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# UTAR NEW VILLAGE COMMUNITY PROJECT REPORT

NAME OF NEW VILLAGE:

AIR JERNIH 亞益仁耐

TERENGGANU

**Project carried out by:**

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**ABSTRACT**

Kampung Air Jernih is over 100 years old. It is located in the district of Kemasik in the state of Terengganu. The closest town is Kemaman, which takes half an hour to reach. Its main economic activities are in the rubber plantations and bird's nest industry from which the main sources of income are derived.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Kampung Air Jernih is located in Kemasik, Terengganu. It has over 100 years of history. The nearest town to the village is Kemaman, which is half an hour away. Currently, its total population is around 700 to 800, which includes 300 to 400 villagers still living in the village and the youths who have left. When the village was founded, it had over 6,000 villagers, but over the years the population declined. The village was founded by Hainanese migrants from Hainan, China to Terengganu; therefore, most of the villagers are Hainanese.



*Figure 1: Pintu Gerbang Kampung*

## **ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES**

The main sources of income in Kampung Air Jernih are from the rubber plantation and bird's nest industry. Besides that, they also have some palm oil plantation. Previously they focused their economic activities on rubber plantations, but faced a problem of limited land. Therefore, they decided to develop another economic activity, which is the bird's nest industry. Although they are now running the bird's nest business, rubber plantation activities are still ongoing. There are overall 50 to 60 swiftlet houses, which are collected for sales. The villagers hope to

expand the bird's nest industry. Both the rubber plantation and bird's nest businesses are running smoothly.

As there is are no wet markets or grocery stores in the village, villagers travel to nearby towns for shopping. Previously, most of the villagers planted vegetables for own use or to sell to other villagers. There is no meat or fish supply. Consequently, one of the villagers volunteered to supply meat and fish to the village. Every morning, he goes to another village known as Kampung Kerteh to buy ~~an~~ some quantities of meat and fish and he will then drive around Kampung Air Jernih between 3 pm to 4 pm. Villagers can make a prior booking with him or buy on the spot, which may have the problem of not having any more stocks available on that day.



*Figure 2: Villager who supplies meat and fish to the village*

## **SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS PRACTICES**

Kampung Air Jernih has a population consisting of 90% Hainanese. Main languages spoken are the Hainan dialect and Mandarin. The majority of villagers are the elderly and children. People in the village live a leisurely lifestyle which does not have much entertainment facilities. Mostly, senior citizens spend their time having tea and chit-chatting with friends or playing mahjong in Pertubuhan Kemasek.

Religions practised in this village are Buddhism, Taoism, Islam and Christianity. As there are no temples or churches in the village, they use shop lots

as places of worship. These shop lots are their bases for the practice of different religions. They are planning to build a church in the village and this is currently in progress.

The main festival celebrated is October 15<sup>th</sup> of the lunar calendar. An invitation will be extended to a monk from Thailand and a parade will be held. Some performers from Singapore will also be invited to give a Hainanese performance. Other than that, they also celebrate Chinese New Year. These are the two festivals in which most of the youths come back to the village to celebrate with family members.



*Figure 3: Tian Hou Gong*



*Figure 4: Islamic*



*Figure 5: Persatuan Penganut Agama Buddha*



*Figure 6: Stage for festival performance*

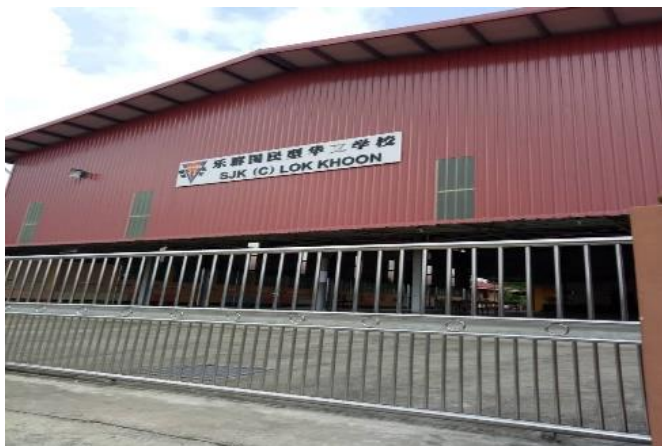
## **EDUCATION**

There are no schools or kindergartens in the village. Therefore, villagers need to travel to the nearest district of Kemaman for their schooling. In Kemaman, there is one Malay primary school, one Chinese primary school and a secondary school. The secondary school is further away compared to the primary school. As for the kindergarten, it is located inside the Chinese primary school in Kemaman. The Malay primary school is known as Sekolah Kebangsaan Ayer Jerneh. The Chinese primary school is SJK(C) Lok Khoon. The kindergarten is known as Tadika Lok Khoon.

The annual enrolment of students in SJK(C) Lok Khoon is 48. It is considered a miniature Chinese primary school. The total number of teachers in the school including the headmaster is only 11.



*Figure 7: Sekolah Kebangsaan Ayer Jerneh*



*Figure 8: SJK(C) Lok Khoon*



Figure 9: Tadika Lok Khoon

## **INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES**

Medical facilities in the village consist of a government clinic, Klinik Desa Air Jernih which is mainly for pregnant ladies doing follow-up checks. For other medical consultation, the villagers need to travel to a hospital in Kemasik, which is 8 km away.

The police station and playground are other facilities near the village. The police station, which has approximately ten police officers, is facing a problem of lack of staff. There used to be a fire station near the village, but it closed down due to a lack of young people becoming firefighters. The fire station was operating in a shop lot, which has now been turned into a government voting station.

The security in Kampung Air Jernih needs improvement due to the presence of drug addicts in the village. This is a serious situation which affects villagers' safety, especially the children, as there have been robbery cases caused by the addicts.



The drainage system in the village is poor because there is not enough space to build a bigger drain. However, it does not have the problem of floods due to the village being located on higher ground.

Garbage collection in Kampung Ayer Jernih is adequate. A rubbish truck collects the rubbish from every household each day.



*Figure 10: Klinik Desa Air Jernih*



*Figure 11: Balai Polis Ayer Jernih*



Figure 12: Persatuan Hainan Kemasek



Figure 13: Taman Rekreasi Ayer Jerneh



Figure 14: Previous fire station is now a Voting Station

## **PROBLEMS**

Kampung Air Jernih does not have any fire station, which is a worrying situation for the villagers. The number of police officers in the village is also very low, and although there is no major crime, safety should not be taken for granted. The village has a hidden danger in drug addicts. Lastly, it lacks public transport, which causes inconvenience to the villagers who cannot afford their own transportation. This has affected their daily lives.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Although there are not enough young villagers to maintain the fire station, which used to be in the village, a place to store all necessary tools and accessories for avoiding fire disaster is advisable. The villagers can form a volunteer group and take turns to be on duty every day to standby for accidents or other emergency situations.

In order to solve the problem of shortage of police officers, the villagers can apply to the government to transfer more officers from other places. Furthermore, an increase in the number of police officers may also address and solve the issue of drug addicts, as the police will be able to patrol the area to prevent any untoward incidents.

Lastly, to solve the problem of lack of public transport, the villagers can apply for public buses from the government. Moreover, they can also organise car pools or try the e-hailing system, such as grab car. This way, they can also have another source of income.

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