

**ANALYSIS OF DOMESTIC WATER CONSUMPTION
IN MALAYSIA**

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requirements for the award of the degree of
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ABSTRACT

Knowledge about water consumption is very important for water resources development, management and planning at both short-and long-term scales as well as sustainable development of a country. As water demand depends on various factors, it is very important to identify those factors and to know the influence of those factors in water consumption in order to better manage the water resources. The objective of the present research is to assess the trend of water consumption per capita in different states in Malaysia over the time period of 1991-2010, where it is found that all states have significantly increase their water consumption per capita with highest magnitude of increment +7 litres per capita per year for Negeri Sembilan. Other objective is to measure the influence of various factors on domestic water consumption in different states of Malaysia. As economic and climate variables have significant effects on water consumption, data of domestic water use, water price, per capita GDP and averaged annual rainfall of different states of Malaysia over the time period 1991-2010 are analysed in this project by using various statistical methods such as partial correlation and multiple-regression in order to measure the influence of different factors on domestic water consumption. It is found that the most influential factor on water consumption in Malaysia is GDP. In Johor, water price and rainfall are found to be the influence factors, while in Terengganu water price found to be the significant influential factor. Sensitivity analysis is also carried out to understand how variation of these factors changes water consumptions. Both statistical methods; multi-linear regression and artificial neural network can examine the extend of linear and non-linear relationship between the variables that have impact on water consumption level and predict accurately with reasonable amount of error.

ABSTRAK

Pengetahuan mengenai penggunaan air adalah sangat penting dalam pembangunan sumber air, pengurusan, perancangan jangka pendek dan jangka panjang dan juga terhadap kelestarian pembangunan sesebuah negara secara keseluruhannya. Memandangkan permintaan air bergantung kepada pelbagai faktor, adalah sangat penting untuk kita mengenalpasti faktor-faktor ini dan pengaruhnya ke atas permintaan air supaya sumber air dapat diuruskan dengan lebih baik. Objektif kajian ini ialah untuk mengetahui trend penggunaan air di negeri-negeri di Malaysia sepanjang tempoh 1991-2010 di mana didapati bahawa kesemua negeri menunjukkan trend menaik dengan magnitud terbesar ialah +7 liter per kapita per tahun untuk Negeri Sembilan. Objektif lain ialah untuk mengkaji pengaruh ekonomi dan iklim ke atas penggunaan air domestik. Sehubungan dengan itu, data-data penggunaan air domestik, tarif air, GDP per kapita dan purata hujan tahunan untuk negeri-negeri di Malaysia dari tahun 1991 hingga 2010 dianalisa menggunakan pelbagai kaedah statistik seperti kaedah separa-kolerasi dan regresi-berbilang bagi mengukur pengaruh faktor-faktor ini terhadap penggunaan air di negeri-negeri di Malaysia. Didapati faktor yang paling berpengaruh ke atas penggunaan air di Malaysia ialah GDP. Di Johor, kadar harga air dan hujan adalah berpengaruh sementara di Terengganu didapati kadar harga air adalah berpengaruh. Analisis sensitif juga dibuat supaya sebarang perubahan kepada faktor berpengaruh ini dapat difahami kesannya terdapat permintaan air. Kedua-dua kaedah statistik iaitu regresi-berbilang dan artificial neural network didapati berupaya memberi hubungan linear dan tidak linear di antara pembolehubah yang memberi impak kepada kadar penggunaan air. Kaedah-kaedah tersebut juga dapat meramal dengan agak tepat penggunaan air domestik per kapita di masa depan dengan kadar ralat yang munasabah.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATION / SYMBOLS

DWC	-	Domestic Water Consumption per capita per day
GDP	-	Gross Domestic Product
LPD	-	Litre per capita per day
RF	-	Rainfall
WP	-	Water Price

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Providing water is never free; the water needs to be collected, stored, treated and distributed. Providing too much water is a waste of money. Taking too much water from a limited source may deprive people elsewhere of water and have adverse environmental and health impacts.

In 1970s, a person in Malaysia use only less than 200 litres of water per day, then the amount increase to 250 litres in 1980s and now more than 300 litres (Chan,2004). As comparison, water use recommended by United Nation for Malaysia is only 200 litres.

With the growth of population, economic development, rapid urbanization and climate change, countries of the world is facing to a condition of water scarcity. Malaysia is blessed with abundant of rainfall that contributed to abundant of water resources, but inefficient management and abuse of water usage have resulted in water crisis that caused hardships.

In 1997 prolonged dry-spelled reduced water supply and compelled people to adopt water demand management. For sustainable management of water resources, countries of the world is bit by bit shifting from supply based water management to demand based water management. Policy of Malaysian government is also to achieve sustainability of water resources.

For efficient and sustainable management of water resources, it is very essential to understand the pattern of water consumption. Usually, water consumption pattern depends on certain socio-economic and climatic factors. Numerous studies have been carried out so far in various parts of the world to understand how different factors influences water consumption. However, only a few research has been done on estimation of water demand in Malaysia.

Rapid urbanization, industrialisation, growth of population and irrigated agricultural causing growing demands and pressure on water resources. In region of high demand such as Klang Valley, the practicable limit of surface water resources development has been reached. In cities, current approach is supply-driven; where when there is shortage, new sources are developed. However, this traditional approach is no longer sustainable because of the ever-increasing demand of water. The appropriate approach would be water demand management that emphasize on water conservation measure.

Therefore, in the context of environmental change it is necessary to know the trend of domestic water consumption per capita, the significant factors contributing the increment of consumption rate and quantitative impacts of these factors on water consumption in different states of Malaysia.

1.2 Problem Statement

- i. What are the factors affecting domestic water consumption and the measure of the influence of these factors?
- ii. How is GDP related to domestic water consumption? Do highly urbanized and industrialized states (with high GDP rate) consume more water in their household compared to states with lower GDP?
- iii. Do climatic factors like rainfall have less influence compared to economic factors like water price and GDP?

1.3 Objectives

The major objective of the proposed research is to use various statistical methods to identify the trends in water consumptions and the factors contributing to consumptions in different states in Malaysia. The detail objectives are:

- i. to assess the trend of water consumption per capita in different states in Malaysia over the time period (1991-2010)
- ii. to assess the significance of various economic and climatic factors on domestic water consumption in different states of Malaysia
- iii. to estimate the sensitivity of domestic water consumption to various economic and climatic factors in different states of Malaysia
- iv. to use Artificial Neural Network (ANN) for forecasting water consumption from economic and climatic factors.

1.4 Scope of Study

- i. This study covers data from year 1991-2010.
- ii. Area of study includes all states in Malaysia except Federal Territory of Labuan
- iii. Data used for this study are domestic water consumption per capita, GDP per capita, domestic water price and averaged annual rainfall.
- iv. Data were acquired from the publication by the Government agencies which are Malaysian Water Association, Department of Irrigation and Drainage, Department of Statistic and Economic Planning Unit.
- v. Research only focus on domestic water consumption since 86.7% (year 2010) of the water supply use goes to domestic sector.

1.5 Significant of the Study

It is expected that the study will help to understand possible change of water consumption in Malaysia due to economic development, water pricing and climate change.

It is also expected that this study would enable the industry to know with reasonable confidence how changes in water prices would affect the quantity of water customers would use and probably from there we might know whether or not prices changed would affect customers' behaviour toward usage of water.

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