break into a pawnshop in Sungai Way. More recently, (1st July 2013), 12 cars in the village were smashed and broken into. Only 6 cars were broken into in 2008 as contrasted to 12 cars in 2013. Many locals suspect the big number of foreign workers.

2. Garbage Disposal
Hostels and houses that foreign labourers stay in are perceived as the main cause of increase in garbage in this area. Many residents living above shop houses do not have rubbish bins. They leave their bags of waste by the side of the road or in front of the shops below them. Besides, most of the shop owners and residents cover their drains with concrete slabs and this makes it difficult for Alarm Flora workers to clean the drains. At present, Alam Flora collects household rubbish in the area three times a week and commercial waste daily. However, with the increase in waste, the waste management company often has no choice but to pick up garbage even on days they are not assigned to do so.
3. Water disruption and low water pressure

The asbestos-cement pipes at the Sungai Way new village are over 60 years old and in dreadful need of replacement. The pipes are too old and easily broken. For the past few years, many incidents of burst and broken pipes have occurred. There have been 78 cases of burst pipes and 23 cases of broken pipes since 2010. Residents in the village have been facing water disruption and low water pressure because of the burst and broken pipes.

4. Lack of parking space

The business sector in Seri Setia, Sungai Way is increasing tremendously. Car parking lots are limited in the village especially at the commercial sites and the wet market area, especially the main roads. This has caused traffic jams in the village and this also leads to traffic accidents.
RECOMMENDATIONS

In relation to the problems mentioned above, the following recommendations are made.

1. Improve safety (reduce crime rate)

To improve the safety of the Sungai Way new village, CCTVs should be set up at critical areas. Besides, increasing the frequency of police patrols could also help in reducing the crime rate. In addition, the village itself should set up its own patrolling team.

2. Improve garbage disposal issues

Distribution of leaflets on garbage disposal to residents to educate them on cleanliness is a way to improve the situation. Residents have to cooperate with one another and with Alam Flora and the council to keep their surroundings clean. Access to drains should not be blocked. CCTV camera can also be placed near hot spots where bags of rubbish are often left by residents. The CCTV would assist the Village council in nabbing the culprits. Moreover, it is also advisable for the landlords to ensure that proper dustbins were used by the occupants of their homes.

3. Solve water disruption and improve water pressure

With the pipes still leaking to this day, the situation has become critical. Therefore, immediate replacement of old pipes is the long-term solution. The residents have been complaining about this issue for years and they have protested as well. Finally in April this year, Syarikat Bekalan Air Selangor SdnBhd (Syabas) promised to carry out a pipe replacement exercise starting next February. This has given hopes to the new village residents, and hopefully this project will be completed as scheduled.

4. Increase the parking areas

The government or any relevant authorities has to increase the number of parking lots for cars and motorcycles. Perhaps recruiting of traffic has to be considered. This will improve the traffic flow.
ENTREPRENEURSHIP OPPORTUNITY

There are many entrepreneurship opportunities in Sungai Way New Village. A sports complex in this area is likely to be well patronised, besides promoting a healthy lifestyle among locals of all age groups. Besides, the population is big enough to support a range of retail outlets.

DISCLAIMER:

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