# INTEGRATED SUSTAINABLE HOUSEHOLD SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT USING SOLID WASTE MINIMISATION APPROACH IN SHAH ALAM, SELANGOR

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This dissertation is dedicated to my beloved Abah "Almarhum Haji Ali Bin Bakar" who died on 30 September 2014, for all the encouragement, support and prayer he gave me during my studies. He was such a wonderful dad and will always be a great dad for my entire life. "Al-Fatihah"
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### ABSTRACT

Good solid waste management has emerged as a vital element in creating cities that offer a healthy and comfortable environment for living. Municipal solid waste poses an environmental problem particularly in cities that have experienced rapid growth. Solid waste minimisation is a way of reducing the amount of solid waste generated by households. This study investigates solid waste minimisation practice among urban households in Shah Alam, Selangor and provides insight on the roles of various stakeholders involved in waste management. The study also examines the influence of households socio-demographic characteristics on psychological factors, knowledge and behaviour affecting solid waste minimisation and the quantity and composition of solid waste generated monthly per household. The study employed both inferential and descriptive analyses. Findings revealed that knowledge on solid waste minimisation has statistically significant associations with 5 socio-demographic characteristics, namely age [F(4, 295) = 2.36, p = 0.05];race [F(2, 297) = 2.84, p = 0.05]; marital status [F(2, 297) = 2.83, p = 0.05]; monthly income [F(3, 296) = 2.86, p = 0.037] and home ownership [F(2, 297) = 5.01, p = 5.01]0.007]. Results also showed that behaviour towards waste minimisation is significantly associated with marital status [F(2, 297) = 3.51, p = 0.031], gender [F =7.328, p = 0.00] and home ownership [F(2, 295) = 7.57, p = 0.001]. In terms of solid waste generation, the results showed that 0.46 kg of waste generated per capita per day with a composition of 45.51% recyclable materials, 33.98% food and 20.51% non-recyclable materials. The study found that the various stakeholders (waste contractor, household, junkshop, local authority, Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), Community Based Organisations (CBOs), educational institution, scavenger) act independently and there was no proper coordination existed among them in solid waste management. Therefore, local authorities should work on the collaboration with other stakeholders in providing systematic education to enhance solid waste minimisation. Based on the results of the study, a conceptual framework of Integrated Sustainable Household Solid Waste Management (ISHWM) was developed taking into account the current regulations.

### ABSTRAK

Pengurusan sisa pepejal yang baik telah muncul sebagai salah satu unsur penting dalam penciptaan bandar-bandar yang sihat dan persekitaran yang selesa untuk didiami. Sisa pepejal perbandaran merupakan punca kepada masalah alam sekitar terutamanya di bandar-bandar yang telah mengalami pertumbuhan yang pesat. Peminimuman sisa pepejal adalah satu cara untuk mengurangkan jumlah sisa pepejal yang dijana oleh isi rumah. Kajian ini mengkaji amalan peminimuman sisa pepejal dalam kalangan isi rumah bandar di Shah Alam, Selangor dan menyarankan pandangan mengenai peranan pelbagai pihak berkepentingan yang terlibat dalam pengurusan sisa pepejal. Kajian ini juga meneliti pengaruh ciri-ciri sosiodemografi isi rumah ke atas faktor psikologi, pengetahuan, dan tingkah laku yang melibatkan pengurangan sisa pepejal serta kuantiti dan komposisi bulanan sisa pepejal yang dihasilkan setiap isi rumah. Kajian ini menggunakan kedua-dua teknik inferens dan deskriptif dalam penganalisisan data. Hasil kajian menunjukkan bahawa pengetahuan tentang peminimuman sisa pepejal mempunyai hubung kait statistik yang signifikan dengan 5 ciri sosiodemografi, khususnya umur [F(4, 295) = 2.36, p]= 0.05]; kaum [F(2, 297) = 2.84, p = 0.05]; status perkahwinan [F(2, 297) = 2.83, p = 0.05]; 0.05]; pendapatan bulanan [F(3, 296) = 2.86, p = 0.037] dan pemilikan rumah [F(2, 296) = 2.86, p = 0.037]297) = 5.01, p = 0.007]. Keputusan kajian juga menunjukkan bahawa tingkah laku terhadap peminimuman sisa mempunyai hubung kait yang signifikan dengan status perkahwinan [F(2, 297) = 3.51, p = 0.031], jantina [F = 7.328, p = 0.00] dan pemilikan rumah [F(2, 295) = 7.57, p = 0.001]. Dari segi penjanaan sisa pepejal, keputusan kajian menunjukkan bahawa 0.46 kg sisa dijanakan per kapita sehari dengan komposisi 45.51% bahan boleh kitar semula, 33.98% makanan dan 20.51% bahan tidak boleh dikitar semula. Kajian mendapati bahawa pelbagai pihak berkepentingan (kontraktor sisa pepejal, isi rumah, kedai barangan terpakai, pihak berkuasa tempatan, Badan Bukan Kerajaan (NGO), Organisasi Berasaskan Komuniti (CBO), institusi pendidikan, pengaut sisa pepejal) bertindak secara bebas dan tidak ada penyelarasan yang betul wujud dalam kalangan mereka dalam pengurusan sisa pepejal. Oleh itu, pihak berkuasa tempatan perlu bekerjasama dengan pihak-pihak berkepentingan lain untuk menyediakan pendidikan secara sistematik bagi mencapai peningkatan dalam peminimuman sisa pepejal. Berdasarkan hasil kajian, satu rangka kerja konsep Pengurusan Mapan Bersepadu Sisa Pepejal Isi Rumah (ISHWM) telah dibangunkan dengan mengambil kira peraturan semasa.

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ABC	-	Action Plan for a Beautiful and Clean Malaysia
ANOVA	-	Analysis of Variance
BMA	-	Bangkok Metropolitan Administration
CBOs	-	Community-based Organisations
СРН	-	Census of Population and Housing
CPU	-	Central Processing Unit
EPA	-	Environmental Protection Agency
GHG	-	Greenhouse Gas
GOM	-	Government of Malaysia
GW	-	Gigawatt
HHW	-	Hazardous House Waste
IMWM	-	Integrated Municipal Waste Management
ISHWM	-	Integrated Sustainable Household Solid Waste
		Management
ISWM	-	Integrated Sustainable Solid Waste Management
JCPRA	-	Japanese Container and Package Recycling
		Association
JKP	-	Residents Committee
JMB	-	Building Management Committee
KPIs	-	Key Performance Indicators
LA	-	Local Authority
MBSA	-	Majlis Bandaraya Shah Alam
MHLG	-	Ministry of Housing and Local Government
MPP	-	Majlis Perwakilan Penduduk
MRF	-	Materials Recovery Facilities
MSW	-	Municipal Solid Waste

MUHLG	-	Ministry of Urban Well Being Housing and Local
		Government
MW	-	Megawatts
MWM	-	Master Plan on National Waste Minimisation
MWC	-	Municipal Waste Combusters
NGOs	-	Non-governmental Organisations
NSP	-	National Strategic Plan
OPP	-	Third Outline Perspective Plan
PBC	-	Perceived Behavioral Control
PCD	-	Public Cleansing Department
PET	-	Polyethylene Terephthalate
RMK8	-	Rancangan Malaysia Ke-8
RMK9	-	Rancangan Malaysia Ke-9
RMK10	-	Rancangan Malaysia Ke-10
RMK11	-	Rancangan Malaysia Ke-11
RRC	-	Resident Representative Council
SOP	-	Standard Operating Procedures
SATS	-	Shah Alam Transfer Station
SPSS	-	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
SWM	-	Solid Waste Management
TPB	-	Theory of Planned Behavior
TRA	-	Theory of Reasoned Action
UMEP	-	Urban Waste Expertise Program
UNDP	-	United Nations Development Programme
UN-Habitat	-	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
US	-	United States
UWEP	-	Urban Waste Expertise Program
3Rs	-	Reduce, Reuse and Recycling

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### **CHAPTER 1**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

#### 1.1 Introduction

Urbanisation is a phenomenon caused by population increase that provides employment and economic opportunities to countries; nonetheless environmental, social and economic problems are also associated with the process. Solid waste management (SWM) is one of the major issues related to the existence of urban areas where large numbers of people congregate in a compact area in pursuit of livelihoods (Ahmed and Ali, 2004). The increase in development, population densities, and per capita waste generation in urbanised areas resulted to decrease in land available for waste disposal and the cost of establishing new landfill sites extremely high. Urban households generated more than twice as much solid waste as compared to rural residents (EASUR, 1999). Currently, municipal solid waste minimisation has many problems in developing countries, some developed countries struggled to manage the process, yet others are still finding it problematic.

Wastes are materials that are rejected or considered undesirable arising from human and animal activities. Waste can be categorised as solid or liquid. Solid waste is anything solid that is not used; such materials can be classified in terms of organic, paper, glass, plastics, metal, clothing/textiles, aluminium, rubber and others. Liquid waste is anything containing water that is unused (UNICEF, 2006). It also consists of hazardous and non-hazardous waste. In Malaysia the housing sector generates more solid waste (Saeed *et al.*, 2009) than the commercial, industrial, municipal, agriculture, and institutional sectors. Therefore, solid waste management should be treated effectively, as failure to do so could have a disastrous effect on the environment and public health. Thus, the emergence of solid waste minimisation as a sector is particularly important for keeping cities healthy and comfortable and liveable places.

Many countries have major problems regarding the management of solid waste. Currently, in Asia, the waste generation rate is approximately 760,000 tons per day, and it is estimated that this will increase to about 1.8 million tons per day by 2025. Local governments in urban areas currently spend about US\$25 billion on SWM per year and this is expected to increase to at least US\$50 billion in 2025 (EASUR, 1999). This is only a conservative estimate of the expenditure; the true cost may be higher. Therefore, the government or local authorities should deal with waste quickly, efficiently, and progressively. If no action is taken to reduce the amount of solid waste, it will lead to other sanitary and health problems.

In recent years, SWM has attracted worldwide attention as waste generation has had increasing impacts on environmental and health services and waste management issues that are important for the sustainable development of a city. Thus, a SWM system should include elements to deal with waste generation, waste storage, waste collection, waste transfer and transportation, waste processing, and waste disposal in urban or development areas. This is because the health implications of poor SWM system can be destructive to the people exposed to unsanitary conditions and can be the cause of several diseases. Diseases such as cholera, typhoid, dysentery, and malaria are all related to poor waste management practices.

Minimisation of solid waste is one way of reducing waste generation. Waste minimisation is the process of reducing the amount of waste produced by a person, household or society. The waste minimisation hierarchy is fundamental to any waste minimisation methodology. There are several definitions of waste minimisation hierarchy. Waste minimisation hierarchy should have elements of reduction, reuse, recycling, treatment, and disposal. Each country attempts to minimise the amount of waste going to landfill because of environmental, health, and cost issues and limited land availability. Most developed countries have succeeded in using this method to

reduce waste. Developing countries are also in the process of adopting this measure. Therefore, this thesis focuses on urban household solid waste minimisation using the empirical case of the fastest growing city in Klang Valley, Shah Alam, in the state of Selangor, Malaysia.

### **1.2** Background of the Study

Many local authorities in developing countries recognise the difficulty in managing solid waste minimisation. However, rapid population growth coupled with the development of the city has made it difficult for them to manage waste minimisation (JICA, 1997; Choguill, 1996). The efforts of local authorities are habitually focused on solid waste pollution and improve health, but tend to overlook the elements of resource conservation and protection of the environment. Furthermore, solid waste minimisation, especially in infrastructures and treatment/processing, is a major problem facing developing countries. Solid waste minimisation in cities requires efficient management to reduce further the risks to the environment and to human health in order to make it more sustainable. In developing countries, the issues and risks related to SWM are more alarming than in developed countries (Zerbock, 2003). Some efforts have been made to address the problem of solid waste minimisation in several cities in developing countries, but most of these are at the early stage.

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the scenario of modern SWM, such as waste minimisation, services delivery systems, and public awareness, presents challenges for both environmental and urban planners (Yahaya, 2007). One of Malaysias targets for 'Vision 2020' is to enhance environmental protection from pollution and develop an integrated system of SWM. However, the Malaysian government has major challenges to achieve Vision 2020 in SWM. In 1998, Malaysia generated about 5.5 million tons of solid waste, a quarter of which was generated in Klang Valley, the most affluent area in Malaysia. Some urban areas in the country have already generated municipal solid waste levels as high as 1.44 kg per person per day (MHLG, 2012). This rate is expected to increase significantly as the Malaysian

economy grows in 2020; as such the Malaysian government needs to spend more towards achieving sustainable solid waste minimisation.

The main problem for local authorities across the world is related to the management of these wastes. Rapid population growth, increasing urbanisation, changing lifestyles, and improved economic conditions have increased the rate of both waste generation and composition. Along with these conditions, improving existing SWM systems, further outlines for waste management policies and strategies, and increasing public awareness exerts more pressure on the limited resources for all stakeholders in waste management (Mensah, 2006). The minimisation of household solid waste through recycling and treatment has been one of the most problematic and demanding environmental solutions in Malaysia. To recognise the potential of waste minimisation, the government of Malaysia needs to consider suitable options for policies, strategies, laws, regulations, frameworks, models, and programs with regard to financial-economic constraints, the existing situation, laws, facilities, and regulations, as well as institutional, environmental, socio-cultural, and technical issues.

Legally, SWM is an issue for the national government while the main agencies implementing waste management are the local authorities. Related agencies include the Departments of Environment, Town and Country Planning, Engineering, Urban Services, and Parks and Recreations. The Local Government Department in the Ministry of Housing and Local Government (MHLG) provides policy and technical guidance to local authorities. There are only a few Acts concerning SWM, specifically, the Local Government Act, 1976; Environmental Quality Act, 1974; Streets, Drainage, and Building Act, 1974; and Town and Country Planning Act, 1976. The National Strategic Plan for Solid Waste Management (NSP) was launched in 2005 while the Master Plan on National Waste Minimisation (MWM) and the National Solid Waste Management Policy was introduced in 2006. However, these plans failed to enhance and improve the existing SWM. Up to date, there is no comprehensive legislation on SWM in Malaysia.

Essentially, Malaysians are more focused on services for SWM, such as waste collection and waste transfer stations and lack awareness on solid waste minimisation. Though, this is caused by lack of infrastructure, inefficient institutional setup, and lack of initiative on solid waste minimisation activities by the government. To reduce the burden and improve management by the local government, the privatisation process was initiated in 1996 with the aim of achieving an integrated management system to improve environmental and health quality through recycling (3Rs) and solid waste minimisation of resources. The objective of waste minimisation is to achieve a national solid waste hierarchy towards 2020. The aim of the Malaysian solid waste hierarchy is to shrink the nation's solid waste generation through reduction, reuse, recycling, treatment, and disposal strategies. Many stakeholders are involved in the Malaysian waste minimisation strategy. They include the Ministry of Well Being, Housing, and Local Government (formally known as MHLG), National Solid Waste Management Department, Solid Waste and Public Cleansing Management Corporation, local authorities, concessionary companies, collectors and manufacturers, non-governmental organisations, private resident associations, education institutions, private household waste recycling, and scavengers. The important issue in solid waste minimisation is how to organise all the stakeholders to acquire the best results in each element of the SWM system. The most common economic benefits derived from solid waste minimisation are cost avoidance, recycling revenue, reduced raw material costs, reduced energy costs, increased sales, and increased productivity (Matthew, 2009).

MHLG (2009) official survey reported that people achieved scores of 100% regarding knowledge, attitudes, and behaviour on solid waste minimisation yet, the 3Rs are rarely practised. Malaysia launched the first official 3Rs strategies in 1988 with the Action Plan for a Beautiful and Clean Malaysia (ABC) with campaigns aimed to increase recycling activities but their percentage output on solid waste minimisation is very minimal. As noted previously, many factors contributed towards the failure of solid waste minimisation in Malaysia. The main factors include the country's lack of an efficient institutional framework, the lack of regulation, such as policies and strategies to promote the 3Rs, and the lack of infrastructure to encourage the use of recycling. A study by Rousta (2008) noted

that there is a need for such a system to be implemented within a society, training be given to show people how to separate their wastes, selection of the best technology for the treatment of wastes, and the control of environmental impact of waste. However, achieving this requires a complicated system.

Identifying the most important factor among these depends on how local governments improve their waste minimisation by learning from the success of other local governments and in-depth studies. The major focus is to gain an insight into the policies and strategies on waste minimisation. Another focus is household knowledge, attitudes, and behaviours regarding the service delivery system of solid waste minimisation and for stakeholders to be involved at the household level. Thus, the institutions concerned with SWM in Malaysia should develop an initiative to solve the problem and improve the strategies to achieve sustainable development in the country so that it matches the achievement of developed countries. Given the above background, this study aims to identify ways to improve solid waste minimisation.

Solid waste minimisation can provide an opportunity to regain some valuable materials, and reduce the amount of natural resources required to achieve sustainable development. If this can be achieved successfully, it can save fuel and money and reduce environmental degradation. The main task of this study is to examine the influence of household socio-demographic characteristics on solid waste minimisation and SWM system, to evaluate the roles of stakeholders in a SWM system, and to develop a framework for an Integrated Sustainable Household Solid Waste Management (ISHWM) system in the housing sector.

### **1.3 Problem Statement**

SWM in Malaysia is becoming an important problem due to a number of factors: growth in population coupled with rapid urbanisation as well as changes in lifestyles with the use of more modern materials and disposable products (Hamid *et* 

*al.*, 2004; Agamuthu *et al.*, 2009; Johari *et al.*, 2014). As a developing country, Malaysia is also facing a significant increase in the amount of solid waste generated and has a major problem regarding solid waste minimisation (Hamid *et al.*, 2004; Agamuthu *et al.*, 2009; Moh and Manaf, 2014).

The Solid Waste Management and Public Cleansing (Act 673) of 2007 had transferred the executive power of local authorities to the federal government for managing solid waste and public cleansing throughout Peninsular Malaysia. The National Solid Waste Management Department and the Solid Waste and Public Cleansing Management Corporation were established to manage all the issues related to SWM at the federal, state, and local levels. Unfortunately, several states, such as Selangor, Penang, Kelantan and Terengganu, have not implemented the act instead they use the local authorities legislation, because these states are under the control of the state administration and not the federal government.

According to Agamuthu *et al.* (2009), municipal solid waste generation in Malaysia has increased by more than 91% over the last 10 years, of which 65% was produced by the urban communities. In order to increase environmental awareness, the government has begun to encourage efforts in solid waste minimisation and is offering support to concessionary companies (Hezri, 2010; Hashim et al., 2012). Malaysia has launched the National Strategic Plan in 2004, the Waste Minimisation Master Plan (2006), and the National Policy on Solid Waste Management (2006) to increase solid waste minimisation but there are many barriers. These include lack of policies and strategies to promote solid waste minimisation and recycling systems, poor coordination between the stakeholders responsible for implementing solid waste minimisation systems, no details of legislation, and lack of indicators to measure solid waste minimisation including recycling systems in Malaysia. This may be due to lack or the vulnerability of the solid waste minimisation framework or model in the hierarchy of waste management systems.

To date, Malaysia has been generating between 0.45 to 1.44 kg of waste per capita per day, though this varies according to the economic status and lifestyle of each area. This corresponds to 17 million tons of domestic waste per day and it is

expected to increase to 31 million tons per day by the year 2020, while Malaysia's target for recycling is 22% of the total solid waste generated by the year 2020 (MHLG, 2013). In Figure 1.1 shows approximately 88-91% of the waste is collected and brought to final disposal in landfills and the remaining 9-12% was diverted to the 3Rs process (MHLG, 2013). Is it possible for the government to achieve the target of 10% solid waste minimisation within the next four years? While it seems doubtful, with thorough and meticulous research, this target can be achieved successfully.



Source: Ministry of Housing and Local Government (2015)

Figure 1.1: National waste minimisation – 3Rs target

By 2020, the government will have spent about RM 860 million annually on waste disposals and according to projections, this amount will increase to RM1.6 billion if measures are not taken to reduce the quantity of waste requiring disposal (MHLG, 2009). Hezri (2010) supports this statement, and states that Malaysia also faces the same financial problems as other developing countries. Hassan *et al.* (2000) found that out of the entire waste management budget, 70% was spent on waste collection.

Serious attention should be given to increasing solid waste minimisation. Many factors contribute towards the failure of solid waste minimisation but implementation of the 3Rs seems to produce the best results in most developing countries including Malaysia (Agamuthu *et al.*, 2009). The lack of policies and strategies to promote solid waste minimisation means the majority of Malaysians still do not realise the importance of the 3Rs; however, policy drives by institutions could encourage public participation in this activity (Agamuthu *et al.*, 2009). Hezri's research (2010) has shown that the public participation is still low, although since the late 1980s, the Malaysian government has held various public information campaigns to create awareness among the public. Similarly, the Ministry of Urban Well Being Housing and Local Government (MUHLG) has occasionally made efforts to increase solid waste minimisation in addition to raising public awareness of recycling to effect a change in the behaviour among the public towards recycling, the response to such campaigns has been insufficient. Furthermore, a survey revealed that 59% of respondents have some basic knowledge regarding solid waste minimisation and were slightly aware of this issue (Hassan *et al.*, 2000), so why is there still lack of participation from them?

Consequently, a solid waste minimisation framework or model needs to be built for the overall factor in achieving this target. As stated previously, many stakeholders are involved in waste recycling: households, local authorities, scavengers, waste contractors, NGOs, CBOs, junk shops, private companies, educational institutions and end-users to mention a few. Therefore, collaboration and networking among the stakeholders will help to increase the efficiency of recycling and will open new avenues for recycling (Suresh and Vijayakumar, 2006; Chhun, 2012; Mugagga, 2006; Medina, 2005). Having this kind of partnership is very important in realising the role of recycling in SWM in Malaysia.

These policies and strategies focus only on SWM, especially in the services delivery system (Key Performance Indicators - KPIs). Currently, there is no strong policy, framework, and model on solid waste minimisation. Therefore, it is difficult to measure the level required to achieve the solid waste minimisation target in Malaysia. However, with four years to go before the target date of 2020, how is this goal of 22% waste minimisation feasible in Malaysia? Therefore, a comprehensive study needs to be carried out to determine the level of household solid waste minimisation and the strategies for improving it. Identification of the factors influencing the current household solid waste minimisation in the city is important, as it would help in developing a framework or model that would help policy makers,

the government, local authorities, and urban planners to facilitate the design of environmental policies, strategies, and programs in the future.

#### **1.4 Research Questions**

For the purpose of the study, based on the four key questions above, the following research questions are examined:

- i. What are the household socio-demographic characteristics on psychological factors that influence solid waste minimisation in the city?
- ii. What are the processes involved in household SWM system?
- iii. What are the roles of stakeholders in household SWM system?
- iv. What is the framework involved in achieving a solid waste minimisation policy and strategy?

## 1.5 Research Objectives

The aim of this study is to investigate urban household solid waste minimisation in Shah Alam City, Selangor, Malaysia; with a view to enhance understanding of the problems and key issues affecting urban solid waste minimisation; and to identify possible solutions to this problem. In line with this, the specific objectives that guided the study are as follows:

- i. To examine the influence of households socio-demographic characteristics on psychological factors in solid waste minimisation;
- To examine the various stages that are involved in a household waste management system before waste gets to the recycling plant (services recycling systems);
- iii. To identify the roles of stakeholders in household waste management system;and

 To develop a framework for an Integrated Sustainable Household Solid Waste Management system.

#### **1.6** Research Hypotheses

In order to address these objectives, the research considers the following hypotheses:

- H<sub>0</sub> There is no significant relationship between the demographic characteristics (gender, age, race, marital status, monthly income, occupation, education level, home ownership, and type of house) and knowledge and behaviour on SWM.
- H<sub>1</sub> There are significant differences between the demographic characteristics and knowledge and behaviour on SWM.

## **1.7** Scope of the Study

The solid waste generated from urban areas, especially in Shah Alam City, increases proportionately with population growth, which is posing a serious threat to the SWM system. This makes a study to minimise solid waste in the Shah Alam city of Selangor indispensable. The best way of solving this problem is to make a detailed study of the current SWM system and to identify and understand the causes or failure of solid waste minimisation strategy. Shah Alam City of Selangor is very wide and the study area is focused only on the Shah Alam Central district, comprising sections 1 to 24 (see Figure 1.2). This area was chosen because it is an area with systematic approaches to economic development planning. A random sample of houses in this district included all three categories, namely, low-cost, medium cost, and high cost housing.

Currently there is no study to investigate the effects of socio-demographic level of households on solid waste minimisation. The objective of this study is to gather valuable household feedback on solid waste minimisation, which will lead to the quantification and composition of the waste, influence of household sociodemographics on knowledge and behaviour towards solid waste minimisation. The study also assessed the SWM systems, and the role of stakeholders in SWM. This will therefore help to identify problems and future prospects regarding solid waste minimisation.

Solid waste minimisation involves three major agents: consumer/generator, and re-manufacturer. This study conducts surveys processor, among consumer/generator (households) based on socio-demographic characteristics, knowledge, participation, and action from the LA. In addition, interviews were held with stakeholders (local authority, waste collectors, scavengers, etc.). Apart from the survey, observation and interviews were also needed to identify the solid waste minimisation process from the origin (household) until the destination (recycling plant). This enables researchers to understand and examine the current situation and problems.

#### **1.8** Significance of Study

A study on urban household solid waste minimisation is necessary considering the important role it plays in human development. This was seen in the concept of integrated solid waste minimisation in the housing sector. In this regard, this research examines the socio-demographic characteristics of households that influence their psychological factors regarding solid waste minimisation. To achieve this, it is crucial to assist the relevant parties, especially the government/local authority, to increase the level of participation, or to engage the public in solid waste minimisation.
This finding will guide the formulation of the operational SWM system and help policy makers to facilitate their decisions. It will also provide a clear understanding of the nature of the problem and will identify and evaluate strategies that can be adopted by the LA and related parties to solve the problem. These improvements will also lead to a better waste management system in the future and create awareness among the community about SWM system. This study also aims to provide new insights into the role of planners in waste management. This study also shows existing patterns of interaction between stakeholders. It will identify areas of conflicts and find ways to resolve them through the implementation of an action plan.

Consequently, this study explores the strategies and appropriate recommendations to improve solid waste minimisation, in order to achieve sustainability in cities. The household solid waste minimisation framework derived from the findings will be useful for researchers, policy-makers, practitioners, and institutions interested in the field of solid waste minimisation in Shah Alam City and in other cities in developing countries.

## 1.9 Study Area

Shah Alam City is the capital of the State of Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia. Shah Alam City is currently the fastest growing district in Selangor. The city was inaugurated in 2000 and is the seventh largest city in Malaysia. Shah Alam is about 20 km west of the capital city, Kuala Lumpur. The total population is 646, 890 people in 2010 and this figure further increased to 700 000 people in 2014 after several developments had taken place (MBSA, 2012). In the 1980s, Shah Alam was known as the 'Industrial City' because of the formation of many industrial areas, which have various factories and multinational corporations providing employment and economic opportunities, especially for Selangor and Malaysia. Shah Alam City is presently divided into north zone, central zone, and south zone (see Figure 1.2). North zone and south zone still have many areas that have not been developed. North zone consists of 18 sections, whereas central zone is part of the essential because it is the most developed area in Shah Alam. It consists of Section 1 to Section 24. South zone consists of 12 sections, including Sections 25, 30, 31, and 32.

## 1.9.1 Rationale of Shah Alam as the Study Area

The selection of Shah Alam City of Selangor as a study area was due to several factors. In year 2005, the state was identified as one of the most developed and fastest growing after Kuala Lumpur and Pulau Pinang, as shown in Figure 1.3. Shah Alam City grew and developed as a centre of industrial park, employment, places of interest for tourists, and educational institutions. Selangor also contributed to the largest share of Gross Domestic Product at 23.00% in 2005 with the manufacturing and services sectors accounted for the largest proportion of 53.5%. Between 2001 and 2005, Selangor had 1,517 manufacturing projects with a total of 105,422 employees with RM29, 245.3 million of capital investment, making it the most advanced and developed state in Malaysia (the Ninth Malaysia Plan, 2010).

Furthermore, Shah Alam is one of the largest cities in Klang-Langat Valley. This indicates that the urbanisation process is rapidly concentrated around the developed areas of the Klang-Langat Valley (Zikri *et al.*, 2010). Table 1.2 shows the rates of urbanisation of states in Malaysia. Selangor has the highest urbanisation level of 89.1%, followed by Pulau Pinang (80.0%), Melaka (73.4%), and Johor (67.7%) in 2010. This rapid urbanisation process and increase in population is the main contributing factor for household solid waste generation.

	Population	(Million)	Urbanisation rate (%)		
State	2000	2010	2000	2010	
Selangor	4.19	5.31	87.7	89.1	
Johor	2.76	3.46	64.8	67.7	
Perak	2.09	2.44	59.1	59.3	
Kedah	1.67	2.04	39.1	40.3	
P.Pinang	1.33	1.60	79.7	80.0	
Kelantan	1.36	1.67	33.5	33.3	
Pahang	1.30	1.57	42.0	44.6	
Terengganu	0.90	1.12	49.4	50.3	
N.Sembilan	0.87	1.03	54.9	57.4	
Melaka	0.65	0.79	67.5	73.4	
Perlis	0.21	0.25	34.0	35.9	
Malaysia	23.49	28.96	62.0	63.8	

**Table 1.1:** Population and urbanisation in Malaysia

Source: Ninth Malaysia Plan (2010)

According to Beigl *et al.* (2003), and Mavropoulos (2011), the amount of solid waste generated is largely determined by two main factors: first, the population in any given area, and second, its consumption patterns. Both factors are controlled by individuals monthly income or lifestyle. In 2004, the highest mean monthly income was recorded in Selangor at RM 5,175.00, followed by Kuala Lumpur (RM 5,011), Pulau Pinang (RM 3,531), and Johor (RM 3,076) (Ninth Malaysia Plan, 2010). High-income states produce almost twice as much solid waste per capita when compared to low-income countries. Generally, the greater the economic prosperity and the higher the percentage of urban population, the greater will be the amount of solid waste generated (EASUR, 1999).

Household income is the most significant factor affecting the quantity of solid waste generation (Richardson and Havlicek, 1974). Similarly, Visvanathan and Trankler (2003) reported that in a household with rich socioeconomic conditions, daily waste generation rates are generally higher than those in lower socioeconomic households. Medina (2002) also reported that a positive correlation tends to exist between a community's income and the amount of solid waste generated. Thus, wealthy individuals produce more solid waste than those of low income. The quantity of waste generated in Selangor has been increasing every year because of the increase in the population and urban urbanisation. Table 1.2 shows that Selangor

generated the highest amount of solid waste. According to MHLG (2010), Selangor state showed the greatest increase as the quantity of municipal solid waste increased from 2,827 tons per day in 2000 up to 3,904 tons per day in 2009.



Source: http://selangorforyou.blogspot.com

Figure 1.2: Map of Shah Alam City, Selangor

States	Solid waste generated (tons/ day)						
States	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2009	
Johor	1915	2,093	2255	2430	2578	2655	
Kedah	1324	1,447	1559	1680	1782	1835	
Kelantan	1034	1,131	1213	1302	1382	1423	
Melaka	515	563	605	650	690	711	
N. Sembilan	757	828	890	957	1015	1046	
Pahang	957	1,046	1125	1210	1284	1322	
Perak	1527	1,669	1795	1930	2048	2109	
Perlis	196	214	230	247	262	270	
Pulau Pinang	1088	1,189	1278	1375	1458	1502	
Selangor	2827	3,090	3322	3573	3790	3904	
Terengganu	883	965	1038	1116	1184	1219	
Kuala Lumpur	2520	2,755	3025	3322	3525	3631	
Malaysia	15,587	21 452	23073	24969	26489	27284	

 Table 1.2: Solid waste generation in Peninsular Malaysia

Source: Compiled from Ministry of Housing and Local Government (2010); Agamuthu and Hamid (2011); Johari *et al.* (2014).

Thus, Selangor generated the highest amount of solid waste among of all states in Malaysia, and Shah Alam City is an urban area and is actively developing. Sections 1 - 14 are the Central Zone in Shah Alam and represent a residential area within the city. These areas have various facilities and a variety of housing types (low, medium, high cost) and so were considered a suitable area for study to achieve the objectives of the research. Therefore, study of the integrated SWM using a solid waste minimisation approach in Shah Alam City has become a major challenge to achieving the national target by 2020, especially given the need to increase solid waste minimisation.

## 1.10 Thesis Organisation

To gain insight into how to develop the most efficient urban household solid waste minimisation, this thesis is organised into eight chapters, starting with the introduction (Chapter 1). The literature review is provided in Chapter 2; it provides an exploration of the terminologies of solid waste, integrated SWM, best practice of SWM, and factors influencing integrated SWM. In Chapter 3, a conceptual

framework is presented of the concept that guides this study. Chapter 4 discusses the details of the methodological approach used in the research, including the research methods and data analysis methods. The chapter also explains the methodology used in achieving the objectives of the study, including the design of the survey instruments and the validation, sampling, and statistical techniques. Chapter 5 presents the results regarding the influence of socio-demographic characteristics and psychological factors on solid waste minimisation.

Chapter 6 analyses solid waste minimisation system in the study area followed by a discussion on the institutional analysis of SWM in the municipalities, which is presented in Chapter 7. Chapter 7 also analyses the role of stakeholders in a solid waste minimisation system and identifies the weaknesses of their role compared to the best practice in other countries. The final chapter, Chapter 8, presents the result from the research questions, objectives, and research findings based on empirical survey and interview discussions. The findings of the study, recommendations, and discussions, the contribution of the study to the body of knowledge and to policy making by the government are also discussed and explained. In addition, a conceptual framework for household integrated SWM using a solid waste minimisation approach is developed. This framework captures all the various factors that are likely to increase solid waste minimisation in the city (see Figure 1.3).



Figure 1.3: Flow chart of research

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