



**HOME RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION  
WORKING PAPERS  
Number 78**

**A study of two different communities: exploring the external factors influencing the happiness of inhabitants among the indigenous group, “Orang Asli” and the residents of Morten Village in Peninsular Malaysia  
Farah Shahrin, Zerafinas Abu Hassan**

Paper delivered at Home Renaissance Foundation V International Conference: "Happy Homes, Happy Society? The contribution of domestic life in a time of social changes", Online due to Covid19 measures, 12-13 November 2020

**A study of two different communities: exploring the external factors influencing the happiness of inhabitants among the indigenous group, "Orang Asli" and the residents of Morten Village in Peninsular Malaysia**

**Farah Shahrin, Zefarinas Abu Hassan**

**Abstract**

*This paper focuses on the impact of construction activities and urbanisation towards the sustainability of communities and how these activities have impact on their happiness at home. Specifically, the impact of construction activities and the urbanisation have created an impact on the culture and community identities including the character of the place. The case studies selected are in Peninsular Malaysia. Firstly, the residents of the cultural city called "Morten Village" and the indigenous group community called "Orang Asli". Both case studies require different perspectives and approaches to preserve cultural sustainability due to diversification of needs for the communities. Adequate attention should be given to reconsider the impact of construction activities and the urbanisation to the residents due to the issues rising that are related to biophysical consideration and the impacts of the construction industry that are prevalent to developing countries (Du Plessis, 2002). This exploratory interdisciplinary study explores the factors influencing the happiness of the two communities. The first study involved the residents who are living in a culture-based tourism (CBT) area and the second communities are the indigenous group, "Orang Asli" who are living in very remote places and in the forest. This study is part of a larger effort, aimed to explore the factors affecting the happiness of their home for the two communities. The findings were gathered through interviews and questionnaires and analysed using thematic analysis. The findings suggested that external factors are one of the main influences affecting the happiness of their home. The first group of residents who are living in the CBT area are exposed to the threat of higher living costs, lack of privacy and loss of the community sense of living. Whereas the second group of indigenous communities are exposed to the threats of development which forces them to relocate to get better sources of food while maintaining their daily routine and culture.*