

**PLANNING
SUSTAINABLE CITIES
IN MALAYSIA**

Issues and Challenges



MARIANA MOHAMED OSMAN
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INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA

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AN OVERVIEW OF GIS BASED ANALYSIS IN SCHOOL SITING IN MALAYSIA

Alias Abdullah, M.Zainora Asmawi and Md Farabi Yussof Md Yussoff

INTRODUCTION

In Malaysia, public facilities are planned, implemented and provided by various agencies. There are various types of public facilities such as education facilities, health facilities, religious related facilities and many more. The practice of public facilities planning normally applies a planning standard, such as how many hectares of school are required for a certain number of people in a district. But planning standards only specify the area required and seldom specify where the public facility should be located. A tool or technique is needed to find the best sites for those facilities. The application of scientific tool or technique has been limited due to the availability of data, however this has changed with the existence of geo-spatial data in many states or districts.

The planning for a public school is very important to ensure that educational level achieves the National Education Policy target. In order to achieve that, school location must be well planned through systematically and scientific approach. New school have been planned by the Ministry of Education (MOE) at the state level and local wings based on Malaysia Five Year Plan. At the same time, school also has been planned via Local Plan by local authorities and Federal Department of Town and Country Planning (FDTCP) in terms of the unit and general location. The needs for the new school have been studied based on existing facilities and population and been planned based on the population projection.

Poor school planning has created a lot of issues among the community. Lots of education facilities such as school have been built on the inappropriate site such as hilly area, poor accessibility and not supported by other supporting facilities. Consequently, this has contributed to the improper spending of government money.

The present system of school planning is inefficient because it has neglected the spatial factor which is very important component in educational planning. Poorly planned schools will lead to obsolescence and chaos to community (Aziz, 2004). Despite the importance of school planning, not much information are available that deals with spatially-based school planning as a complete process. Most of them are written by planners from developed countries which have been found unsuitable for developing countries such as Malaysia because of the differences in policy and focus. Therefore there is an urgent need to develop a technique for school planning that suits the local setting and condition.