

# Factors Affecting Social Sustainability of Traditional Malay Settlement

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## Abstract

Successful traditional settlements refer to a settlement environment that spontaneously built by residents who consider their existing site integrates with excellent social sustainability indicators. This study aims to determine the factors of physical character for social sustainability of a traditional settlement. Among the objectives is to identify the types of physical characteristics deemed as significant in daily social interaction among the locals. A quantitative method was employed using questionnaire survey distributed to 400 residents in two historic settlements in Kuala Terengganu. Such factors categorised into six latent factors, which are the preservation of local identity, safety, provision of infrastructure, natural qualities, accessibility, and availability of public spaces.

Keywords: social sustainability; traditional settlement; factor analysis; Kuala Terengganu

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## 1.0 Introduction

The concept of sustainability emerged in the 1960s in response to the doubts about environmental degradation due to poor resource management. It is the result of severe weakness in the ecological balance, economic stability and security of natural resources occurred in the industrialised countries from the 1960s to the 1970s (Michael & Peacock, 2011; Hajirasouli & Kumarasuriyar, 2016). Since then, various definitions have formulated with the concept of sustainability has consistently considered in a balanced, economic and social environment in planning development and improving the quality of life. This study aims to determine the critical factors of physical character for social sustainability of a traditional settlement to identify the types of physical characteristics deemed as significant in daily social interaction among the locals.

## 2.0 Literature Review

Previous researches have provided a clear explanation that social sustainability happens when formal and casual procedures, frameworks, structures and connections effectively bolster the limit of future generations. The concept aims to create opportunities, making decisions, convenience and healthy communities, hence lead to a high quality of life. These can only be accomplished through effective use of natural resources, safeguard the environment, promote social cohesion and strengthen economic prosperity. Alongside the primary indicators of social sustainability mentioned, Barron and Gauntlett, (2002) discover that physical properties are of significance in the urban area. According to the scholars, the physical properties are what make society trustworthy and decent. Having a good quality and effective provision of physical properties have assisted the community in raising their equity, variety, interconnectedness, quality of life, democracy and good governance (Bramley et al., 2006). In the same breadth, Colantonio (2008), demonstrates how essential needs and value works as principal mainstays of social sustainability. The subsequent investigation of social sustainability topics also illustrates how these customary subjects, for example, equity, poverty reduction and livelihood, are progressively harmonised by more intangible such as identity, sense of place and the advantages of social networks. Furthermore, Chan and Lee (2008) acknowledged how physical properties belong to a community lead to 6 good social sustainability indicators. The indicators include 1) facilitate daily life operations 2) satisfaction of welfare requirements 3) creation of harmonious living environment 4) conservation of resources and the surroundings 5) good form of development and 6) availability of open spaces.

The frameworks of social sustainability generally start from a constructivist or transactional perspective, wherein the conservation of social culture is seen as the underlying component in determining sustainable community and people wellbeing (Davidson, 2009). On the other hand, Pitarch-Garrido (2018) elaborated that the framework for the creation of socially sustainable communities requires a good combination of physical design with people's need. For example, providing infrastructure to support social and cultural life, providing systems that engage communities, providing space for people and space to evolve (Woodcraft, Hackett & Caistor-Arendar, 2011). Recently works by Primoz (2017) and

Hajirasouli and Kumarasuriyar (2016) lend support to extend the components resided in the social sustainability concept in which he refers social development in society, the character of the landscape and social spaces as the essential elements to ensure the quality of social and community development. Overall, social sustainability as a process of building a harmonious society by meeting the basic needs of the community and taking into account the principles of social justice, equity, diversity, sense of place, social convenience, and social security.

The progress of social sustainability concept is explained not only by the list of indicators involved but also by the design and development of two leading examples of sustainable economic that used different implementation strategies. The strategies are the top-down development and bottom-up (participatory) approach in Vauban (Primož, 2017). The result shows that the principle of new urbanism is closely related to walkability, connectivity, mixed-use and diversity, mixed housing, quality architecture, traditional neighbourhood structure, density and transportation. Considering this, Eizenberg and Jabareen (2017) propose a comprehensive conceptual framework of social sustainability composed of four interrelated concepts of socially oriented practices. Each idea has a distinctive function in the context and incorporates significant social aspects, namely 1) equity 2) safety 3) eco-presumption and 3) good urban form. Besides, other factors contributed to the quality of life are including demographic factors such as level of education, the length of residence, household size, and ages (Okunola, Adebayo & Amole, 2018); quality of housing (Ali et al., 2018) and residents' social interaction (Wang, Pan & Hadjri, 2018; Ibrahim, Omar & Mohamad, 2019).

Lastly, the study is synopsised by Pitarch-Garrido (2018) which concentrated on the accessibility of public services using GISs, and spatial equity authorises the ability to access public services is one of a simple way of quantifying social sustainability. The study presents how the exchange on social sustainability is an intricate subject demonstrating human rights, labour rights, and the administration. Table 1 summarises the significant underlying factors emphasised in global literature attributed to social sustainability.

Table 1: Summary of social sustainability concentrations

Researcher	Social sustainability concentrations
Barron & Gaunlett, 2002; Hajirasouli & Kumarasuriyar, 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equitable opportunities and outcomes</li> <li>• Promotion and encouragement of diversity and value of the difference</li> <li>• Quality of life</li> <li>• Democracy and governance</li> </ul>
Bramley et.al, 2006; Hajirasouli & Kumarasuriyar, 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interactions in the community</li> <li>• Community participation</li> <li>• Pride and sense of place</li> <li>• Community stability</li> <li>• Security</li> </ul>

Colantonio, 2008; Davidsson, 2009, Michael & Peacock, 2011; Wang & Hadjri, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identity, sense of place and culture</li> <li>• Empowerment, participation, access</li> <li>• Health and safety</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Well-being, happiness, quality of life</li> <li>• Social capital</li> <li>• Demographic change</li> <li>• Social mixing and cohesion</li> </ul>
Chan & Lee, 2008;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The satisfaction of welfare requirements</li> <li>• Conservation of resources and the surrounding</li> <li>• Creation of a harmonious living environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision facilitating daily life operations</li> <li>• Form of development</li> <li>• Availability of open spaces</li> </ul>
Woodcraft et.al, 2011; Primož, 2017; Okunola et.al, 2018;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walkability</li> <li>• Connectivity</li> <li>• Mixed-use and diversity</li> <li>• Mixed housing</li> <li>• Quality architecture and urban design</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traditional neighbourhood structure</li> <li>• Increased density</li> <li>• Green transportation</li> <li>• Sustainability</li> <li>• Quality of life</li> </ul>
Eizenberg & Jabareen, 2017;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety</li> <li>• Equity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eco-prosumption</li> <li>• Sustainable urban form</li> </ul>
Rad & Ngah (2013); Pasaogullari & Doratii (2004)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open spaces</li> </ul>	

(Source: Author,2019)

### 3.0 Methodology

#### 3.1 Study area

Two case studies were chosen to elaborate on the factors of social sustainability of a traditional settlement. Indeed, an analysis based on only two case studies will not make a "universal" statement, but it can still open up new perspectives for further analysis and discussion. For this purpose, two settlements, Kampung Pulau Duyong (KPD) and Kampung Losong (KL) have been selected as the study area. The sites are located in Kuala Terengganu, the East Coast of the Malay Peninsula. The two settlements have several identicalness in terms of history, planning, development and socio-culture structures with different types of physical characteristic exemplify a different set of roles and values.

##### 3.1.1 Kampung Pulau Duyong

Kampung Pulau Duyong Island is best known for seafarer's village developed in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century. The village is separated from the mainland by the Terengganu River with a distance of 870 meters and the closest distance to the region is 495 meters. The settlement is made up of five village namely Pulau Ketam, Kelab Ayer, Duyong Sekolah, Duyong Wan Su and Duyong Kecil. Before 1985, Duyong Island originally consisted of only the Pulau Duyong

Besar and the Pulau Duyong Kecil separated from each other by shallow river flows. However, due to land development and the construction of the Sultan Mahmud Bridge completed in 1990, the islands have been consolidated into one large island. The terrain shape of Pulau Duyong Kecil as a whole is a flat surface. To the east is Pulau Kambing. Pulau Duyong has strategic access that can connect either by land or by waterway. The island is about 2.7 square kilometres and has 686 houses. The locals maintain the Malay culture and way of life, with over 40% of the population working as fishermen.



Figure 1: Map of the study area  
(Source: Google maps, 2019)

### 3.1.2 Kampung Losong

Kampung Losong is located near the Kuala Terengganu river with 11 sub-villages located opposite Wan Man Island. Historically, the villagers of Losong are well-known for their knowledge of the marine sciences conveyed by the Bugis community. At the same time, the local people of Kuala Terengganu are skilled in carpentry. As a result, they combine these skills to produce high-quality boats. Significant roles played by boat making activities in the early 18th and late 19th centuries have turned Kuala Terengganu into international trading port. The socio-economic activities of the villagers of Kampung Losong were songket textile businesses, small-scale trades and fishing. Nowadays, the village is growing exponentially, with more people working in the city and doing small business.

### 3.2 Data collection

This research obtained local residents' preferences on the physical character in their settlement that influence social sustainability. The quantitative approach involved a series of survey forms distributed to over 400 respondents comprising local residents. Respondents were asked to assess the physical attributes criteria affecting social sustainability on a 5-point Likert scale ("1" = strongly disagree and "5" = strongly agree). Cluster sampling was applied for this study. Cluster sampling is a method for data collection for a sampling method where the participants of the population selected at random (Surbhi, 2016). All the respondents chosen from randomly selected clusters. For this study, the sample used was

residents who lived in KPD and KL that involved more than 800 residents' houses in total, where the majority are Malays.

### **3.3 Data Analysis**

The data gained from the questionnaire survey were analysed using descriptive analysis used in the Social Science Statistics Package version 25 (SPSS). Before analysis, data cleaning was done first to determine the possibility of error in entering the data into the SPSS program. Incorrect data entry may affect the results of the analysis (Julie Pallant, 2013). Once the data has cleared, the analysis process is complete. In brief, descriptive statistics are used to describe data in the form of numerical calculations, charts and tables. Factor analysis and reliability analysis were approved in this study to analyse the data. Factor analysis was used to determine the underlying factors affecting the social sustainability of physical attributes.

#### **3.3.1 Exploratory Factor Analysis**

Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA) factor Analysis with Principal Component Analysis (PCA) used in this study, which is one of the multivariate statistical correlation analyses that can be used to examine the validity of variable items. This EFA technique is used to determine the number of variables underlying a general variable. Typically, EFA analysis based on a correlation matrix between variables. Therefore, the measurement of the variables should be at least at minimum level intervals. Besides, consideration of sample size and normality distribution are also a prerequisite for using this analysis (Tabachnick & Fidell, 2007; Yong & Pearch, 2013).

## **4.0 Findings**

### **4.1 Residents profile**

The figures below report the result from the questionnaire survey conducted in KPD and KL. A total of 400 respondents have participated in the survey. Most KPD respondents (N = 200) were male (61.5%), while KL residents were female (51%). Majority of the respondent's age is between 17-70 years old with almost fair distribution among gender. The result indicated that both settlements had a greater number of respondents among adult youth within 26 - 45 years old category. A large proportion of respondents work in private sector (KPD, 37% and KL, 32.5%) and self-employed (KPD, 35.5% and KL, 25.5%), as seen from both respondents' in the survey groups. Less than 20% remaining were students, housewife, retiree and unemployed. The majority of respondents are from the middle-income group, which earns RM1000-RM2000 a month. However, there is a significant difference in the percentage of the income of RM2001-3001, which are the KL population, is more than the KPD. Beyond 65% of respondents have been residing in both villages for 11 years and above.

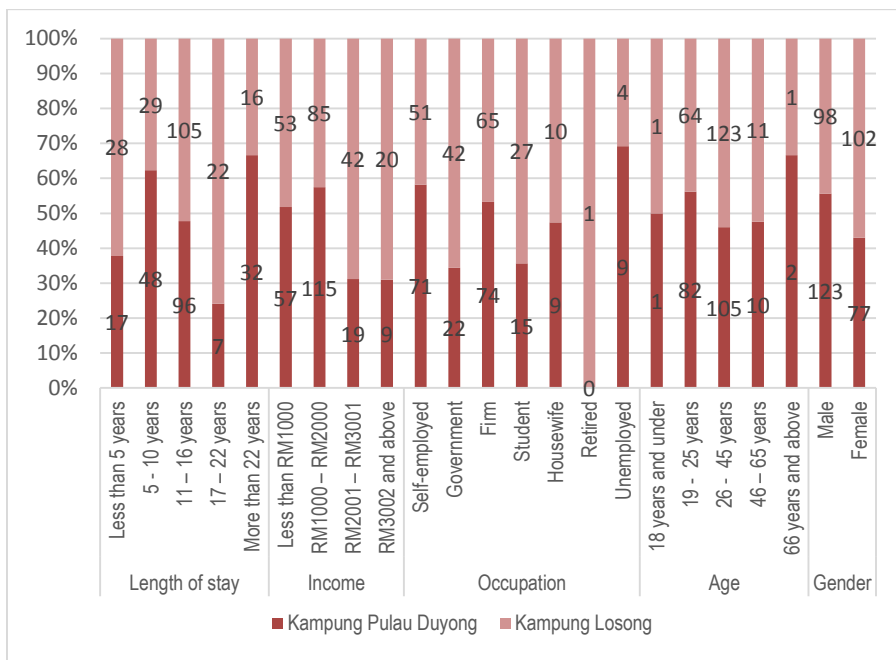


Figure 2: Resident's profile  
(Source: Author, 2019)

## 4.2 Sampling adequacy

Factor analysis assessed using Principal Component Analysis (PCA) through the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software version 25. A number of statistical considerations have fulfilled to ensure data validity for Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA). Through the assessment of internal consistency reliability, Cronbach's alpha values for accessibility, security, local identity, environmental quality and infrastructure facilities rated as 0.60, 0.60, 0.64, 0.60 and 0.55 respectively. All of these values are 0.3 and above, which stated as to have satisfactory consistency (Taber, 2018).

The collected data then tested using rotation factors. This step aims to extract the variables and categorise them. The results are as presented in Table 1. Results of the PCA analysis using varimax rotation, load value of .50 and eigenvalues > 1 produced 11 factors. A total of 39 items have retained. All values obtained exceed 0.3. Therefore, the items found in all three constructs are accepted, and no need to be dropped (Hair et al., 2013). The factor loadings for the social sustainability components are between .306 - .829.

Meanwhile (refer Table 2), the obtained KMO value is 0.814, which is higher than 0.500. Moreover, the p-value of the Bartlett Test is closer to 0.000, which is less than 0.050. It is indicated that there are correlations between variables that can be explained by other variables and the data obtained are suitable for using factor analysis (Hair et al., 2013). All eleven factors account for 63.90% of the variance in the entire set of social sustainability

components. The item's social value for all of the factors formed ranged from .474 to .755.

Table 2: Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) and Bartlett's Test of Sphericity

<b>KMO and Bartlett's Test</b>		
Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy.		0.814
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	Approx. Chi-Square	5785.788
	df	741
	Sig.	0.000

(Source: Author, 2019)

### 4.3 Reliability analysis

Reliability analysis is also used in examine the factors in this study. It is concerned to determine the validity of constructs. Reliability analysis is valuable to measure the level of steadiness or consistency of estimation scales called Cronbach's alpha ( $\alpha$ ). In this study, reliability analysis was implemented to evaluate the internal coherence of the extracted factors. Hence, Table 3 shows that all extracted factors had at least 0.5. It inferred that moderate to a solid correlation between items in the existed and the interpretation of the factors extracted were reasonably consistent (Perry et al., 2004). All the items examining the social sustainability of respondents were based on Likert Scale, which is; 1= Strongly disagree, 2= Disagree, 3= Partially disagree, 4= Agree, and 5= Strongly agree.

Table 3: Reliability of factors

<b>Factor</b>	<b><math>\alpha</math></b>
KC Accessibility	0.603
KS Safety	0.608
ID Local identity	0.646
PS Natural Quality	0.605
KM Infrastructure	0.557

(Source: Author, 2019)

### 4.4 Factors affecting social sustainability

The result showed there were 39 items related to physical attributes preferences as social sustainability indicator based on six criteria of social sustainability. In this paper, only items with factor loading at least 0.3 and above considered as significant from the factor matrix result. Table 4 demonstrates the factor analysis summary results computed.

Table 4: Summary of social sustainability concentrations

<b>Social sustainability indicator</b>	<b>Factor loading</b>	<b>% of variance explained</b>	<b>Cumulative % of the variance</b>
<b>Preservation of local identity</b>		<b>18.828</b>	<b>18.828</b>
ID5 Beaches and rivers	0.801		
ID3 Socio-economic activities	0.753		
ID2 Cultural and communal activities	0.716		
ID4 Local landmarks	0.693		
ID1 Traditional architecture	0.629		



ID6 Organic street pattern	0.532		
KS10 Well-connected road	0.436		
PS5 Peaceful beach environment	0.306		
PS5 Jetty as a business place	0.325		
<b>Pedestrian safety</b>		<b>9.921</b>	<b>28.749</b>
KS2 Clear and safe alley	0.744		
KS1 Provision of lighting street	0.701		
KS8 Vehicles driven by speed limits	0.642		
PS4 Peaceful rivers environment	0.518		
KS9 Provide separate vehicle and pedestrian route	0.437		
<b>Neighbourhood safety</b>		<b>6.253</b>	<b>35.001</b>
KS5 Abandoned house affect health and safety	0.714		
KS12 Provision of lighting street	0.655		
KS7 Clear and widen the road	0.646		
KC6 Easy to access public services	0.579		
<b>Social infrastructure</b>		<b>5.278</b>	<b>40.279</b>
KM4 Satisfaction on maintenance works	0.750		
KM5 Maintenance works on time	0.701		
KM3 Strategic market location	0.503		
KS11 Accessible pedestrian route	0.428		
KM7 Strategic mosque location	0.348		
<b>Natural qualities</b>		<b>4.328</b>	<b>44.607</b>
PS1 The environment with shady trees	0.829		
PS2 The environment with shrubs and flowers	0.806		
PS3 The environment with green scenery	0.473		
<b>Accessibility</b>		<b>3.858</b>	<b>48.465</b>
KC8 Variety of communal activities	0.691		
KC5 Signage provided to convey information and street direction	0.661		
KC7 Availability of various alternatives road	0.645		
Security against crime		<b>3.640</b>	52.105
KS3 Houses built near to one another	0.768		
KS4 Fences provide safety	0.744		
<b>Legibility</b>		<b>3.384</b>	<b>55.489</b>
KC4 Mixed-used of land and spaces	0.795		
KC3 Strategic main entrance	0.606		
KC2 Proximity to business activities	0.594		
<b>Permeability</b>		<b>2.923</b>	<b>58.412</b>
KC1 Well-connected road	0.804		
KS6 Availability of crossing facilities	0.676		
Communal spaces		<b>2.910</b>	61.322
KM2 Padang as gathering spaces	0.747		
KM6 Community hall supporting the communal activities	0.614		
<b>Recreational spaces</b>		<b>2.579</b>	<b>63.901</b>
KM1 Padang as recreational spaces	0.806		

(Source: Author, 2019)

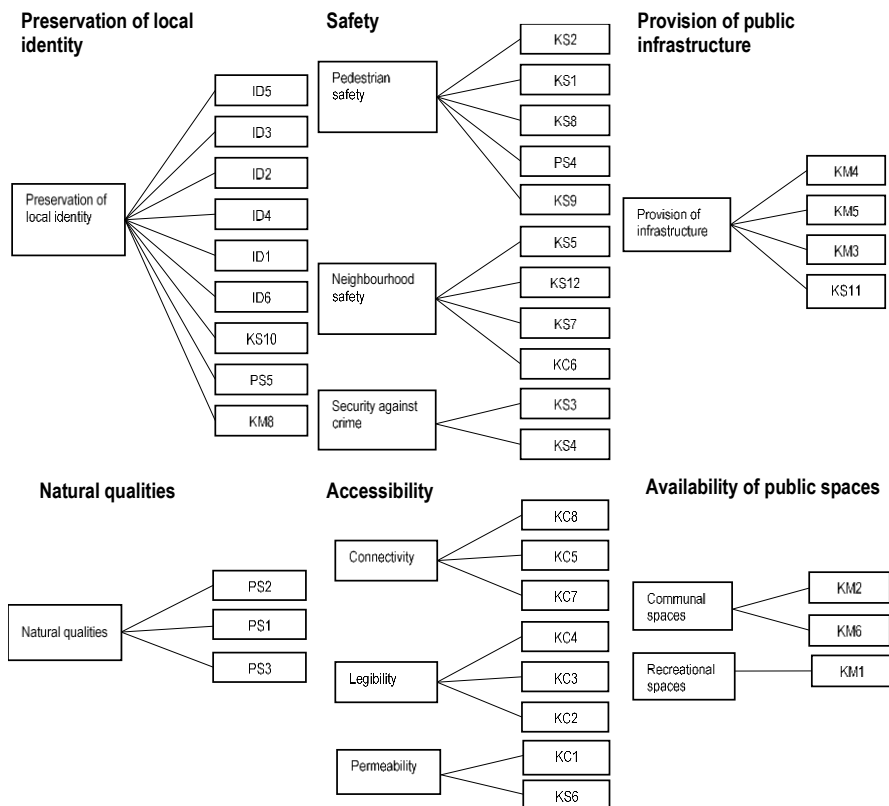


Figure 3: Extracted factors of social sustainability criteria  
(Source: Author, 2019)

Furthermore, based on Table 1, social sustainability factors explain the extracted factors. Initially, social sustainability criteria have divided into five components that have labelled using their respective codes: accessibility (KC), safety (KS), local identity (ID), natural quality (PS) and infrastructure (KM) consisting of 39 items. After extraction using Principal Component Analysis (PCA), all factors were classified into 11 new latent factors and then categorised into six subthemes. The suggested names for the subtheme are 1) Preservation of local identity, 2) Safety and security; consist of pedestrian safety, neighbourhood safety and safety against crime, 3) Natural quality, 4) Provision of infrastructure, 5) Accessibility; comprising of accessibility, legibility and permeability and 6) Availability of public spaces consisting of social and recreational areas (Figure 2). Overall, the most significant factor is the preservation of local identity as the most preferred parameter indicated by the local community. It is indicated that the residents of both settlements displaying a strong feeling of belonging to their settlement.

## 5.0 Discussion

### 5.1 Determinant factors for social sustainability

#### 5.1.1 Factor 1: Preservation of local identity

The locals ranked coastal area and river as the highest significant criteria of the local identity. Historically, the river gave rise to one of the most famous trading ports in the east coast of Malay Peninsular all at once make the Terengganu River and the South China Sea are essential elements of the cultural landscape in Kuala Terengganu. Besides, the community relies upon the rivers and the sea for their source of revenue as a fisherman.

Secondly, the economic activities take place mainly at Kuala Terengganu markets such as Pasar Besar Kedai Payang and shophouses. Small-scale industries are expanding in producing the local goods that contribute to the culture of the Malay community. The market and shophouses were leading as an exchange place for domestic product coming from the local handicraft industry such as printed cloth, woven fabric, carved products and traditional food. Among the villages that supplied their products to this market are including KPD and KL. Thirdly, the locals of KPD and KL were conservative socially and deeply Islamic in religion. Culture and religion-based comprise the more significant piece of their usual activities. The presence of public venues, for example, mosques, *surau*, shops, and open spaces have supported the act of interactive exercises and fostered the spirit of helping each other in holding feasts. It has actuated a closer relationship among the residents. Following the passage of time, surprisingly, a group of people who appreciate the cultural heritage is growing, especially at KPD. They perform several activities related to Terengganu identities such as poetry recital, classic exhibition, postcard delivery and many more. Besides, these activities also held at the most prominent local landmarks of Kuala Terengganu such as Kota Lama Duyong at KPD and Rumah Haji Wan Su at KL. At the same time, it will promote the Malay culture and identity of Terengganu towards visitors and increase the awareness of a sense of belonging among the locals.

Moreover, the compositional of Terengganu traditional houses have their own identity and design. The vernacular design is representative to the Malay history and neighbourhood shrewdness. For instance, the primary styles of Terengganu houses are *Rumah Bujang Berpeleh* and *Rumah Limas Bungkus*, the distinctions sorts of houses can perceive through the varieties of the cross-rooftop. Along these lines, the perception found that KPD and KL had strong physical characteristics of conventional traditional Malay settlement idea that still preserved until today. Furthermore, the result supports by the previous study that indicated the heritage should be preserved for the good of future generations (Chan & Lee, 2008; Ginting & Rahman, 2016).

#### 5.1.2 Factor 2: Safety

All the assessment items in the safety settings of the survey agreed with worth value 0.4 and above. The separated route can reduce the number of conflicts between pedestrians and vehicles on the street. A reduction in pedestrian-vehicle disputes resulted in a decreased amount of traffic collisions. Pedestrians can move freely within the neighbourhood street

without worrying about the possible danger. Crosswalk signs suggest being available on the main road. In spite of this, all the security items on pedestrians' safety are well-evaluated, including the traffic safety items.

In addition, neighbourhood safety take account of the condition of abandoned houses. Abandoned houses are a worry for residents because vacant lots and buildings potentially offer refuge to criminal and other illegal activity. This research suggests that authority should take action in strategizing in reducing the abandoned properties such as demolition, rehabilitation, preservation, property stabilization or neighbourhood beautification.

On the other hands, nowadays, almost 40% of houses at both residential neighbourhood KPD and KL using fences to protect their home. This concept does not create divisions within communities despite the physical barriers between and within neighbourhoods that alter street connectivity and permeability. This physical separation does not give negative social impacts on interaction with their neighbours and non-residents. Through this concept, fences used as safety measures to reduce and control access, increase surveillance subsequently and reduces crime occurrences (Eizenberg & Jabareen, 2017). Besides, the houses situated near to each other can serve to lower the risk of wrongdoing as the individuals can observed from the streets.

### **5.1.3 Factor 3: Provision of public infrastructure**

Provisions of public infrastructure are suitable for social prosperity as they help to improve the social wellbeing, personal satisfaction of gatherings, lessen social imbalance, and enhance community pride. In term of maintenance works, there is a need for commitment from all parties, including the municipal and community for improved maintenance of services. This commitment is usually shown through local consultation and dialogue between authorities and community representatives. At that point, there is an exchange off between what the community needs and what the authorities ready to supply. This notion is supported by Bramley et al. (2006) and Primoz (2017) who agreed that proper maintenance is one of the noticeable indicators in increasing the quality of sustainable settlement. Also, in line with studies by Hajirasouli and Kumarasuriyar (2016), social sustainability can be attained when the work of community and local institutional plans meets the human need and protects natural resources.

On the other hand, accessibility of pedestrian route is fulfilled to intend in ensuring the comfortable environment through the suitability of the route location and availability of seating. The condition of the pedestrian route in KPD and KL are proximity, convenience and acceptable as in line with the literature (Chan & Lee, 2008) with ranked as a significant indicator by their community with as much value 0.428. Meanwhile, centricity concepts at the KPD and KL show the placed mosque in the middle of the settlement. This situation is influencing the number of people who visited the mosque with a minimum travel distance of about 10 meters from their settlement area. Meanwhile, in KPD and KL, markets act as a focal point for residents and as a hub of connection and social communication. Markets drive as crucial sites of sociability where friends and families trade together and form a particular network, or where dealers and regular customers become more acquainted with one another after some time.

#### **5.1.4 Factor 4: Natural qualities**

A neighbourhood should not only be available and functional. It must also be power on ethical design principles to make the surroundings outwardly engaging. The natural qualities preferences consist of 3 indicators which are the environment with shady trees, shrubs and flowers and green scenery. A green panorama with lots of trees can add a lot of value and character to a neighbourhood. Canopy trees and lush landscaping offer some beautiful shade and quiet serenity all the time. Elegant well-established localities often have a thriving, dense tree canopy, trees that have been growing there for years. The shade and character offered by big trees can add more than just aesthetics. Beautiful scenery landscaped grounds and architectural details incorporated into the neighbourhood plan, so there is always something that grabs one's eye.

The individuals' view of the useful affordances of green space for their wellbeing and prosperity may control their positive responses to green scenery. Following these thoughts, the result demonstrated that KPD and KL have significant preferences for simulated natural and built environments that measurably intervene by the more prominent disposition improving the capability of natural scenes. These findings were concordant with the previous studies (Hamdan, Khalid & Baba, 2017), which stated the good natural environment could indeed create positive mood effects on mental and physical health by enhancing happiness.

#### **5.1.5 Factor 5: Accessibility**

Accessibility refers to a person's ability to obtain the right and service, activities they desire or the destination they want to reach (Pitarch-Garrido, 2018). Accessibility has nine indicators which all of them related to connectivity, legibility and permeability. As shown in Table 1, the results on the factor loading values of each of the indicators found in both settlements show a high positive response. The accessibility includes close travel distances, a safe road system and mixed-used of land and spaces. Connectivity provides an efficient transaction network in the neighbourhood. Based on the results, more than 50% of dwellings in both settlement with accessible walking in 500m to reach multiuse activities like shops or any services institutions, religious institution and public spaces. Facilities such as a well-defined main entrance and directional signs provided also influence the living comfort of residents. The purpose of signage is to provide clear direction on location and improve street legibility for the pedestrian to get familiar with the street environment. The results show that it is essential to place the signage before the street junctions to inform the street users on any possible danger.

Based on the findings, the settlement streets need to have well-connected roads with the shortest path within the neighbourhood area. In agreement with the previous study by Pitarch-Garrido, 2018 and Ali et al., 2018, the study explained how the pedestrians have certain limitations on walking affordances; for which the quicker the time it takes to reach the destination, the more preferable and comfortable it is to the pedestrians. The findings also suggested that a high quality of neighbourhood should offer communal consistency activities to encourages active involvement among its user's as well as generates the feeling of excitement of being outdoors.

### **5.1.6 Factor 6: Availability of public spaces**

Availability of public spaces has three items in which all of them related to communal and recreational areas. This factor explains the importance of the neighbourhood to provide accessible and well-designed open spaces in the community. Based on the results revealed, the function of both public spaces as a place for recreational interaction whereby crowds discovered at every intersection engaged in various activities like relaxing, jogging, playing football, selling and buying. It is mainly due to the form and strategic location of the field in which its openness and vast ground made it legible for visitors to reach. Besides, recreational facilities offered at the field and other supporting facilities such as plenty of seats and shady spaces at its surrounding area often fulfil the needs of every resident. Being located in front of the river has made KPD incomparable to the other recreational areas that typically serve one exact role with a monotonous view at times. These findings reveal the role of public space as a public land and ceremonial space, square, district, node and landmark. Based on the results, KPD and KL have referred to as places of importance with different activities and physical attributes by decent public places. Both fields suggest a combination of open space defined by panoramas and pleasant qualities to create a good neighbourhood and a variety of fun living spaces. Hence, indirectly, the good public spaces offer in strengthening the relationship among the residents as stressed by Ibrahim, Omar & Mohamad (2019).

Studies have found that people use open space for social interaction and do not concern about the design of the space. While the important factors are physical, the visual power of place, location, security and accessibility influence social interaction in the open space. The results of this study are in line with Rad and Ngah's (2013) opinion that open accessibility is an important factor in improving the quality of social interaction. The strategic location of the open space chosen by the residents is near the main road and near the residential area. The results of this study are also in line with the assertions of Pasaogullari and Doratii (2004) that good open space is located in the neighborhood and work area, easily accessible and supervised from the street.

### **6.0 Limitation of study**

The following are the limitations related to the study: First, the study location focused on the traditional Malay settlement; other ethnic settlements were not selected. Second, the discussion is mainly in the context of physical characteristics of a settlement; non-physical characteristics were not included. Lastly, the role of behavioural response that may be the significant indicator of successful social sustainability in the traditional settlement was not studied.

### **7.0 Conclusion and recommendation**

Based on the review of social sustainability indicators, it can conclude that both settlements had achieved the desired standard for a small to medium size settlement. Nearly all indexes in the concept of social sustainability covered in both neighbourhoods. However, it is essential to point out that in both settlements; a fundamental aspect of maintaining and

uplifting the standard of social capital development has to be improved. Both sites studied to provide a range of insights into the principles and process of sustainable settlement too. It is hoped that the local and central government can recognise both examples so that more demolition can be prevented and more good preservation of traditional settlement can be realized. It is suggested that further research be carried out within the field of social sustainability, and Malay cultural landscape. Several research topics related to the study as follows: (i) study on the determinants factors for enhancing other sustainable values such as economy and environment, (ii) behavioural response in experiencing the life in traditional Malay settlement, (iii) non-physical characteristics of the Malay cultural landscape contributing to the social sustainability enhancement.

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