UTAR NEW VILLAGE COMMUNITY PROJECT REPORT

NAME OF NEW VILLAGE: COLDSTREAM, PERAK.

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Abstract
This report consists of the background and information (history, local religion, tradition, the language they use to communicate, population, education, jobs sustaining daily living, and the productivity of local farms). However, the information we obtained is not a hundred percent accurate due to differences in opinion amongst the villagers. Furthermore, some mythology and beliefs were included in the locals’ narrations.

History
Coldstream is a new village located at Bidor in Hilir Perak, northeast of the Perak capital, Ipoh. Coldstream was founded in 1956. The locals believe that Coldstream was founded in that year mainly due to the fact that the community hall was built, although there are other locals who believe that Coldstream was founded earlier than 1956. This village was built in order to defend the local community against the communists. However, according to the elders, Coldstream was not involved in communist activities. The then-authority founded Coldstream to prevent the locals from assisting or joining the communist party. Some of the ancestors of the local community did not originate from Coldstream, but they were apparently caught as prisoners and forced to live in Coldstream.

Figure 1: Coldstream Village
Social, Cultural and Religion Practice

Coldstream village mainly consists of Chinese. The main religions of the locals here are Buddhism (but the temple is in Taoism style and most of the Gods and Goddesses are Taoist Gods and Goddesses), Taoism and a small number of Christians and Catholics. Some of the locals are anti-foreign. They do not welcome people neighboring villages to visit their homeland and vice versa. However, Coldstream fosters a good relationship with certain villages. When Coldstream attempted to repair their only temple named Dato’s Temple, the folks from other friendly villages donated to this project. The locals communicate with each other using Cantonese, and some of the primary and secondary students speak Mandarin.

Figure 2: Dato’s Temple is the only Temple in Colstream

Figure 3: Dato’s Temple is supported by many people
Education

There is a primary school in Coldstream. It is a SRJK (C) school (Sekolah Rendah Jenis Kebangsaan Cina) which indicates the primary school uses Chinese language as a medium of instruction with the exception for subjects like Bahasa Malaysia and English. After primary 6 students must leave this village to attend school in a nearby village as there is no secondary school in Coldstream. As for high school graduates, they usually leave their hometown to further their tertiary studies. These students usually prefer local universities as the tuition fees are affordable.
**Economic Activities**

Coldstream is a village which focuses on agriculture. This is because the government provides subsidies and privileges (free land, technology, and monetary assistance) to the locals in order to develop agriculture in Malaysia and to improve the lives of the villagers. The locals grow rubber trees, palm-oil trees, chili plants (in small quantities), and papaya trees. Although the common perception is that agriculture has low investment return, Coldstream locals prove this to be wrong. Many Coldstream villagers live in big houses and are doing well financially. Besides agriculture, opportunities arise in local businesses like restaurants, coffee houses, and grocery shops.

*Figure 5: Papaya tree farm*
Problems

Coldstream village lacks basic facilities. The roads are narrow and there are plenty of potholes on these roads. There are no clinics and hospital in Colstream. When the locals fall ill, they simply rest at home. In extreme situations, they have to travel to a government hospital in a nearby town. This situation causes a lot of inconvenience to the locals. There is also no fire station in Coldstream. The locals have to help each other during an emergency. Besides that, some of the road lamps malfunction. This causes a lot of inconvenience to the locals.

Figure 6: A view of a Coldstream street.
Coldstream

Tourism Value
Coldstream is a good place to visit as a getaway from the hectic lifestyle of a city. Locals here like to gather every weekend mornings as well as weekday evenings to catch up with one another. They exchange information and comment on certain issues, or play mahjong, poker and other card games. Some like to take walks around the garden park or exercise along the road or in front of their houses. The teenagers also like to ride their motorbikes (normally without helmet) and explore the village.

In conclusion, Coldstream is a rather laid-back village, with a comfortable environment. The lifestyle here is simple and residents are easy-going and get on with one another.

![Garden Park](image)

**Figure 6: Garden Park**

**DISCLAIMER:**
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Coldstream