**Institute of Ethnic Studies (KITA), National University of Malaysia (UKM) together with COMMACT Malaysia hosted a Sharing Research Findings on Poverty, Inequality & Human Rights in Malaysia on June 13, 2019 at KITA-UKM**

This discussion was hosted among researchers working on poverty related researchers many of whom have made a submission to the Special Rapporteur. In the discussion that followed a number of findings

**1 Measurement of Poverty**

The level of analysis must not be household but individual person using individual deprivation index. A focus on the head of the household which is usually male might not capture issues based on gender or age and different concerns based on these variables will provide different analysis. There was also mention of different PLI depending on the geographically location

**2 Multi-dimensional poverty indicator (MPI)**

It was felt that MPI (multidimensional) was a far better measurement tool. However it is still at the conceptual level while listed in the Eleventh Malaysia Plan and in the Midterm review. No analysis or review has been published by the government. It is not active at an operational level. While there is a shift from income alone to also include health, education and living conditions in reality the monitoring is not taking place at the delivery level.

While the 17 SDG goals are adopted the real issues is the localisation of SDGs at the local government and in Malaysia at the district level is not yet a reality.

Researchers are not using MPI for their research work. However two research projects have explored MPI in its analysis and therefore worth reviewing. More work needs to be done on MPI which is a better indicator of deprivation and inequality in the context of quality of life indicators.

**3 Database on poverty**

The current data based called Ekasih (using PLI income levels) as a central directory and database is not a very effective system and has some confusion with the BRIM data base (using higher income criteria). Some have felt that this system keeps out the real poor as lots of non-poor are in the current data base.

**4 Concept of vulnerability**

A clear defining of vulnerable sections in society such as mentally ill people, disabled people. Also earlier poverty groups like fishermen, indigenous people etc. Also mentioned were the 10 poorest district based geographical locations.

**5 Review of poverty eradiation projects**

Agropolitan project – Mr Mohd Khairi Ismail (Post graduate student UKM) writes about this and his paper will be helpful

Social entrepreneurship model context of Orang Alsi community - Dr Doris write about this and so we need her presentation

Asset based community development - Dr Doris write about this and so we need her presentation

Poverty, health & mal nutrition - Dr Sharifa Ezat (Medical faculty, UKM) highlighted and her paper will be helpful

Mental health concerns - Ms Lim Su Lin (Penang Institute) - highlighted and her paper will be helpful

Presentations made by:-

1. Prof Datuk Dr Denison Jayasooria (KITA-UKM)
2. Prof Datuk Yusof Kassim (COMMACT MALAYSIA)
3. Prof Dr Chamhuri Siwar (LESTARI-UKM
4. Mr Mohd Khairi Ismail (Post graduate student UKM)
5. Dr Rosfidah Ghazali (LESTARI-UKM)
6. Dr Doris P Selvaratnam (Faculty of Social science, UKM)
7. Dr Sharifa Ezat (Medical faculty, UKM)
8. Ms Lim Su Lin (Penang Institute)
9. Mr Tan Zhai Gen (Khazanah Research Institute)
10. Mr Fairul R Abdullah (Post graduate student, UKM)
11. Mr Shukri Noor (Commact Malaysia & UKM)
12. Ms Nordiana Mohd Idris (UKM)

Sharing Research Finding on

POVERTY, INEQUALITY

& HUMAN RIGHTS IN MALAYSIA

Date: June 13, 2019 (Thursday)

Time: 2.30pm to 4.30 pm

Venue: Institute of Ethnic Studies (KITA-UKM),

4th floor, Kolej Keris Mas UKM, Bangi

Inviting academics, researchers and activists to share research findings and grassroots experiences on poverty & inequality in Malaysian society. Brief submissions of published workers or research in process undertaken in the past three years. Each research presentation is given about 10 minutes to provide a brief introduction to their methodology, target group, research findings and policy recommendations.

In this reflections you could share the nature of poverty & inequality in Malaysia, who are these poor (giving a face to poverty & inequality), your comment on the measurement of poverty- should be just income or multi-dimensional, the major challenges facing the poor and how effective are the government programs in addressing poverty and inequality in Malaysian society

This conversation together is being organised by Datuk Yusof Kassim (COMMACT Malaysia) and Prof Datuk Dr Denison Jayasooria (KITA-UKM) to prepare a submission to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, Prof Philip Alston, who will be conducting an official country visit to Malaysia from 12 to 22 August 2019 at the invitation of the government. We are also exploring publishing some of the presentations also as input to the 12th Malaysia Plan process on enhancing the Shared Prosperity Agenda 2030

For details on the visit to Malaysia please read:- :https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Poverty/Pages/VisitMalaysia.aspx

We also encourage all of you to submit directly your views and comments to the Special Rapporteur Email: srextremepoverty@ohchr.org their dateline is June 14, 2019

Please confirm participation with prof Jayasooria by email: denisonkitaukm@gmail.com or whatsapp +6019 381 0914. Hope u can join us. Please registered before June 12, 2019 with an abstract and a brief cv.