

Factors leading Malaysia to become a developed Muslim country: the implementation of Human Development Policies

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1- Abstract

The main purpose of this study to clarify the essential factors that leading Malaysia to become a developed Muslim country through implementation of Human Development Policies in several areas. Therefore, the study focused on the links between the factors driving and assisting in the development of human resource policies in Malaysia to rise the standard of living, improving the economy, health, and education. Moreover, the study inquired that how Malaysia provides an able capability in order to achieve high level position in global nation ranking by used the conceptual opinions and statistics data links on specific content analysis to give a deeper understanding of these policies by basing them systemically on reality and implementing them to serve human development. The study has also demonstrated how the Malaysian government seeks to improve the economic situation and enhance GDP through plans and policies related to diversifying the economy, domestic sources, and local industrial and agricultural products that contributed to increase per capita income, national economic growth and eliminated poverty rate.

The main result obtained from the study determined the important of human development policies illustrated the Malaysian government implemented approximately 72 policies from 1956 to 2020 in a range of fields concerned with development that directly affect the economic, education, and health sectors. However, these policies also helped to strengthen Malaysia's position as regards global competitive indicators related to human development. However, challenges may still face the government due to increasing population growth, expected to reach 38.4 million in 2040. In addition to accomplish the main objectives based on research dilemma, the Malaysian government could establish a specialist authority for government policies, that able to evaluate and ensure their implementation and identify indicators related to policy achievement, in addition to ensuring that all policies are linked to the Malaysian vision and government strategy. Also, the main recommend is measure the policies through identify KPIs which links with Malaysian Vision and its strategic plans.

2- Historical Background

Human development policies are an important element in improving many aspects of human life in countries across the world. Malaysia is one of the countries in Asia keen to increase the level of human development and the Malaysian government is concerned to put people first in its priorities. However, to continue to maintain human development, it is necessary to provide appropriate strategy and clear policies. Many factors play a part in creating opportunities to improve quality of life for citizens: life expectancy, education, purchasing power parties (PPP) and Global Domestic Product (GDP) are often used as measures and all these factors affect human development (Windy, 2018). However, genetic, economic, environmental and cultural factors could also play an essential role in human growth and life cycles (Haralabakis & Spyropoulou, 1990).

In addition, human development needs regulation and organization to reach the desired objectives; thus, governments must design appropriate policies to sustain social development and economic growth, changing human behaviors and recognizing faults in society. Society in many countries has been blighted by increased life expectancy, failing economy, lack of investment in children and failure to provide appropriate education, while increases in crime and unemployment are leading to rises in poverty and health problems (Harry, 2000). The population of Malaysia in 1960 was 8.156 million; however, by 2020 it had risen to 31.53 million, a rapid increase over 60 years. Based on the latest United Nations' data, 91% are Malaysian citizens and 8.2% non-citizens and it is expected that the population will increase by 2040 to an estimated 38.4 million, with life expectancy in Malaysia now 76 years. The Department of Statistics, Malaysia, reports that Islam is the most popular religion, followed by 61% of the population, with other religions represented by 39%. These data, showing differences in race, religion and culture in Malaysian society, give a clear indication of how to develop human potential and provide advanced policies to improve the quality of life for Malaysian people.

3- Research Objectives:

This study aims of this research:

1. To illuminate how human development policies are interconnected with the national vision and strategic plans of Malaysia.
2. To identify the Malaysian human development policies to fight poverty by focusing on educational aspects and eliminating unemployment.
3. To clarify the links between the factors driving and assisting in the development of human resource policies in Malaysia to rise the standard of living, improving the economy, health, and education.
4. To highlight the importance of implementing human development policies in Malaysia in achieving her high level position in global nation ranking.

4- Research Questions:

1. How human development policies are interconnected with the national vision and strategic plans of Malaysia?
2. How the Malaysian human development policies are implemented to fight poverty by focusing on educational aspects and eliminating unemployment?
3. What the main importance of Malaysian human development policies that leading to rise the standard of living in the country and improving the economy, health, and education.?
4. Why the implemented human development policies of Malaysia become important to achieve high level position in global nation ranking?

5- Problem Statement:

Many Asian countries, including Malaysia and its neighbors, share the same geographical and economic characteristics and have set policies and plans for human development, but how is it possible to develop these policies by basing them systemically on reality and implementing them to serve human development? The application and integration of human development policies do not focus sufficiently on specific criteria or identify specific factors that contribute to the promotion of human development and link them to realistic indicators that are able to be monitored and measured on a regular basis. In addition, observing Malaysian affairs and the statistical data related to human development issued by the United Nations and government statistics from previous years, discrepancies can be found along with weaknesses in specific areas and policies that affect human development indicators and results based on United Nations' human development reports. It is clear that Malaysia still has intensive work to do if it is to achieve high international standards in human development indicators.

6- Methodology:

This study used qualitative methods to collect primary data, enabling specific data to be gathered by focusing on literature reviews, conceptual opinions and statistics data collected that made links on specific content analysis related to the topic to give a deeper understanding. Also analyzed were data on detailed factors of area, regions, sectors and years related to the research dilemma. Moreover, data were gathered from articles, journals, books, and websites as sources of secondary data.

7- Definition of Human Development (Western and Islamic perspectives)

Definitions of human development vary, as demonstrated by scholars, but this study follows the United Nations' definition of human development as enhancing and improving living conditions to give the potential for a healthy and

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long life and providing high-quality education to enable people to achieve satisfaction with their lives (Kennedy, 1968). Human development is building the human potential to make useful, free decisions in life (Boban, 2020); it goes beyond GDP to achieve a balance between economic growth and other aspects of life in order to meet people's social needs (Jean, 2008). It is essential that human development focuses on multiple aspects of human life in a community and provides opportunities for growth in areas such as education, healthcare, employment and quality of life (Paul, 1993). as human development requires a government to meet primary human needs through considering different parts of the life cycle environment (Gustav, Frances, Emma, 2007). Moreover, human development is seen as the desire to improve the human condition, and governments have the potential to provide certain improvements in life (Pratima, 2002).

However, consider the meaning of human development from an Islamic perspective, it is not only concerned with economic growth and improvements in the life model; it describes the role of humans with regard to their place in this life, as Allah created humans and the vineyard of the sons of Adam (Abang, Mohd, Musmuliadi, & Mohammed, 2018). From an Islamic perspective, human development refers to identifying the benefits of life, reducing human harm in society, and encouraging to provide a decent life possible with society welfare. The principal aspects of human development are increasing investment in human activities and labor demand, to enable improved standards of living and increased capital productivity (Salman, 2014). Elements of human development specific to Islam can be divided into two categories: First, Islam encourages humans to maintain and develop their body, brain and spirit; second, Islam increases respect for human life through giving free choices, protecting against discrimination and providing equal opportunities in society (Khairulyadi, Mohammed, 2017). Furthermore, Islam values human rights such as education, as the first prophet Mohamed learned from Allah (EQRA), and treats work as a need in creating a stable and strong society (Khairulyadi, Mohammed, 2017).

8- Human Development Policies in Malaysia

Before starting to examine human development policies in Malaysia, it's important to understand the definitions of such policies. Based on the existing literature, human development policies are essential to the organization of human life in society and accountability in society and human development policies include several specific areas such as healthcare policy, economic policy, and educational policy, offering the potential to achieve a high level of human development in the community (Harry, 2000), improve energy governance, social and environmental aspects and cultural diversity it requires community acceptance and social support (Harald & Den, 2003) Human development policies involve numerous methodologies identified by governments as leading society in the correct way and give greater choice in attaining social needs (Wisner, 1988). Human development policies adopted by the Malaysian government are concerned with varied aspects, including the economy, education, healthcare, society, the environment and tourism. Although these policies are applied by different parts of the public and private sectors, the people of Malaysia are the most important subject in all of them (Noor & Anne, 2018) Human development policies in Malaysia are developing at different rates based on varying levels of social demand; the main challenge is rapidly responding to develop policies based on current community conditions (Saiful & Adnan, 2008).

Policies in Malaysia play a fundamental role in improving human needs and contribute to human performance in several fields; however, it is essential to measure policies implemented to gain the benefits of social development (Martin, 1994). Policies should be shared with stakeholders and the community to create government dynamic processes showing high levels of human development competitiveness (Martin, 1994). One of the most important elements in creating human development policies in Malaysia is continuing to improve and deliver policies to meet the challenges in the country, protect human rights and ensure all citizens can afford to live. Looking back since independence in 1957, it is clear that the government has been concerned to improve policies and a vision for human development as the population increased and demands rose. From this perspective, the Malaysian government has been keen to develop policies in many fields, such as economic, educational and quality of life, to ensure that everyone lives in an appropriate environment and has equal rights. The Malaysian government continues to improve such policies as the population is estimated to reach approximately 70 million by 2100 (Dwyer, 1987).

1) The history of key development plans and policies in Malaysia 1956–1970

Plan Elements	<i>Malaysia plan 1956–1960</i>	<i>Malaysia plan 1961–1965</i>	<i>1st Malaysia Plan 1966–1970 Pre-New Economic Policy</i>
Objectives	Develop national infrastructure and agricultural goods; push on diversification and income growth despite fluctuating oil and rubber prices (Rahimah & Aziz,1996).	Improve rural standard of living. Provide more job opportunities. Achieve higher economic growth. Diversify agricultural activities. Improve and expand social services: education, health, and utilities	Promote the integration of the peoples and states of Malaysia. Increase income and consumption. Increase the well-being of Malaysia’s rural communities and other income groups. Generate employment opportunities. Focus on agriculture and industrial activities. Improve economic and social development processes. Lay the groundwork for less rapid population growth. Open development in new land. Provide electricity, transportation, facilities, and communication services.
Budget	RM 898.7 million. 78.8% of budget allocated to economic development projects and 14.4% to social development facilities.	RM 2,177.3 million. 75.3% of budget allocated to economic development projects and 17.6% to social development activities.	RM 3,437.5 million. 63.3% of budget allocated to economic development projects and 17.7% to social development facilities.
Main Focus	Economic development	Economic development and providing internal social services.	Economic development and improving social services.
Results Achieved, Improvements and Challenges	Established two agencies: Federal Land Development Authority (FELDA) and Ministry of National and Rural Development. Established the Ministry of Finance (MOF).	Created 344,000 jobs and accomplished 6.4% annual output growth. Increased per capita income growth by 2.7%. Developed more than 40,000 hectares of land under (FELDA) authority. Established RED BOOK in Malaysia from MOF, concerning rural development. Government commitment to listen to and act on requests from the people.	Provided 360,000 new jobs; manufacturing jobs increased by over 20% and agriculture by less than 12%. Output sectors increased by over 11% per year. Established Rural and Industrial Development Authority (RIDA), Federal Land Consolidation and Rehabilitation Authority (FELCRA), Agricultural Marketing Authority (FAMA), Agriculture Bank of Malaysia (BPM), and Malaysia Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI). Started irrigation project providing 250,000 acres that changed the lives of 60,000 farmers. Fisher agreement between Malaysia and Germany to support the fight against rural poverty. Established the National Unity for restoring goodwill. Considered by National Consultative Council, involving community leaders, businessmen, teachers. Malaysian population grew to 10.9 million.

Table 1: Sources: Malaysia’s Development Plans and Policies (1950–2020) <https://www.tiki-toki.com/timeline/entry/795566/Malaysias-Development-Plans-Policies-1956-Present/> Retrieved on 23/01/2021

2) The history of key development plans and policies in Malaysia 1971–1980

Plan Elements	<i>2nd Malaysia Plan 1971–1975 Updated New Economic Policy – OPPI, New National Culture Policy, National Education Policy, National Petroleum Policy</i>	<i>3rd Malaysia Plan 1976–1980 National Forest Policy, New Economy Policy National Energy Policy, New Industry Policy</i>
Objectives	Based on the new economic policy objectives: eliminate poverty, generate employment opportunities, increase productivity and income. Increase opportunity for those involved in low-productivity activities. Reduce the existing uneven distribution of income. Increase	Eliminate poverty, restructure society and strengthen national security. Enhance standards of living. Improve economic processes.

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	industrial activities. Improve living conditions for the poor in urban areas. Empower the economy through increased employment and expand education and training facilities. National culture policy objectives: Strengthen national unity via culture, enhance the quality of human life, link research, culture, and education. Improve cultural leadership training; effective communication of Malaysia nationalism. Improve education system.	
Budget	RM 8,448 million. 72.3% of budget allocated to economic development projects and 13.7% to social development facilities.	Rm 15,757.4 million. 68.3% of budget allocated to economic development projects and 16.6% to social development facilities
Main Focus	Economy improvement, Culture development, and development of education system.	Education system, economic improvement and investment in energy sources and the environment.
Results Achieved, Improvements and Challenges	Increase in Malaysian GDP from \$319.33 to \$345.23 per capita. Government spending constant between 15.5% and 16.8% of annual GDP growth. Fluctuated low as 3.9% however. The Malaysian economy slowed down in global terms. Implemented around 13 strategies under the National Education Policy (Prime Minister of Malaysia 20.13). Established Petronas, the national petroleum company, to improve and manage the country's oil and gas, contributing approximately 14% of Malaysia's GDP of total export. Malaysia's economic policy was considered successful (Alan, 1974), with government spending peaking at 20% of GDP. Economic growth rose by 11.7% in 1973 but, at the end of 1975, was recorded as 3.5% (Mohamed, Fauziah, & Sohaila, 2000).	New schools built focusing on improving the education system. Sustainable forest management. GDP growth rate reduced from 11.6% to 7.4%; inflation rose 2.63%. Established Heavy Industries Corporation (HICOM). Malaysia's population increased to 13.8 million.

Table 2: Sources: Malaysia's Development Plans & Policies (1950–2020) <https://www.tiki-toki.com/timeline/entry/795566/Malysias-Development-Plans-Policies-1956-Present/> Retrieved on 23/01/2021

3) The history of key development plans and policies in Malaysia 1981–1990

Plan Elements	<i>4th Malaysia Plan 1981–1985</i> <i>National Development Policy - OPP2, National Agriculture Policy, New Economy Policy, Energy Diversification Policy, Malaysia Incorporated Policy, Malaysia Privatization Policy</i>	<i>5th Malaysia Plan 1986–1990</i> <i>Final Phase of New Economic Plan Policy, Final Phase National Plan Policy - OPP2, Globalization Economic Policy, Developing Microeconomic Plan. National Policy of Women Formulated.</i>
Objectives	Increase economic activity. Develop living income across the population. Improve renewable energy. Implement new policies and programs. Increase agricultural productivity. Establish more service sectors. Diversify sources. Enhance quality of the environment. Collaborate with private sector to improve economic growth and production. Improve government finances, reduce the size of public sector in the economy (Shankaran, 2009).	Develop private sector. Improving leadership empowerment. Develop environment. Increase completion, economic efficiency, initiative, and innovation in production. Improve marketing of goods and domestic services. Improve agricultural sector. Develop urban centers and female empowerment. Enhance Malaysia's global economic status.
Budget	RM 29,134.6 million. 57.9% of budget allocated to economic development projects and 16.2% to social development facilities.	RM 31,650 million. 64.8% of budget allocated to economic development projects and 24.8% to social development facilities.

Main Focus	Improve standards of living. Develop economic activities.	Economic private sector growth, the environment, social initiatives, domestic source services. Agriculture. Efficient internal investment.
Results achieved, Improvements and Challenges	Established Amanah National Share scheme of 30%. Challenges of low growth inflation and GDP reduced by 1.1%. Reviewed the policies measuring and ensuring economic objectives are achieved. Implemented 82,000 projects to improve standards of living, particularly in rural areas, at a total cost of \$42,000. Enhanced the social and economic situation of rural inhabitants, such as smallholders, farmers and fishermen. Improved roads and residential areas. Established PROTON Automobile National for technological development. Challenges of export performance; agriculture needs further improvement as announced by prime minister on 15 August 1985. Malaysia launched its first car (SAGA) using a moving assembly line in 1985.	Implemented 649 projects worth \$5.61 billion. Increased investment with Taiwan and Singapore (Mohamed, Fauziah, & Sohaila, 2000) Integrated women in all sectors of development (Aminah, 1998). Malaysian age dependency reduced to 68.7%; population rose to 18.2 million. Government reduced spending from 16.7% to 13.8% after success of private sector initiatives and eliminate spending to 10% in 1988 GDP per capita increased to \$3,417.11. National poverty declined from 52.4% to 17.1%. However, inflation rose to 2.6%. Transformed society, improved quality of life, and reduced unemployment to 5%. Draft vision 2020.

Table 3: Sources: Malaysia's Development Plans and Policies (1950–2020) <https://www.tiki-toki.com/timeline/entry/795566/Malaysias-Development-Plans-Policies-1956-Present/> Retrieved on 23/01/2021

4) The history of key development plans and policies in Malaysia 1991–2000

Plan Elements	<i>6th Malaysia Plan 1991–1995 Update of National Development Policy, 1st National Tourism Policy, National Telecommunication Policy, 2nd National Agriculture Policy, National Policy for Older Persons</i>	<i>7th Malaysia Plan 1996–2000, Update of National Development Policy, National Biodiversity Policy, National Economic Recovery Plan, 3rd National Agriculture Policy, National Energy Diversification Policy</i>
Objectives	Sustain growth, enhancing NDP. Develop tourism. Social development. Develop enterprises and business. Generate employment. Improve image of Malaysia (Amran, 2004) Develop telecommunication services and improve communication industry. Develop innovations in human resource practice. Care for older people through social welfare and healthcare.	Improve Malaysia's global competitiveness. Increase society demand and incomes. Develop potential to become an economic power and improve standard of living. Develop competitiveness of industrial sectors. Increase economic rate. Enhance skills and productiveness of working population. Ensure sustainability of resources.
Budget	RM 44,704 million. 56.8% of budget allocated to economic development projects and 24.5% to social development facilities.	RM 53,509 million. 50% of budget allocated to economic development projects and 29.3% to social development facilities.
Main Focus	Attract investment and improve economy. Contain inflation, improve productivity, enhance national competitiveness. Meet demand for food products through domestic agriculture.	Sustain rapid economic growth, defense, health and safety. Develop microeconomics, low-cost housing, increase investment. Develop agricultural activity and achieve food security. Diversify energy resources, improve technology for solar energy and oil industry. Improve education system. Research and Development.
Results Achieved, Improvements, and Challenges	Growth economy and domestic rate 75% annually, growth in demand within both private and public sectors through \$810 billion investment spend. Spending on developing projects and infrastructure. Review of national forestry policy. Established KHAZANAH for investing in technology and enhancing economic performance. GDP per capita grew to \$6,205.5 as prime minister announced in	Implemented 72 projects and constructed 25,000 low-cost housing units. Built 568,000 housing units, of which 24.6% were low-cost houses and 42.1% medium-cost houses through allocation of RM 500 million. Implemented health projects by building 21 hospitals through allocation of RM 2.6 billion. Established National Economic Action Council (NEAC). GDP rate was growth

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	<p>1993. Malaysian population increased to 20.7 million. Economic growth increased by 9.5% and the age dependency ratio increased to 67.9%</p>	<p>to 8.2% and inflation reduced 2.6% as the prime minister announced in 1999. RM 4.5 billion was allocated to improving the higher education system. Research and development was increased. Government reduced spending to 10% and the economy grew by 7.4%. GDP per capita increased to \$4,004 after the economic recovery. The age dependency ratio fell to 61.4% and the Malaysian population increased to 23.4 million by 2000.</p>
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Table 4: Sources: Malaysia’s Development Plans and Policies (1950–2020) <https://www.tiki-toki.com/timeline/entry/795566/Malaysias-Development-Plans-Policies-1956-Present/> Retrieved on 23/01/2021

5) The history of key development plans and policies in Malaysia 2001–2010

Plan Elements	<p><i>8th Malaysia Plan 2001–2005</i> <i>National Vision Policy – OPP3, National Environment Policy (NEP), National Social Policy (NSP), 2nd National Tourism Policy (NTP), National ICT Policy, National Biotechnology Policy (NBP), National Physical Plan 1, Fair Trade Practices Policy (FTPP)</i></p>	<p><i>9th Malaysia Plan 2006–2010</i> <i>Malaysia’s Nation Mission 2006–2020, National Automotive Policy, National Urbanization Policy, National Biofuel Policy, Education Development Master Plan, National Intellectual Property Policy, National Timber Industry Policy, National Mineral Policy, National Child Protection Policy, National Green Technology Policy, National Defense Policy, National Transformation Policy, National Climate Change Policy, New Economic Model, National Physical Plan 2</i></p>
Objectives	<p>Reduce poverty through increased social initiatives. Restructure economic sectors and increase economic growth. Increase globalization of national development policies to achieve competitiveness. Protect lower quality and high price products in the domestic market. Develop services and goods in the local market. Provide appropriate education system to face challenges in global economy through increased use of technology. Increase role of women in technology. Transferring government functions to the private sector. Improve quality of life. Increase use of digital learning resources,</p>	<p>Increase sustainable domestic automotive industry. Increase proportion of urban population. Achieve balance between economic needs, social needs and urban growth. Integrated urban transportation system. Reduce use of fossil fuel. Increase fuel exports. Improving human development by economic understanding and innovation. Improve public services. Develop and enhance education through strengthening national schools. Improve economy value chain. Improve standards of living. Become more competitive in challenging global environment. Enhance research and development. Implement environment-friendly technology and enhance economic development.</p>
Budget	<p>RM 220 billion overall development budget; 55% allocated to economic sector, 30% to social sector, 10% to security sector and 5% to general administration.</p>	<p>RM 230 billion overall development budget; 13.2% allocated to financial activities, 2.7% to energy, 77% to the economic and trade sectors and 14% to education.</p>
Main Focus	<p>Investment in technology and new socio-economic development. Human resources development through sustained economic growth and increased skills. Malaysia privatization plan. Sustainable environmental plan ensuring health and safety for future generations. Focus on foreign investment and trade. Develop tourism. Improve infrastructure. Enhance education management system. Focus on ISLAM HADHARI, oil and gas, financial services, agriculture and private healthcare.</p>	<p>Transform the domestic automotive industry. Improve response to social needs and transportation. Focus on quality of infrastructure. Develop environmental facilities. Ensure the healthy growth of the biofuel industry. Focus on privatization in agriculture, life sciences, communication technology, tourism, and health. Develop human capital. Knowledge and innovation. Maintaining sustainable growth. Sustainable environment. Growth of social management. Development of policies for families and children within the community.</p>

<p>Results Achieved, Improvements, and Challenges</p>	<p>Construction of 7,000 housing units in 43 locations around the country to solve housing problems faced by allocated RM 1.5 billion, as announced by prime minister. GDP grew by 4.7% against a target of 3.0%. Malaysia 9th mid-term plan review: per capita income rose by 3.9% to RM 14,324 in 2003. Growth in achievement environment of stable and unemployment decreased. The number of tourists increased by 73%, the tourist market by 14.8% and Kuala Lumpur Airport was promoted (Amran, 2004). Government spending was reduced to 11.5% and annual growth reached 5.3%. Inflation rose 3.0%, but unemployment remained stable at 3.5%. The age dependency rate reduced to 54.7% and Malaysia's population increased to 25.8 million by 2005.</p>	<p>Established 11 groups to represent a range of business sectors including communication, tourism, agriculture, and automotive manufacturing. Implemented 880 education and schooling infrastructure projects through an allocated RM 15 billion. The poverty rate declined to 3.6%. Established Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water (KeTTHA). Established Malaysia's Performance Management & Delivery Unit (PEMANDU). Implemented a government transformational program to improve the delivery of public services and enhance living standards, infrastructure, economic opportunity, safe environment and education system. GDP per capita increased to \$21,102. Malaysia's population increased to 28.1 million by 2010.</p>
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Table 5: Sources: Malaysia's Development Plans and Policies (1950–2020) <https://www.tiki-toki.com/timeline/entry/795566/Malysias-Development-Plans-Policies-1956-Present/> Retrieved on 23/01/2021

6) The history of key development plans and policies in Malaysia 2011–2020

<p>Plan Elements</p>	<p><i>10th Malaysia Plan 2011–2015</i> <i>New National Energy Policy, National Housing Policy, One Student One Sport Policy, National Policy on Women, New National Energy Policy, National Agro-food Policy, National Water Resources Policy, National Commodity Policy, Malaysia Education Policy, National Space Policy, Innovation Strategy, Look East Policy</i></p>	<p><i>11th Malaysia Plan 2016–2020</i> <i>National Biodiversity Policy, National Port Policy, National Rural Physical Policy, National Transport Policy, National Industry Policy, National Entrepreneur Policy, National Affordable Housing Policy, National Urbanization Policy, New Economic Model - OPP4</i></p>
<p>Objectives</p>	<p>Develop energy supply and energy diversity in sources of nuclear energy. Accelerate implementation of energy efficiency in industrial, commercial, and transport sectors. Ensure sustainability of housing sector. Improve health community and sport culture. Increase proportion of women in public sector workforce. Increase contribution of food security. Empower human capital. Strengthen R&D activities and innovation in technology. Develop delivery system. Grow agricultural commodities industry. Generate higher income via better employment and increase value of equity stakes. Investment to improve the quality of teaching. Improve the growth of the local aerospace industry.</p>	<p>Enhance economic innovation and creativity to achieve high global competitiveness. Aim to achieve annual growth of 8.5% and reach top 10 in logistics. Enhance economic community opportunities via improved entrepreneur financing. Promote private financing for R&D through commercial and innovation management activities. Provide job opportunities in a range of sectors. Improve education system to enhance economic productiveness. Improve health care system and management.</p>
<p>Budget</p>	<p>RM 267.2 billion overall budget for development; 41% allocated to education, 17.1% to defense, 30% to development projects, 2% to security, 4% to social development, 1% to tourism activities and the remainder to administration.</p>	<p>RM 265 billion overall development budget; 11.4% allocated to economic development, 4.9% to social initiatives, 1.9% to security, 2% to security, 4% to social development, 26.6% to employment, 23.7% to services, 7.4% to retirement, 2.9% to transfers to government, 9.8% to subsidies, 10.8% to other expenditure, 0.6% to other administration (Ministry of Finance, Malaysia, 2016).</p>

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<p>Main Focus</p>	<p>Energy activities and energy supply in the market. Improved educational initiatives. Natural environment sources. Food and water security.</p>	<p>Develop the economy and environment. Innovation strategy drive and implementation. Improve society and education system. Focus on investment growth and export trade value. Focus on future generations. Improve infrastructure. Improve transportation sector. Develop business opportunities. Diversify production and investment in R&D. People growth and sustain macroeconomic growth. A fairer society, improving wellbeing and health.</p>
<p>Results Achieved, Improvements and Challenges</p>	<p>Implemented Malaysian reading program. Increased proportion of women employed in public sector to 30.5%, benefiting around 147,000 women. Reviewed education system following UNESCO report, implementing improvements to remedy weaknesses in education management. The economy grew by 5.5%. The GDP growth since 1970 and the national per capita income increased to a record \$10,796. The age dependency ratio declined from 46.9% to 44.7%. Government increased investment in transport, digital and energy infrastructure as a result of which the road network grew by 68% and cargo value by 23%.</p>	<p>Reduced dependency on oil and gas revenue by 14.6%. Established activities related to manufacturing and services industry via innovation development. Built affordable housing through cost-saving homes. Government allocated RM 5.9 billion to technical and vocational education and training program. National growth declined from 4.6% to 4.5%. The government allocated RM 112 million for industry initiatives including transportation, society program, housing and quality living. COVID19 presented a massive challenge to the country and the government decided to increase tax to help business operations (Saravana & Yap, 2020) The poverty line moved from RM 980 in 2016 to RM 2,208 in 2019 affecting over 400,000 households. The total value of country reached \$8.1 billion, some of which was allocated to assist small and medium businesses (SMEs) during the pandemic. The government continues to assess the impact of COVID-19 on the economy and growth rate. Malaysia's GDP growth was recorded at 4% and expected to rise by 6.5% in 2021. Companies diversified their supply chains during the pandemic, as announced by the Malaysia Investment Development Authority. The government assessed the situation and supported business and households.</p>

Table 6: Sources: Malaysia's Development Plans and Policies (1950–2020) <https://www.tiki-toki.com/timeline/entry/795566/Malaysias-Development-Plans-Policies-1956-Present/> Retrieved on 23/01/2021

8. Literature review

- **Malaysian educational policy**

The development of the education system in Malaysia is taken seriously by the government in order to increase human development, meet a range of human needs and bring economic benefits. However, Malaysian education policy is continuously reviewed and assessed by the Malaysian government in collaboration with UNESCO to ensure high standards of educational development (UNESCO, 2013). The Malaysian education policy aims to cover all fields for improvement, including teacher development, curriculum, educational assessment, technical education training, and knowledge and communication technology in education. Through teachers' development, the Malaysian government is keen to provide a positive working environment and invest in training teachers in Institutes of Teacher Education (ITE). Thus, clear that the Malaysian government is seeking to reform educational policy in order to increase knowledge and interest in the economy (UNESCO, 2013). In addition, the Malaysia government has placed education among its primary goals and seeks to link education and the economy through implementing a new economic policy focused on greater educational opportunities in new sectors. It has also adopted an ethnic quota system for accepting students into public education institutions and implemented various action policies to eliminate educational inequalities through granting government scholarships for students to enable them to train to be experts in technical fields to achieve the main objectives of the initial education policy, but problems remain in redistributing educational opportunity and the education quality system applied (Nelly & Karen, 2000).

Educational statistics for the third quarter of 2020 showed an increase of 0.8% compared to the same quarter of the previous year, an increase derived from secondary, pre-primary and higher education. Thus, the indicators clearly demonstrate that the government is continuously supporting human development and ensuring improved education policies (Mohd, 2020). Malaysia's experimental education policy reflects the government's human development policy through establishing a strong educational system that contributes to meeting labor skill requirements; the system has effectively assisting in transforming the economy from one based on agriculture to one based on modern industry (Abdulwahab, Ashraf & Mohammed, 2020). The education system in Malaysia has a central, federal administration that operates in a four-part structure. The first (Federal) level is the responsibility of the Ministry of Education (MOE); its role is to create and apply education policies based on government vision and aims. The second (State) level comprises 14 states, each of which has a management structure to organize and implement educational initiatives. The third (Domestic) level is represented by education offices in each area whose main role is to liaise between schools and education management in the states. The last (Schools: Procedure) level gives responsibility to school managers to implement education policy and activities; each school has associations for partners and teachers to enhance provision and support the school (MOE Report, 2000).

It is notable that Malaysia's government has prioritized educational improvements, especially in foundation and technical learning. This is dependent on significant investment in the fields of science and technology, supported by private and public sector partnerships to bring in overseas educational expertise at all levels to satisfy the needs of the local market, upgrading the national workforce and its impact on economic, industrial and other sectors (Abdulwahab, Ashraf & Mohammed, 2020).

- **Malaysian economic policy, GDP effects on human development and poverty indicators**

The economy and global products domestic play an essential role in increasing growth in several areas as the Malaysian Vision 2020 objectives include a government commitment to increase the annual growth rate to 7%; since the announcement of this vision, Malaysia has in the first six years accomplished a quantum leap in annual GDP growth rate to 8.5% (Somun, 2009). As the Malaysian government is focused on human development to provide skills for different workplaces, success in implementing economic policies has two major elements: combining human resources and education, and the relationship between labor training and economic results within the work environment. Previous research has shown a correlation between increased higher education and economic wealth (Rabiul, Ahmed, Bobby, & Barbara, 2016). Moreover, specific human development components bring increased GDP and economic growth, such as investment in education systems, healthcare services and diversity in trading. Thus, policies related to education, healthcare, unemployment, and life expectancy affect positive economic and GDP outcomes in Malaysia (Rabiul, Ahmed, Bobby, Barbara, 2016). However, building an appropriate human development policy will improve employee productivity and increase wages and benefits (Nurul, Kasim & Roslinah, 2016). The most important measure for any country is GDP growth, which reflects government policy and improvements in the economy. The GDP in Malaysia has grown since 2009–2019; the Malaysian government is endeavoring to grow GDP through applied economic policies and reached more than \$350 billion in 2019 and the economic report states that

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Malaysian GDP is expected to rise in the next two years as it recorded 364.70 billion in 4Q 2020. However, the main economy activities contributing to economic success are the export of raw materials and the service sector (Department of Statistics in Malaysia, 2020).

In addition, manufacturing sectors contributed to the rise in GDP by around 25% in 2020. Although the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the economy by a slowdown in trading and tourism, the government has been able to set an appropriate policy to deal with the pandemic and continues the process of developing and improving the economy (Department of Statistics in Malaysia, 2020). Thus, the government of Malaysia is working with other social civil organizations to enhance human development policies through links with economic strategic improvement across several sectors as the United Malaya National Organization applied and controlled policies.

Based on the report from the Department of Statistics in Malaysia (2020), it is expected that the economy will recover in the early months of 2021, and the government hopes that the COVID-19 vaccine will become available to enable the economy to rise and improve. Thus, policies are focused on industry, agriculture, microeconomics and society. However, it is essential that the government is able to integrate policies with economic growth (Jomo, 2007). The Malaysian government's determination to improve domestic diversity to expand the economy is reflected in the level of per capita income, and this illustrates the extent of consistent policies related to human resources and the economy. The statistics indicate that per capita income in Malaysia reached \$11,414 in 2019, compared with other countries in the same region, for example Indonesia where per capita income reached \$4,135 in 2019 (World Bank, 2020). Although the government had improved human development policies to increase affordable standards of living, challenges remain, including increasing per capita expenditure on education, as previous research demonstrates that the main cause of poverty is the cost of receiving a higher education (Mok & Sanyal, 2007). The rise of the larger family has resulted in families with more than one child below the age of 15 struggling to provide the minimum needs for life (Mok & Sanyal, 2007).

In addition, the majority of the population in some regions work in construction, agriculture, or manufacturing and government has to provide a suitable human development policy for them covering wages, working environment, health care, and education (Mok & Sanyal, 2007). A Japan Bank for International Cooperation report from 2001 refers to the vision and strategy of the Malaysian government in developing plans and programs that enhance and strengthen human resource through focusing on the national economy to reduce poverty. The government established a New Development Policy (NDP) which contains an economic policy focused on integration with industry, the provision of an appropriate work environment by rice employment and an enhanced education system by concentrating on GDP growth and eliminating poverty. There is a relationship between education and poverty, however. Economists around the world recognize the impact of training and education on income distribution, and Becker and Chiswick (1966) believe that investment in education will also result in stability in income distribution. The Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Program was introduced by the Malaysian government to meet industrial demand as well as contribute to economic growth, in line with globalization, a knowledge-based economy, technological advancements, and global workforce mobility. TVET, by enabling an industry-led approach, is essential to providing human capital and the labor skills that industry needs, especially in supporting the transition of the economic sector towards knowledge-based activities, in line with the national aspiration to become a developed country.

According to the Department of Statistics in Malaysia (2020), Education Malaysia (STPM), Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM), Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia V Professional (SPMV), lower secondary assessment (PMR), and evaluation of the third form (PT3) offer no educational certificate. HIS and BA results from 2019 found families led by a degree-level graduate have an average income of RM12,051 (2019) compared to RM 11,223 (2016), with income growth of 2.4% annually. In addition, the average income for families led by those educated to diploma/certificate level grows at a rate of 2.6%, STPM 2.8%, SPM/SPMV 2.8%, PMR/PT3 2.3% and income in households led by those who have no education certificate grows at only 0.8%. Perhaps the new economic policy (NEP) adopted by Malaysia has focused on two important aspects: the eradication of poverty as well as creating a balance between ethnic ties and economic level. However, human development policies have contributed to reducing the rate of poverty and enhancing national integration, creating job opportunities in light of the ethnic diversity in the country and providing the necessary support to inhabitants of rural villages (Lubna, 2017) In addition, human development policy has focused on empowering women in society by providing job opportunities as it achieves the current aims; reports indicate that the percentage of women in the labor market has reached 50.7% in 2019, compared to 77.1% for men.

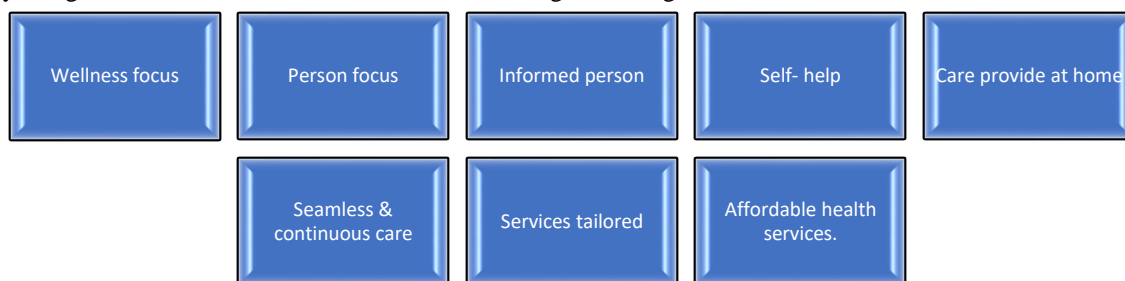
- **The Malaysia Human Development Ranking.**

The Global Human Development Index (GHDI) developed by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) is an indicator defining the level of well-being of people according to three primary factors: health, knowledge and standard of living. The main axes also include four sub-indicators for life expectancy at birth, expected number, average years of schooling, and per capita gross product (Human Development Report, 2020). The last report, issued in December 2020, measures 189 countries according to statistics and data, and focused on assessing the human development experienced in 2020 during the Covid19 pandemic, which caused significant global challenges and greatly affected rates of human development across the world. The report also coincides with the 30th anniversary of the first issue in 1990, as explained by the Director of Human Development in the Report Office, Mr. Pedro Conceicao.

Based on previous research into human development in Malaysia, the study demonstrated how the Malaysian government has striven to improve and invest in human resources to move away from its dependence on basic agricultural and industrial resource exports. The UNDP human development report of 2001 ranked Malaysia 9th in the world, surpassing many developed countries such as Italy, Sweden, and China. Malaysia’s interest in human resource development is thus clear; it has made excellent progress, due to its determination to adopt human development investment policies (Abdulwahab, Ashraf & Mohammed, 2020). Human development policies in Malaysia have contributed to enhancing Malaysia’s position in the global human development index: Based on the UNDP and Human Development Index (HDI) for 2018, Malaysia scored 0.805 and was ranked 61 out of 189 countries, showing that the Malaysian government has, from 1990 to 2018, made progress and improved human development in several aspects: economic, social, educational and increasing pre-capital gross national income (Bernama, 2019) The most recent UNDP report (2020) gives Malaysia an HDI score of 0.810, an increase of eight points compared to 2019, placing it 62 out of 189 countries, thus demonstrating Malaysia’s remarkable achievement in maintaining focus across all aspects of development and infrastructure, such as education and health, as well as strengthening the economy by increasing national product and per capita income according to UNDP measures. However, the Malaysian government still faces challenges in how to maintain these achievements in human development, in addition to difficulties related to the environment (Shahrin, 2020).

- **Healthcare policy development in Malaysia**

A principal component of human development is the concern for healthcare and the provision of all elements involved in developing a health system infrastructure. In this respect, the Malaysian government focused on the health sector and gave it high priority, focusing on two important healthcare aspects: provision of a universal healthcare system and improving the private healthcare system in order to attract medical tourism, targeting over one million medical tourists annually (Ayman, 2020). In 2018, Malaysia ranked first among Western Pacific countries in reducing HIV transmission from mother to child, illustrating the convergence between human resource development policies and health sector development policies in Malaysia. In addition, the health sector offers high-quality support around its health services—characterized by providing translation in more than 22 languages—and is distinguished by its low treatment costs, between 40% and 70% of those in the U.K. and U.S., which attract tourists for treatment from countries including India, Indonesia, and China (Annie, 2020). The population of Malaysia is forecast to reach 38.4 million by 2040, requiring the health sector to make improvements and develop future plans, policies and infrastructure (Tey, Ng, & Tan, 2020) According to Dr. Fazilah Shaik, Deputy Director of the Telehealth Division at the Ministry of Health, “The previous study refers that healthcare facilities are continuing to grow functional demand; however, the healthcare has face the large gap on patient care system although, MOH provided patient care system (TPC, OHCIS, SPP) in order to improve health care management and increase the quality of health management. The Malaysian government’s vision of healthcare contains eight health goals:



Sources: Malaysia’s Development Plans and Policies (2016–2020)

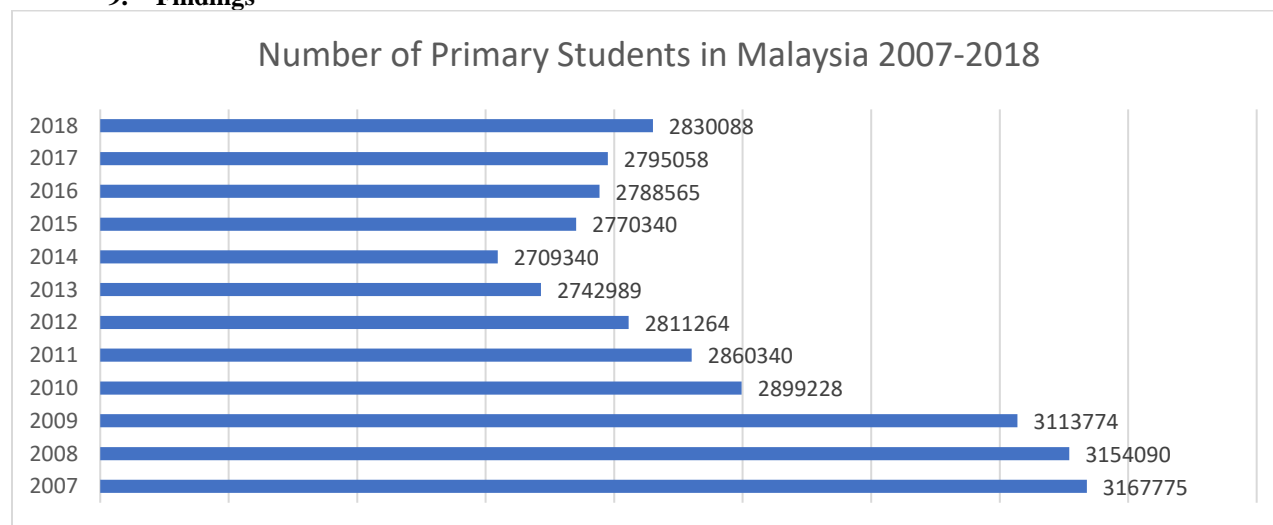
Factors leading Malaysia to become a developed Muslim country: the implementation of Human Development Policies

As Dr. Fazilah mentions, the Malaysian healthcare system comprises two parts: firstly, primary healthcare concerns the national referral system improving equitable access and better utilization of resources; the second refers to health development care services. Malaysia's Vision 2020 aims to ensure an effective delivery of government services by prioritizing patient care, introducing six national factors for measurement, and implementing the NKRA project which drives economic activities with the potential to directly and essentially contribute to economic growth. The project focuses on healthcare, communication and affordable infrastructure. The Ministry of Health policy direction for 2013–2016 contains four parts:

- 1- Strengthening primary healthcare through providing family doctors and preventive care against diseases;
- 2- Public and private integration via engaging GPS;
- 3- Ensuring community empowerment via cooperation with stakeholders;
- 4- Providing care closer to home through domiciliary care and step-down care.

Based on the 11th Malaysia plan (2016–2020) shown in Table 6, the government aims to improve well-being through implementing health strategies focused on several areas, including strengthening primary healthcare, providing health system delivery and work processes, improving human resources capacity and health infrastructure, according to Fazilah. The strategy and healthcare policy aim to create an enhanced health ecosystem, focused on lifestyle and disease prevention.

9. Findings



Source: Statistic Data Platform <https://www.statista.com/> Retrieved on 15/01/2021

The chart above shows the number of students in public primary schools from 2007 to 2018, reaching a peak in 2007 but remaining stable from 2013 until 2018. The key point is that the Malaysian government continues to improve educational policy in its New Vision Policy (NVP) to improve levels of education. In addition, the policy focuses on raising teachers' efficiency and developing their cognitive intellectual capabilities which contribute to the development of the education system (Lubna, 2017). Moreover, the Malaysian government wants to implement a policy of free primary education and has allocated a budget of 64.1 billion RM for education in 2020, in order to contribute to the increased growth rate of Well-Being to 2.8% in 2019 (Department of Statistics Malaysia Reports, 2020). The Ministry of Education determines the age at which children are admitted to primary school, i.e., aged six years. However, there are two types of primary school: national schools that teach in Bahasa Malaysia, and those that teach in Mandarin, whose students have to take a primary evaluation exam (UPSR) to move to secondary education and private schools (United Nations Educational Report, 2013). Students now receive more hours of teaching than previously; however, the Malaysian education system has faced a degree of challenge in terms of policy, particularly as regards teacher improvement and administration of assessments as UNED report of 2013.

The Number of Primary School Students in Malaysia based on Area (2007-2016):

Malaysia Region	Number of Primary School Students in Malaysia									
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016

Johor	382219	388817	387288	356441	351091	344120	336377	332623	328779	327915
Kedah	247801	244201	239401	220994	214798	207854	200177	195412	192114	190940
Kelantan	299582	226039	221419	202540	196774	190876	183854	178672	175620	173069
Melaka	92983	94643	92925	87097	85902	84325	81952	81166	80918	81086
Sembilan	120741	119529	117214	110222	108278	106439	103572	102297	101706	103417
Pahang	179382	177320	174415	157857	155468	153125	149345	147215	144369	144986
Perak	282218	276245	268591	243168	235253	227112	216630	210919	205592	203683
Perlis	28117	28873	28066	25457	24801	24111	23467	23207	23003	22950
Pulau Pinang	160270	159543	156683	147124	144881	141789	136945	135169	132948	132298
Sabah	289653	291465	293066	271636	271966	271108	268666	265977	267975	270674

Table 7: Source: Department of Statistics <https://www.ceicdata.com/>. Retrieved on 10/02/2021

Table 7 shows the number of primary school students in specific areas of Malaysia from 2007 to 2016, demonstrating fluctuating numbers from year to year based to the size of area and the number of inhabitants, with the highest number of students in the Johor region in 2016 and the lowest number in the Perlis 22950. The government introduced its Education Development Master Plan (EDMP), shown in Table 5, to improve the education system following the UNESCO report. It continued to attempt to remedy weaknesses in education management by issuing the new Malaysia Education Policy (MEP) in 2011, focused on improving the quality of teaching, and maintains its interest in the national assessment of educational performance through programs concerned with curriculum development, technical and vocational education and training (TVET), and information and communication technology in education (ICT). At the same time the Ministry of Education has sought to improve educational policy through developing the educational structure and has significantly improved enrollment rates in primary schools between 2007 and 2011. The Malaysian population has also played an important role, with the youth knowledge rate reaching 98% in 2010 and the adult literacy rate 93% (United Nations Educational Report, 2013)

The statistics of schools, classes, students and teachers in Malaysia (2016-2019):

Pre-School	Years	No School	No Classes	No Students	No Teachers
	2016	6,075	9,195	200,522	9,087
	2017	6,092	9,272	201,429	9,083
	2018	6,111	9,366	203,690	9,191
	2019	6,152	9,311	205,200	9,311
	Total		37,144	810,841	36,672

Table8: Source: Malaysia Educational Statistics: Educational Data Sector- (2016-2018-2019) MOEM.

Primary School	Years	No School	No Classes	No Students		No Teachers	
				Male	Female	Male	Female
	2016	7,769	104,668	1,378,193	1,306,780	71,826	168,593
2017	7,776	104,762	1,371,644	1,302,318	71,349	168,004	
2018	7,776	105,240	1,381,463	1,311,855	71,018	169,083	
2019	7,772	106,018	1,398,201	1,328,560	70,025	167,292	
Total		420,668		10,709,313		957,190	

Table 9: Source: Malaysia Educational Statistics: Educational Data Sector- (2016-2018-2019) MOEM.

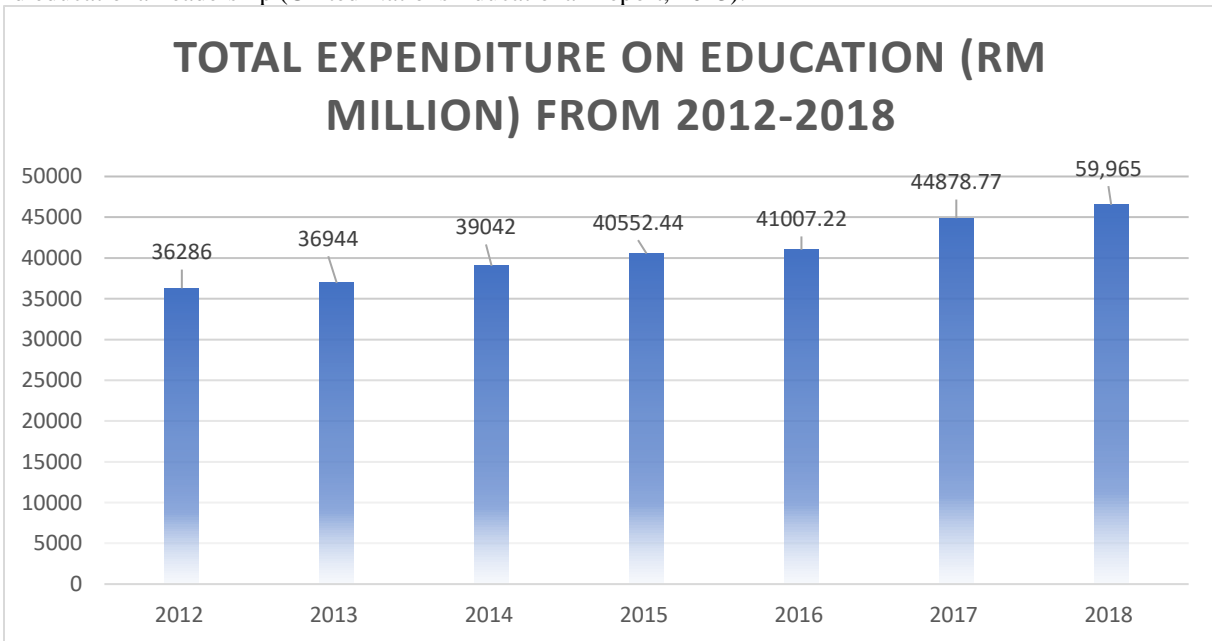
Pre-School	Years	No School	No Classes	No Students	No Teachers
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Factors leading Malaysia to become a developed Muslim country: the implementation of Human Development Policies

		No Classes	Male	Female	Male	Female
2016	2,404	81,375	1,068,442	1,076,856	54,527	127,071
2017	2,411	79,459	1,042,207	1,056,826	54,454	128,698
2018	2,426	79,593	1,014,776	1,027,022	54,311	129,154
2019	2,436	79,458	999,074	1,008,422	53,717	128,870
Total		319,885	8,293,625		730,802	

Table 10 Source: Malaysia Educational Statistics: Educational Data Sector- (2016-2018-2019) MOEM

According to the review of Malaysia’s education policy in the United Nations Report of 2013, the Malaysian government and Ministry of Education (MOE) had taken effective steps to improve the education system by laying down plans and programs to improve standards of education and teaching staff. In addition, the government allocated RM 5.9 billion to a technical and vocational education and training program (Malaysia’s Development Plans and Policies, 1950–2020). Moreover, the government implemented 880 education and school infrastructure projects with an allocated budget of RM 15 billion, as reflected in the increase in student and teacher numbers at all academic levels shown in the tables 5, in addition to the increase in the number of schools constructed, including 112 schools from 2016 to 2019. However, despite innovative and creative policies to meet educational objectives, the education system still needs more initiatives and the implementation of a systematic program to develop capacity in relation to teachers and educational leadership (United Nations Educational Report, 2013).



Source: Statistic Data Platform: <https://www.dosm.gov>. Retrieved on 05/01/2021

According to the human development policy, public spending on education as a percentage of the gross national product amounted to 2.9% in 1960, increasing to 4.4% in 2015, or 4.2% of GDP. The size of government spending on education reflects the importance given to it, as the government believes that education plays an important role in economic and knowledge development, as reflected in growth in industrial and other sectors. Government expenditure on education rose from RM 36,286 million in 2012 to RM 59,965 million in 2018, a rise of RM 23,679 million as the chart shows.

Table 11: Source: Malaysia Educational Statistics: Educational Data Sector- (2016-2018-2019) MOEM

Category	Expenditure RM Million				Percentage of Recurrent Educational Expenditure by Category (2016-2019)			
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2016	2017	2018	2019
Emolument	33,208.92	35,688.82	37,743.84	39,033.12	83.83	81.51	67.94	70.80
Service & Supply	2,936.03	4,645.22	4,596.08	3,714.78	7.41	10.61	8.27	6.74
Asset	77.60	127.66	157.08	103.23	0.2	0.12	0.28	0.19
Fixed Charges & Grants	3,391.26	3,335.85	13,054.90	12,275.71	8.56	7.66	23.55	22.27
Other Expenditure	0.02	0.03	1.10	1.63	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
% Actual Educational Capital Expenditure					96.61	97.56	92.64	91.52
The Amounts (RM Million) & Percentage of Accurate Total Educational Expenditure of Total Government Expenditure (2016 – 2019)								
Years	Expenditure RM Million			Percentage				
2016	41,007			16.12				
2017	44,879			16.92				
2018	59,965			21.25				
2019	60,238			19.03				

Table 12: Source: Malaysia Educational Statistics: Educational Data Sector- (2016-2018-2019) MOEM

The tables above demonstrate the amount and percentages of total educational expenditure by the Malaysian government over the four years 2016 to 2019, during which the government spent RM 206,089 million on the educational sector, including the implementation of the Innovation Strategy. Improvements to society and the education system in the 11th Malaysia plan included a budget of RM 5.9 billion towards technical and vocational education and training as it shown in table 6. However, the government spent RM 60,238 in 2019, representing 19% of total government expenditure (Ministry of Finance, Malaysia, 2016). Table 11 shows the percentage of recurrent costs in educational expenditure by category from 2016 to 2019 and the actual percentages of educational capital expenditure. Thus, in 2017, actual educational expenditure rose by 97.56% and expenditure on services and supplies was increased. The government expects to spend more on education in future years with the 12th Malaysia plan and Vision 2030, in which the government plans to increase expenditure on educational technology infrastructure by providing smart classes to start in April 2021 with an allocated RM 2.98 million and the provision of smart education facilities by the chairmen of Federal Land Development Authority (FLDA).



Factors leading Malaysia to become a developed Muslim country: the implementation of Human Development Policies

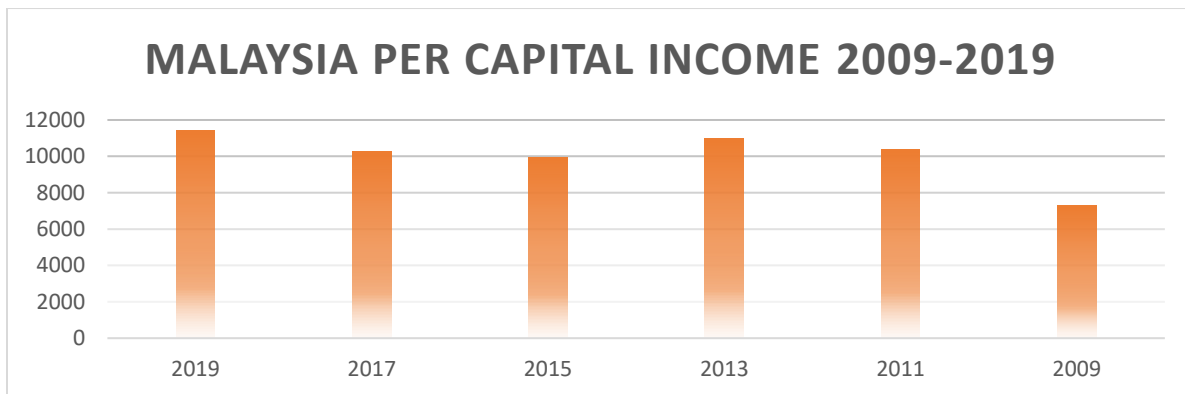
Source: (World Bank Index – Malaysia data, 2020) <https://data.worldbank.org/country/MY> Retrieved on 02/02/2021

GDP Contribution by sector in Malaysia (Percentage of growth) – 2016-2019

Sectors	2016	2017	2018	2019
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	- 5.1	7.2	- 0.2	3.1
Mining & Quarrying	2.2	1.0	- 0.6	0.7
Manufacturing	4.4	6.0	4.9	4.7
Construction	7.4	6.7	4.5	4.7
Services (Including Government Services)	5.6	6.2	6.3	5.9

Table 13: Source: Malaysia Educational Statistics: Educational Data Sector- (2016-2018-2019) MOE

The graph and table 13 shows the value of Malaysia’s GDP from 2009 to 2019, showing how GDP increased over these 10 years, and confirming the Malaysian government’s desire to adopt and develop policies and plans related to development, as shown in Tables 5 and 6, and particularly economic policies. The government was able to crystallize and integrate these policies in its development plans and projects, as reflected positively in the rise in GDP. Table 13 shows the role of different sectors and their effective contribution to the increase in GDP, particularly the government services sector, which contributed 6.2% in 2017 and 6.3% in 2018 and continued to contribute 5.9% in 2019. These sums are due to the Malaysian government’s interest in developing policies related to government services, providing infrastructure, transportation and advanced road networks, as mentioned in Table 5. As the government invested further in transport, digital and energy infrastructure, so the road network grew by 68% and the value of cargo by 23%. In addition, the government has focused on enhancing the quality of life, as shown in Table 6; from 2009 to 2020, the government has adopted 35 development policies and plans to enhance the economy and diversify sources of income (Saravana & Yap, 2020). Moreover, it can be seen that the industrial and construction sector contributed 4.7% of the increase in GDP in 2019 due to the government interest in setting policies and programs to develop local industry as shown in Table 5 in respect to the National Automotive Policy in the 9th Malaysia Plan 2006–2010. Table 13 illustrates a noticeable decline in the mining and quarrying sector of -0.6% in 2018; however, this sector increased to 0.7% in 2019 and, despite uneven contributions from agriculture and fisheries between 2016 and 2019, 2017 saw an increase to 7.2%, due to the government’s intervention in the agriculture sector and the development of natural resources, as shown in Table 4, with the adoption of the third national agriculture policy and National Energy Diversification Policy.



Source: (World Bank Index – Malaysia data, 2020) <https://data.worldbank.org/country/MY> Retrieved on 08/01/2021

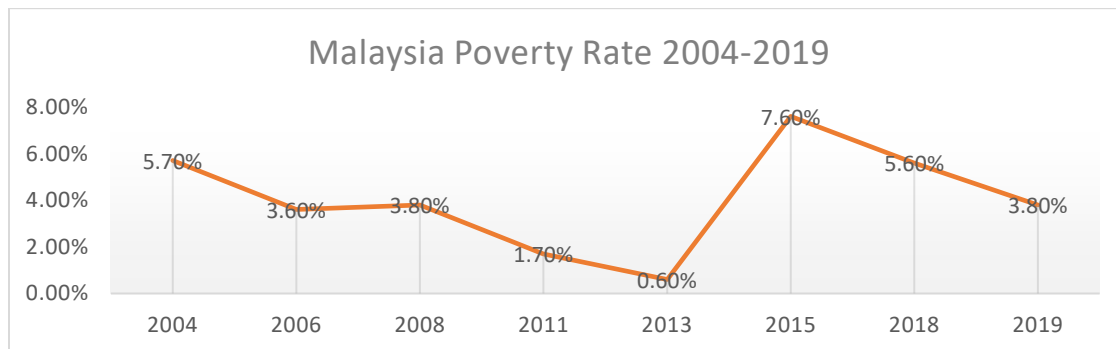
Indicators of Malaysia Economic in GDP growth (Percentage & RM (2016-2019))

YEARS	2016	2017	2018	2019
Real Growth Rate %	4.2	5.9	4.7	4.9
Per Capital (RM)	36,881	41,128	42,627	44,686

Table 14: Source: Malaysia Educational Statistics: Educational Data Sector- (2016-2018-2019) MOE

The charts above demonstrate the development in per capita income in Malaysia in the 10 years since 2009 to 2019 and, specifically, the rising trend in per capita income which reflects the effective application of economic

policy and improvements in Malaysian living standards as outlined in the 9th Malaysia plan and the new economic model in Table 5. The Malaysian government has made efforts over the past 10 years to eliminate poverty and defines the Poverty Line Income (PLI) based on the World Bank definition of a life-threatening level of living on less than US\$1.9 per day (World Bank, 2020). The distinguishes between relative and absolute poverty: Relative poverty applies to those at the lower end of the wealth range of a population, while absolute poverty is defined by the minimum needs for a suitable standard of living. Human development policies have influenced economic growth and per capita income in Malaysia, and played an important role in the eradication of poverty, in cooperation and coordination with the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) since 2007. A framework has been developed that includes empowering the workforce through specific policies and taking responsibility for evaluating and eradicating poverty in Malaysia (Khoo, 2012).



Source: World Date Atlas – Malaysia Poverty Rate <https://knoema.com/atlas/Malaysia/Poverty-rate-at-national-poverty-line> Retrieved on 19/01/2021

The above chart illustrates poverty levels in Malaysia in 2004–2009, showing the unstable rate of poverty: In 2013 the rate recorded below the minimum line was 0.6%, but this rose in 2015 to reach its highest level of 7.6%, declining in 2019. The Statistics Department of Malaysia reports that the poverty rate improved in the last four years as the government developed economic policies and focused on the needs of the population (Syahirah, 2020).

Indicators of Poverty % rate by state in Malaysia 1979 - 2019

State	1979	1984	1987	1989	1992	1995	1997	1999	2002	2004	2007	2009	2012	2014	2016	2019	The Average rate %
Malaysia	<u>37.4</u>	<u>20.7</u>	<u>19.4</u>	<u>16.5</u>	<u>12.5</u>	<u>8.7</u>	<u>6.1</u>	<u>8.5</u>	<u>6.0</u>	<u>5.7</u>	<u>3.6</u>	<u>3.8</u>	<u>1.7</u>	<u>0.6</u>	<u>7.6</u>	<u>5.6</u>	<u>10.0</u>
Kuala Lumpur	0	4.9	5.2	3.7	1.7	0.5	0.1	0.4	0.5	1.5	1.5	0.7	0.8	0.1	0.1	0.2	1.4
Sabah & Labuan	40.7	33.1	35.3	29.7	27.8	22.6	16.5	23.4	16.0	23.0	16.0	19.2	7.8	3.9	2.8	22.6	21.3
Perlis	63.1	33.7	29.1	17.4	19.8	11.8	10.7	13.6	8.9	6.3	7.0	6.0	1.9	0.2	0.1	0.3	14.4
Terengganu	53.1	28.9	36.1	31.3	25.6	23.4	17.3	22.7	14.9	15.4	6.5	4.0	1.7	0.6	0.4	0.6	17.7
Sembilan	26.3	13.0	21.5	9.1	8.1	4.9	4.7	4.1	2.6	1.4	1.3	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.4	6.2
Kedah	53.8	36.6	31.3	29.9	21.2	12.2	11.5	14.2	9.7	7.0	3.1	5.3	1.7	0.3	0.2	0.8	14.9
Perak	30.5	20.3	19.9	19.2	10.2	9.1	4.5	6.8	6.2	4.9	3.4	3.5	1.5	0.7	0.2	0.7	8.9
Kelantan	55.0	39.2	31.6	29.6	29.5	22.9	19.2	25.2	17.8	10.6	7.2	4.8	2.7	0.9	0.4	12.4	19.3

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Johor	18.2	12.2	11.1	9.8	5.6	3.1	1.6	3.1	2.5	2.0	1.5	1.3	0.9	0	0	0.3	4.6
Melaka	20.4	15.8	11.7	12.4	8.5	5.3	3.5	2.9	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.5	0.1	0.1	0	0.3	5.4
Sarawak	47.8	31.9	24.7	21.0	19.2	10.0	7.3	10.9	11.3	7.5	4.2	5.3	2.4	0.9	0.6	0.9	12.9
Selangor	14.5	8.6	8.9	7.6	4.3	2.2	1.3	1.9	1.1	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.2	0	1.2	3.4
Pinang	19.7	13.4	12.9	8.7	4.0	4.0	1.7	0.7	1.2	0.3	1.4	1.2	0.6	0.3	0.1	1.9	4.5
Pahang	26.9	15.7	12.3	10.0	6.9	6.8	4.4	9.8	9.4	4.0	1.7	2.1	1.3	0.7	0.2	0.4	7.04
The Average rate % in year	<u>33.8</u>	<u>21.9</u>	<u>20.7</u>	<u>17.06</u>	<u>13.66</u>	<u>9.8</u>	<u>7.36</u>	<u>9.88</u>	<u>7.3</u>	<u>6.16</u>	<u>4.06</u>	<u>3.94</u>	<u>1.73</u>	<u>0.66</u>	<u>0.86</u>	<u>3.24</u>	<u>10.0</u>

Table 15: source <https://www.statista.com/> Retrieved on 11/02/2021

Table 15 illustrates the indicators of poverty in the states of Malaysia from 1979 to 2019, showing that poverty levels vary from state to state depending on geography, urbanization, population growth, the availability of natural resources, as well as health and education in each state and economic, commercial, tourism, and environmental factors. The overall poverty rate decreased significantly from 1979 to 2013, from a rate of 37.4% in 1979 (already representing a substantial improvement on the rate of 49.7% recorded in 1970), and the relative rate also continued to decline, reaching 0.6% in 2013, the lowest poverty rate recorded in Malaysia, but rising again to reach 7.60% in 2015, before decreasing to 3.8% in 2019 (Zulkarnain & Isahaque, 2013). This decline over past decades can be attributed to the government constantly devising development plans and policies and launching a series of initiatives to combat poverty, improve living conditions and create new job opportunities, including the New Economic Policy, National Development Policy, National Social Policy, National Child Protection, National Affordable Housing, National Housing Policy and Malaysia Education Policy, as shown in Tables 1–6.

Population growth in Malaysia has become a real challenge in recent years and, therefore, the government has created initiatives to improve living conditions, including the launch of 82,000 projects to improve the standard of living particularly in rural areas at a total cost of over \$42,000. The socio-economic standards of the rural population—such as smallholders, farmers, and fishermen—improved from 1981 to 1985, and 7,000 housing units were built in 2001–2005 in 43 locations across the country to solve housing problems faced, by allocating RM 1.5 billion, as shown in Tables 3 and 5. Statistical analysis of the above data shows the lowest poverty rate was in Kuala Lumpur (0.02% in 2019), compared to an average overall rate in 1979–2019 of 1.4%, and the highest rate—recorded in Sabah and Labuan in 2019—of 22.6%.

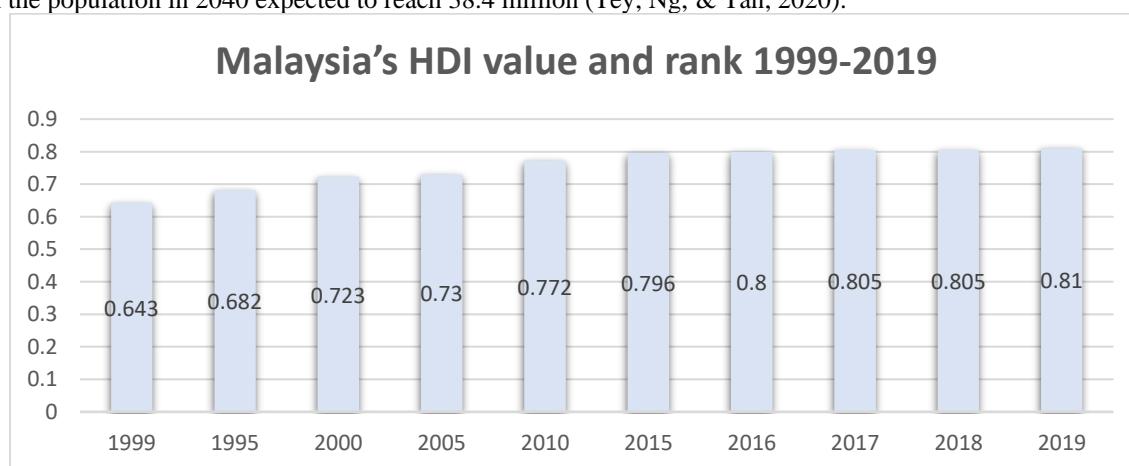
Annual Population Growth Rate by State & Area in Malaysia

State	2009	2012	%Change (+/-)	2018	2020	%Change (+/-)
Malaysia National Growth rate average	<u>4.4</u>	<u>7.2</u>	+ 1.75	<u>9.8</u>	<u>10.05</u>	+1.02
Kuala Lumpur	1.5	14.9	+9.93	22.4	25.2	+2.79
Labuan	8.4	12.0	+1.42	17.3	17.6	+0.30
Perlis	1.5	10.1	+ 6.60	12.0	12.3	+0.30
Terengganu	10.1	9.1	- 1.10	12.7	15.9	+3.20
Sabah	4.5	8.6	+1.91	12.8	13.1	+0.30
Sembilan	3.0	8.6	+ 2.86	8.3	9	+0.70
Kedah	5.1	8.3	+ 1.62	11.4	12.2	+0.80
Perak	4.9	7.8	+ 1.59	9.2	9.5	+0.30
Kelantan	8.4	7.4	- 1.13	12.9	14.2	+1.30
Johor	5.2	6.5	+ 1.25	17.2	20.1	+2.09
Putrajaya	12.1	6.1	- 1.98	18.4	24.9	+6.50
Sarawak	3.3	6.0	+ 1.81	12.8	14.5	+1.66
Selangor	3.3	5.5	+ 1.66	11.0	11.8	+0.80

Pinang	4.8	4.6	- 1.04	9	9.70	+0.70
Pahang	4.5	4.4	- 1.02	8.5	9.1	+0.60
Melaka	10.1	4.3	- 2.34	8.9	9.8	+0.90

Table 16 Source: Department of Statistic in Malaysia <https://www.dosm.gov> Retrieved on 25/02/2021

As the table above shows, Kuala Lumpur registered the highest annual growth rate of any state in Malaysia, of approximately 14.9% in 2012, with Perlis, Perak, Kedah, Terengganu, Kelantan, Sembilan, Sabah, and Labuan showing a national average growth rate of 7.2%. While the growth rates of Kuala Lumpur, Labuan, Perlis, Sabah, Sembilan, Kedah, Perak, Johor, Sarawak, Selangor, Pinang and Pahang all showed an increase from the period 2007–2009, the growth rates of Melaka, Putrajaya, Kelantan and Terengganu declined from 2009–2012. However, in the period 2018–2020, the population in all states has increased and is expected to grow further by 2040; the Malaysian population is estimated to be 37.7 million in 2020, compared to 32.5 million in 2019, with an annual growth rate of 0.4% (Department of Statistics, Malaysia, 2020; UN Human Development Report, 2020). Population growth rates are considered important development indicators for countries. While the population growth rate in Malaysia fluctuates between regions according to the table above, in general, population growth rates in Malaysia have increased significantly from 2009 to 2020, with the overall national population growth rate reaching 10.5% in 2020, a change of 1.02% compared to 2018, when the overall growth rate was 9.8%. Moreover, this increase was reflected positively in most states. The increased rate of population growth is due to several factors, including improvements in the economy, health and society and the Malaysian government’s determination to adopt policies and programs related to human development, improving the quality of community life, and providing new job opportunities. This has been clear since the Malaysian government launched its first governmental strategic plan in 1956, focused on development in all its aspects, and allocated 14.4% of the overall budget to improving social conditions. This interest continued in a sustainable manner as the first human development policy was launched in 1981, in parallel with the 4th Malaysian national plan, and updated in 1996 when the government allocated 29.3% of the budget to the development of social projects in parallel with the 7th Malaysia national plan, as shown in Tables 1–6. The focus on social development and improved living conditions continues, and it is noticeable that the population growth rate in Malaysia is increasing, with the population in 2040 expected to reach 38.4 million (Tey, Ng, & Tan, 2020).



Source: Human Development Report, United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Retrieved on 20/02/2021

Malaysia's records achieved in Human Development global ranking (2010-2019)

Component Measure	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Average
(Health) Life expectancy at birth	74.5	74.7	74.9	75.1	75.3	75.5	75.6	75.8	76.0	76.2	75.36
(Education) Expected of Schooling	13.0	12.9	12.9	13.1	13.3	13.5	13.7	13.9	13.7	13.7	13.37
Gross National Income per Capita	19.88	20.7	21.3	22.0	23.1	27.1	24.8	25.89	26.55	27.8	49.0
	1	77	07	93	13	18	46	7	7	53	
Gender Development Index	0.956	0.96	0.96	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.972	0.970	0.97	1.0
		1	4	0	2	5	3			2	
Employment of population ratio % age 15 and older	58.4	59.7	60.7	62.0	62.4	62.4	62.1	62.0	62.0	62.0	61.37
Homicide rate per 1000.000 people	1.9	1.9	2.1	2.1	0	0	0	0	0	2.1	1.01

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(Trade)Exports & Imports % of GDP	157.9	154.9	147.8	142.7	138.3	131.4	126.9	133.2	130.5	123.1	138.67
(Communication) Internet users total % of population	56.3	61.0	65.8	57.1	63.7	71.1	78.8	80.1	81.2	81.2	69.63
(Environmental)l carbon production emissions per capital (tons)	7.7	7.6	7.4	8.0	8.1	7.7	8.0	7.9	8.1	8.1	7.86
Environment (Employment of agriculture % of total employment)	14.2	11.5	12.7	13.0	12.2	12.5	11.4	11.0	10.7	10.4	11.96
(Socio-economic sustainability) skilled labor force % of total labor force	60.2	60.2	60.2	63.4	65.5	65.1	66.8	0	0	66.8	50.82

Table 17 Source: Human Development Report, United Nations Development Programmer. 2020 (UNDP)

The chart and table above demonstrate Malaysia's human development index and ranking from 1999 to 2019 with the scores increasing over the 10 years, indicating the success of the human resource development policy pursued by the Malaysian government in achieving the goals set. Malaysia has also surpassed many of its neighboring countries in promoting human development policies and meeting UNDP requirements, including the Philippines, Thailand, and other East Asian and Pacific countries with similar geographical, economic, and environmental characteristics. According to the UNDP report, the Philippines has achieved a score of 0.718, Thailand 0.777 and Malaysia 0.810 (UN Human Development Report, 2020). Despite the positive indicators achieved by Malaysia in terms of human resource development, challenges continue to face the Malaysian government, especially with regard to environmental sustainability. This requires improvement plans and programs to be established to reduce carbon emissions and increase reliance on clean energy and alternative energy sources (Izzuddin, 2020). Regarding gender equality, Malaysia wants to make progress on empowering women, particularly in parliament where the percentage of parliamentary seats occupied by women is 15.5% (UN Human Development Report 2020).

A report issued by the United Nations on global competitiveness indicators in 2020 related to development programs across the world found that Malaysia has made remarkable progress in recent years as a result of the Malaysian government's commitment to implementing development policies in all fields. The Malaysian government reviewed the report issued by the United Nations in 2013, focused on identifying weaknesses contained in the report and developing plans and updated 21 policies from 2013 to 2020, the majority of which were concerned with education, economic strategy, infrastructure, sustainable energy, quality of life and healthcare, as shown in Tables 1–6). The statistics related to the UNDP report <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/MYS> and Table 17 show an improvement in some indicators related to the UNDP evaluation criteria. The average life expectancy at birth was 75.36 during 2010–2019, while the average percentage contribution to GDP from exports and imports increased to 138.67 due to the Malaysian government's policies for the development of the economic sector and trade, such as the Globalization Economy Policy, the Developing Microeconomic Plan, and the Fair Trade Practices Policy (FTPP) issued alongside the 8th Malaysia plan 2001–2005 as shown in Table 5. However, the percentage of total employment employed in agriculture declined over the past nine years to 10.4% compared to 14.2% in 2010, as a consequence of people migrating from jobs in the agricultural sector, aspiring to find other jobs in the economic, educational, industrial, and technological sectors. In addition, many rural residents have moved to the economically and commercially developed cities, such as the capital, Kuala Lumpur, or Selangor (Hirshchmann, 2021).

The Health indicators of Malaysia Human Development Ranking Results in 2015-2020

Health Components Index	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Life expectancy at birth (years)	75.3	75.5	75.6	75.8	76.0	76.2
Age-standardized mortality rate attributed to no communicable disease, family	451.7	446.4	446.4	446.4	446.4	446.4
Age-standardized mortality rate attributed to no communicable disease, Male	554.0	551.0	551.0	551.0	551.0	551.0
Child malnutrition, stunting (moderate of server) (% under age 5)	20.7	20.7	20.7	20.7	20.7	20.7
Current health expenditure (% of GDP)	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.9	3.9	3.9
HIV prevalence, adult (% ages 15-49)	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Infants lacking immunization, DTP (% of one-year-old)	1	2	1	1	1	1

Infants lacking immunization, measles (% of one-year-old)	7	7	7	7	4	3
Life expectancy at birth, female (years)	77.7	77.8	78.0	78.2	78.3	78.3
Life expectancy at birth, male (years)	73.5	73.7	73.9	74.1	74.2	74.2
Life expectancy index	0.853	0.856	0.859	0.862	0.864	0.864
Malaria incidence (per 1,000 people at risk)	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Mortality rate , female adult (per 1,000 people)	85	84	83	84	84	84
Mortality rate , infant (per 1,000 births)	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7
Mortality rate , male adult (per 1,000 people)	158	157	155	160	160	160
Mortality rate , under five (per 1,000 live births)	8.0	8.0	7.9	7.8	7.8	7.8
Tuberculosis incidence (per 100,000 people)	90.0	94.0	94.0	94.0	92.0	92.0

Table 18 Source: Human Development Report, United Nations Development Programmer. 2020 (UNDP)

Table 18 shows the health indicators of human development in Malaysia from 2015 to 2020, demonstrating that the government is concerned to focus on human life through several initiatives linked with health policy. Life expectancy at birth increased to 76.2 years; there have been no cases recorded of malaria during the last five years while incidence of tuberculosis has declined from 94.0 in 2017 to 92.0 in 2020 based on the human development report of the UNDP. Male life expectancy is predicted to rise to 76.6 years and female life expectancy to 80 years by 2040. Moreover, the number of doctors recorded in 2020 is 47,756 and the number of nurses has increased over the last ten years by 83,558, a rise of 82.6%. The number of hospitals increased to 64,682 in 2020, following the government's implementation of a health project to build 21 hospitals at a cost of RM 2.6 billion, as mentioned in the 7th Malaysia plan (1996–2000), while total government spending on healthcare from 2010 to 2020 was RM 509.23 billion (Tey, Ng, & Tan, 2020). With regard to the Malaysian government's handling of the COVID19 pandemic and its management of that crisis since the first outbreaks, the government harnessed all available capabilities to provide hospitals and medical equipment as well as the necessary examinations to preserve lives. The health sector has treated critical cases with dedication while the government has taken precautionary and preventive measures to limit the spread of the virus. The Malaysian government has also procured vaccines, with the first shipments of the vaccine arriving on 19th February 2021 and it is expected that the vaccination campaign will start on 24th February 2021, totaling 32 million vaccines, according to the Malaysian Ministry of Health (Kyodo, 2021)

10. Conclusion

In summary, the Malaysian government implemented approximately 72 policies from 1956 to 2020 in a range of fields concerned with development that directly affect the economic, education, and health sectors. The implementation of these policies also helped to strengthen Malaysia's position as regards global competitive indicators related to human development, with Malaysia scoring 0.805 and ranked 61st of 189 countries. The Malaysian government focused significantly on the education sector by implementing policies to enhance quality by developing the skills and knowledge of teaching staff through established technical, vocational education and training programs (TVET).

Moreover, the government built public schools and provided free education for the foundation stage, in addition to providing an education infrastructure to improve results, increasing annual spending on education to RM 206,089 million and building 160,360 schools in 2016–2019. However, challenges remain related to education such as self-teaching and technical education systems, as well as developing an educational infrastructure focused on artificial intelligence and distance learning to help reduce expenses and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the education system. This study has also demonstrated how the Malaysian government seeks to improve the economic situation and enhance GDP through plans and policies related to diversifying the economy, domestic sources, and local industrial and agricultural products that contributed to increase per capita income and national economic growth reaching 4.7% in 2019 and reduced the poverty rate from 7.60% in 2015 to 3.80% in 2019. However, challenges may still face the government due to increasing population growth, expected to reach 38.4 million in 2040. Therefore, the government must focus on sustainable development policies and plans for the future, especially with regard to rural areas, and pay attention to the agricultural sector, particularly as employees in this vital sector have decreased by 4%

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over the past nine years. In view of the bifurcation of these policies and their varying patterns, the Malaysian government could establish a specialist authority for government policies, able to evaluate and ensure their implementation and identify indicators related to policy achievement, in addition to ensuring that all policies are linked to the Malaysian vision and government strategy. Also, the main recommend is measure the policies through identify KPIs which links with Malaysian Vision and its strategic plans. Also, the main recommend specifically, it needs to create risk management policies, given the challenges the country faced in 1990–2020.

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