INTERRELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN ENVIRONMENTAL PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS AND ENVIRONMENTAL BEHAVIOUR AMONG MALAYSIANS

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A thesis submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Facilities Management)

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MARCH 2019

DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to my beloved parents and siblings, thank you for all your endless love and support in terms of spiritual and encouragement for the completion of this thesis.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First and foremost, I would like to deliver my highest appreciation to my supervisor, Associate Professor Dr. Choong Weng Wai for his encouragement, guidance and support throughout the course of this study. His patient, unsurpassed knowledge and advice have assisted me greatly into completing this study. In addition, I also wish to thank my co-supervisors, Professor Rahmalan Ahamad and Dr Irina Safitri Zen who had enlightened me throughout my study. Other than that, I would like to express gratitude Associate Professor Dr. Zainura Zainon Noor and Associate Professor Dr. Haslenda Hashim as panel judges that had helped in giving opinions and suggestions in improving this study would not be completed as it is now.

Besides that, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my family. They have been my pillar of strength throughout all the difficulties that I have faced during this study. They have provided endless love, moral support and valuable advice when I am faced with obstacles and challenges. Because of their support, I can move ahead without any doubts.

Lastly, I would like to thank those individuals that I had accidentally missed out here for directly and indirectly lending your hand throughout this study.

ABSTRACT

The facilities management profession has been extended to engage with issues of sustainability and environmental degradation mostly caused by human activities such as energy consumption, water wastage, solid waste generation and air pollution. Previous studies suggested that environmental behaviour is influenced by a series of psychological factors. Understanding the interrelationship between these factors and the behaviour in the local context will help policy maker form better strategies to improve environmental behaviour among Malaysians. Furthermore, such studies are currently absent. To address these issues, this research identified environmental psychological factors that influence environmental behaviour. Next, an investigation on the interrelationship between environmental psychological factors and environmental behaviours pertaining to the four major environmental issues, namely water, air, solid waste and climate change were conducted. Finally, significant differences in the influence of the environmental psychological factors on environmental behaviours across urban and rural community were examined. In the research, a nationwide survey was conducted in 13 states and 3 federal territories in Malaysia. The sampling method used was multistage stratified random sampling. 6616 questionnaires from respondents across different demographics of Malavsians were collected. Structural Equation Modelling (SEM) was used to illustrate the interrelationship of the affecting environmental psychological factors and environmental behaviours (water quality conservation behaviour, air quality conservation behaviour, solid waste reduction behaviour and low carbon behaviour). In addition, Multigroup Analysis (PLS-MGA) was conducted to compare these interrelationships across urban and rural groups. Findings revealed that the environmental awareness, concern and attitude were significant and positively related to corresponding behaviours. Notably, the environmental concern was the most influencing factor to determine water and air quality conservation behaviours as well as the low carbon behaviour. Besides, awareness of water pollution and climate change towards their corresponding behaviours; and concerns towards the water and air quality conservation behaviour were significantly different across the urban and rural residents. The findings would be beneficial for government and nongovernment agencies to form better environmental policy and decision making, especially in fostering positive environmental behaviour among Malaysians.

ABSTRAK

Profesion pengurusan fasiliti telah diperluaskan untuk melibatkan isu-isu kemampanan dan kemerosotan alam sekitar yang kebanyakannya disebabkan oleh aktiviti manusia seperti penggunaan tenaga secara berlebihan, pembaziran air, penjanaan sisa pepejal dan pencemaran udara. Kajian terdahulu telah menunjukkan bahawa tingkah laku alam sekitar dipengaruhi oleh faktor-faktor psikologi. Memahami hubungan antara faktor-faktor dan tingkah laku ini dalam konteks tempatan boleh membantu penggubal dasar membentuk strategi untuk meningkatkan tingkah laku alam sekitar dalam kalangan rakyat Malaysia. Tambahan pula, kajian seperti ini tidak wujud. Untuk membangkitkan isu-isu ini, kajian ini mengenal pasti faktor psikologi alam sekitar yang mempengaruhi tingkah laku alam sekitar. Seterusnya, kajian berkaitan hubungan antara faktor-faktor psikologi alam sekitar dan tingkah laku alam sekitar yang berkaitan dengan empat isu alam sekitar utama iaitu air, udara, sisa pepejal dan perubahan iklim telah dijalankan. Akhirnya, perbezaan ketara dalam pengaruh faktor-faktor psikologi alam sekitar terhadap tingkah laku alam sekitar dalam kalangan masyarakat bandar dan luar bandar telah dikaji. Dalam kajian ini, satu tinjauan di seluruh negara telah dijalankan di 13 negeri dan 3 wilayah persekutuan di Malaysia. Kaedah pensampelan yang digunakan adalah pensampelan rawak berstrata berganda. 6616 soal selidik daripada responden pelbagai jenis demografi dalam kalangan rakyat Malaysia telah dikumpul. Model Persamaan Struktur (SEM) digunakan untuk menjelaskan hubungan antara faktorfaktor psikologi dan tingkah laku alam sekitar (tingkah laku pemuliharaan kualiti air, tingkah laku pemuliharaan kualiti udara, tingkah laku pengurangan sisa pepejal dan tingkah laku rendah karbon). Tambahan pula, Analisis Kumpulan Pelbagai (PLS-MGA) telah dijalankan untuk membandingkan hubungan tersebut antara golongan bandar dan luar bandar. Dapatan kajian menunjukkan bahawa semua kesedaran, keprihatinan dan sikap adalah penting dan berkaitan dengan tingkah laku yang sepadan. Terutamanya, keprihatinan alam sekitar adalah faktor yang paling berpengaruh untuk menentukan tingkah laku pemuliharaan kualiti air, tingkah laku pemuliharaan kualiti udara dan tingkah laku rendah karbon. Di samping itu, kesedaran mengenai pencemaran air dan perubahan iklim terhadap tingkah laku yang sepadan; dan keprihatinan terhadap tingkah laku pemuliharaan kualiti air dan udara sangat berbeza dalam kalangan penduduk bandar dan luar bandar. Penemuan ini akan memberi manfaat kepada agensi kerajaan dan bukan kerajaan untuk merancang dasar alam sekitar dan membuat keputusan yang lebih baik, terutamanya dalam memupuk tingkah laku alam sekitar positif dalam kalangan rakyat Malaysia.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AVE	-	Average Variance Extracted
BBP	-	Biodiversity and Forestry Management
BSASH	-	Water Resources Drainage and Hydrology
CFC	-	Chlorofluorocarbon
CR	-	Composite Reliability
DOE	-	Department of Environment
DOS	-	Department of Statistic
EATT	-	Environmental Attitude
EA_Air	-	Environmental Awareness in Air Pollution
EA_ClimateChange	-	Environmental Awareness in Climate Change
EA_Waste	-	Environmental Awareness in Solid Waste Management
EA_Water	-	Environmental Awareness in Water Pollution
EB_Air	-	Air Quality Conservation Behvaiour
EB_ClimateChange	-	Low Carbon Behaviour
EB_Waste	-	Solid Waste Reduction Behaviour
EB_Water	-	Water Quality Conservation Behaviour
EC	-	Environmental Concern
EPI	-	Environmnetal Performance Index
GHG	-	Greenhouse Gases
ISSP	-	International Social Survey Programme
KeTTHA	-	Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water
MNS	-	Malaysian Nature Society
NEP	-	New Ecological Paradigm
PLS-MGA	-	Partial Least Square Multigroup Analysis
PLS-SEM	-	Partial Least Square Structural Equation Modeling

REB	-	Model of Responsible Environmental Behaviour
SE	-	Standard Error
SEDA	-	Sustainable Energy Development Authority Malaysia
SIRIM	-	Standards and Industrial Research Institute of Malaysia
SPAN	-	National Water Services Commission
TPB	-	Theory of Planned Behaviour
TRA	-	Theory of Reasoned Action
VIF	-	Variance Inflation Factor
WEEE	-	waste electrical and electronic equipment
WWF	-	World Wide Fund for Nature

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Research Background

International Facilities Management (IFMA) defines facilities management as the "organisational function, which integrates people, place, and process within the built environment with the purpose of improving the quality of life of people and the productivity of the core business." Sustainability has gradually been integrated with green practices in the facility management of buildings (Hodges, 2005; Elmualim et al., 2010). Therefore, it can be surmised that sustainable facilities management involves the process of integrating the people, place, and process of an organisation with the purpose of optimising economic, social, and environmental benefits for sustainability.

Accordingly, a new core competency for Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability was added to form the 11 core competencies of facilities management, which include: Communication, Leadership and Strategy, Finance and Business, Quality, Technology, Operations and Maintenance, Human Factors, Emergency Preparedness and Business Continuity, Real Estate and Property Management, Project Management, and Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability (IFMA, 2009). The 11 core competencies of facilities management were identified and included based on responses obtained from facility professionals in 62 countries collected by IFMA's global job task analysis (GJTA) in 2009. The addition of new core competencies of environmental stewardship and sustainability has shown that the facilities management profession can be extended to engage with the issues of sustainability to provide a more holistic solution in order to conserve and protect the natural environment. As global environmental issues have brought severe impacts on nations, and vice versa, the facilities management profession should extend its role to investigating environmental issues from a broader perspective such as the national level.

At the national level, Malaysia is on the verge of collapse as a result of a serious environmental issues that has followed since its rapid economic growth. To name a few, harmful waste secretions, climate change, environmental pollution, and ecosystem breakdown are the environmental catastrophes threatening the well-being of the general public. These issues have been long articulated by the significant amount of researches from varied scientific disciplines (Abdullah, 1995; Dominick, et al., 2012). The major cause of these occurrences is triggered by the urge to satisfy human needs through aggressive economic activities. Air pollution, water pollution, solid waste management, and climate change are among the environmental problems that Malaysia is confronted with.

Open burning cases reported in all States in Malaysia have been increasing (DOE, 2012). In Malaysia, the issue of air pollution has frequently been traced as emissions from motor vehicles, aircraft, industries, and areas of high population density (Dominick et al., 2012). However, motor vehicles contribute the most air pollutants in Malaysia (Afroz et al., 2003; Ishii et al., 2007; Azmi et al., 2010). Prior to this, air pollution has been particularly severe in Klang Valley, Malaysia (Azmi et al., 2010). Air pollution leads to major issues including harm to human health, vegetation, forestry, buildings, architectural works of art, and the ecosystem (Afroz et al., 2003; Ilyas et al., 2010). In addition, the transboundary haze of neighbouring countries can also cause adverse health impacts on Malaysians.

Our nation's environmental disasters not only ends with air pollution; water pollution is a significant issue too. In Malaysia, the degradation of water and rivers has been a critical issue due to the fast growth of development (Othman and Mohamed, 2012). Moreover, the demand for fresh water is on the rise due to the tremendous boom in industrial development and rising human population density (Ramakrishnaiah et al, 2009). According to Al-Badaii et al. (2013), the rivers in Selangor, Malaysia, has become polluted as a result of industrial and agricultural activities, livestock farming, and soil erosion. Therefore, the polluted water has to be treated extensively so that it can be reused for domestic usage.

Likewise, solid waste in Malaysia is also a problem worth mentioning due to increased anthropogenic activities in the country (Manaf et al., 2009). A case study in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, showed that electrical and electronic equipment waste (WEEE) has now become a worrying issue, considering that among Malaysians, the electrical and electronic equipment is replaced within two thirds of its targeted service lifetime (Afroz et al., 2012). In 2003, the average amount of municipal solid waste generated in Malaysia was 0.5–0.8 kg/person/day; this number has increased to 1.7 kg/person/day in major cities (Kathirvale et al., 2003). By the year 2020, the quantity of municipal solid waste generated is estimated to increase to 31,000 tonnes.

The concern towards climate change has increased lately; several researchers have articulated that climate change is drastically increasing because of humans (McBean, 2004; Gu et al., 2013). Malaysia may experience temperature variations from +0.7°C to +2.6°C and precipitation changes ranging from -30% to +30%. Temperatures have actually increased 0.18°C per decade from 1951 to 1996, due to global climate change (NRE, 2005). In another similar report from NRE, Malaysia experienced temperature variations of 0.6°C to 1.2°C every 50 years based on 40 years of historical data (1969-2009); this is projected to increase from 1.5°C to 2°C by 2050 (NRE, 2011).

Considering that the above-mentioned environmental problems are derived from anthropogenic activities, there is a need to improve environmental awareness and behaviour among Malaysians (Arnocky, 2007; Klöckner, 2013). All endeavours and aspirations to foster awareness and concern towards nature are driving motivations behind the behavioural intention of humans. Therefore, since human behaviour is the root cause of environmental degradation, there is a need to study and explore the status of environmental behaviour among Malaysians.

The Global Environmental Performance Index is a well-established environmental performance indicator system. The index introduces comprehensive indicators for measuring and tracking a country's environmental performance. Since 2006, the Environmental Performance Index (EPI) quantifies and ranks environmental performance regionally, including both environmental health and ecosystem vitality of 133 countries. Countries that use EPI ranking have increased in number to up to 178 in 2014. EPI was developed by the Yale Centre for Environmental Law and Policy and the Centre for International Earth Science Information Network of Columbia University (Environmental Sustainability Index, 2012).

The Global EPI consists of two (2) major objectives known as Environmental Public Health and Ecosystem Vitality performances. In spite of the Global EPI pedagogy, Malaysia has developed its own signature EPI known as Malaysia EPI (as shown in Figure 1.1), which includes additional major objectives for Socioeconomic Sustainability (as shown in Table 1.1). The additional major objective for Socioeconomic Sustainability could be important, as it manifests the indicators in the Malaysia EPI, which would help both government and non-government organisations perform better decision-making, especially in policy implementation and management. Environmental awareness and behaviour are highlighted under this additional objective of Socioeconomic Sustainability with the aim to examine the level of environmental awareness and behaviour among Malaysians.



Figure 1.1 Malaysia EPI (Source: Malaysia EPI 2012)

OBJECTIVE	POLICY CATEGORY
Environmental Health	1. Environmental Burden of Disease
	2. Water Effects on Human
	3. Air Pollution Effects on Human
	4. Waste
Ecosystem Vitality	1. Air Pollution Effects on Ecosystem
	2. Water Effects on Ecosystem
	3. Biodiversity & Habitat
	4. Forest & Urban Green Areas
	5. Fisheries
	6. Agriculture & Landuse
	7. Climate Change
Socioeconomic Sustainability	1. Resource Efficiency
	2. Environmental Awareness &
	Behaviour
	3. Environmental Governance

Table 1.1Policy Category within Each Objective of the Malaysia EPI

1.2 Problem Statement

The existing Malaysia EPI recommends environmental awareness as the only indicator to demonstrate environmental psychological factors that affect environmental behaviour. However, environmental awareness alone is not strong enough to predict the behavioural performance of humans in preserving the earth (Hungerford and Volk, 1990; Klöckner, 2013; Kollmuss and Agyeman, 2002). Environmental awareness is way too simplified to reveal a clear picture of the environmentalism trend among Malaysians. It is said that not all people who have awareness about environmental issues are motivated to practice and behave environmentally-friendly ways (Krajhanzl, 2010).

Furthermore, government and non-government organisations have launched and promoted many environmental programmes through different relevant ministries and agencies as part of Vision 2020 Malaysia. Among these include "Towards Smart Energy Culture" by the Energy Commission Malaysia, "One State One River Programme" by the Ministry of Agriculture, "Recycle for Nature" by the Malaysian Nature Society, and other environmental campaigns. Policy makers design environmental campaigns to convey environmentally-friendly information so as to instill green values among Malaysians. Nevertheless, as explained in the "Information Deficit Model", these efforts would not effectively prompt environmental behaviour because simply delivering environmentally-friendly information will not necessarily foster environmental behaviour among Malaysians (Burgess et al., 1998; McKenzie-Mohr, 2000). Therefore, it is important to identify other environmental psychological factors that influence environmental behaviour.

Environmental psychological factors are psychological factors related to environmental aspects that can influence human decisions to engage in environmental behaviour. These factors are associated with elements that work with the mind or psyche such as awareness, attitude, and concern. For instance, environmental psychological include environmental factors awareness. environmental concern, and environmental attitude. Previous studies have investigated the influence of environmental psychological factors on environmental behaviour. Psychological factors such as awareness (Latif et al., 2013), concern (Dietz et al., 1998; Tam and Chan, 2017), and attitude (Barr, 2007) are reportedly related to human environmental behaviour. People with environmental awareness are people with awareness of the causes and consequences of environmental issues and have the know-how and skills to mitigate those issues (Freije et al, 2017). Environmental concern is an individual emotion regarding environmental issues and the response i.e. willingness to solve the issues (Ostman and Parker, 1987; Franzen and Vogl, 2013). Meanwhile, individuals with environmental attitude are individuals with a combination of belief, value, and intention related to environmental activities and issues (Schultz et al., 2005). In summary, people who are aware, concerned, and have a positive attitude towards the natural environment tend to preserve the environment more. Therefore, they are more motivated to engage in environmental behaviour.

Apparently, researchers and policymakers have discovered that human behaviour can further degrade environmental issues (Mobley et al., 2010; Klöckner, 2013). Understanding or environmental behaviour prediction will aid in mitigating environmental threats from the social and political context, as environmental issues is a global issue (Harth et al., 2013). In other words, for policymakers, detecting the changes in attitude and behaviour of the general public will enable them to recognise the public environmental behaviour that can be changed (Owens and Driffill, 2008). This is important for drafting environmental laws, policies, and guidelines. Change in attitude can more likely induce change in behaviour rather than the other way round (Dobson, 2007). Therefore, for an environmental policy to be operative, the government has to understand how and why residents become motivated to engage in an environmental behaviour. In this regard, interrelationships between environmental psychological factors and behaviour must be evaluated to determine the behavioural pattern of the subjects that can greatly affect environmental quality and the effectiveness of environmental strategies (Steg and Vlek, 2009; Takahashi and Selfa, 2014).

There are several demographic factors that influence environmental performance such as gender (Stern et al., 1993; De Groot et al., 2007; Sengupta, et al., 2010; McCright, 2010; Abdul-Wahab and Abdo, 2010; Hassan et al., 2010), nationality (Aoyagi-Usui et al., 2003; Vicente-Molina et al., 2013), race (Liu et al., 2014), age (De Groot et al., 2007; Abdul-Wahab and Abdo, 2010), State or area (urban or rural) (Hassan et al., 2010; Ambrosius and Gilderbloom, 2015), education level (Abdul-Wahab and Abdo, 2010; Haşıloğlu et al., 2011), and monthly income level (De Groot et al., 2007). However, among all these demographic factors, not many studies have used an environmental behaviour environmentalism model and considered living areas, especially urban and rural regions, or covered this as part as a nationwide study among Malaysians as a whole. Previous studies have only focused on the cross-compatibility of environmental behaviour among school students in urban and rural areas (Hassan et al., 2010) or public residents in a specific district (Lin et al., 2010), but a nationwide survey has yet to be conducted.

By incorporating environmental theories, the study of behaviour-driven factors could improve the effectiveness of environmental policies and guideline provisions (Huffman et al., 2014). Using a structural model to explain behaviour is paramount in presenting a holistic development of either effective strategies, approaches or programmes (Von Eye and Bergman et al., 2003; Lanza et al., 2010; Terzian et al., 2014). In other words, prediction of the public's environmental behaviour using theories or models would result in the better provision of environmental policies, guidelines, or approaches that might be beneficial in changing human behaviour towards environmental preservation.

There are several environmentalism theories of human behaviour, which have been adopted in previous works such as the Norm Activation Theory (Schwartz, 1977) and Value Belief Norm theory (Stern, 2000). These have been cross-nationally surveyed in European and Latin American countries such as Peru, Mexico, Nicaragua, Spain, the United States (Schultz and Zelezny, 1998), and Austria, Czech Republic, Italy, and the Netherlands and Sweden (De Groot et al., 2007) to test the interrelationship between environmental psychological factors in influencing behaviour. However, similar studies of Malaysia case study are limited.

Notably, other environmentalism theories such as Theory of Reasoned Action (TRA) (Fishbein and Ajzen, 1975; Ajzen and Fishbein 1980), Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB) (Ajzen, 1985,1991), and Model of Responsible Environmental Behaviour (REB) (Hines, Hungerford, and Tomera, 1986;1987) have been widely used to predict the behavioural intention of people's visit to green hotels (Chen and Tung, 2014); water pollution among boaters (Cottrell and Graefe, 1997); environmental education (Hsu and Roth, 1998; Hsu, 2004); ecotourism (Chiu et al., 2013); and environmentally responsible behaviour via reading of environmental literature (Mobley et al., 2010). However, there is a lack of studies on the behavioural prediction of the general public via a nationwide study based on these theoretical models.

In line with this, there are numerous previous studies (as shown in Appendix A) that have highlighted the different environmental psychological variables that influence human behaviour to protect nature. Some researchers focused their study on environmental education, considering its importance in nurturing the future generations of "nature lovers", through incorporating environmental awareness and knowledge among youngsters (Cetin and Nisanci, 2010, Haşıloğlu et al., 2011;

Vicente-Molina et al., 2013). Therefore, only a few studies have been concerned with the inclusion of the general public as respondents; considering that the targeted respondents in previous studies were mostly students.

There are available studies that have examined the public's environmental awareness, environmental knowledge, environmental concern, and environmental attitude and their effect on environmental behaviour (Aoyagi-Usui et al., 2003; McCright, 2010; Mondejar-Jimenez et al., 2011; Franzen and Meyer, 2010). However, to date, there are only limited studies that have combined these environmental psychological factors such as environmental awareness and knowledge, environmental concern, and environmental attitude in explaining environmental behaviour using a nationwide survey (Shoukry et al, 2012).

Meanwhile, previous studies have investigated human environmental behaviour solely focusing on specific human behaviour in terms of particular environmental issues such as water saving (Mondejar-Jimenez et al., 2011), climate change (McCright, 2010), waste from electrical and electronic equipment (Afroz et al., 2013), solid waste management (Desa et al., 2011, 2012), recycling of solid waste (Jibril et al., 2012), and municipal waste management (Saeed et al., 2009). Hence, it is important to point out that these previous studies covered specific environmental issues that correspond to simultaneous case studies. To date, there are no case studies in Malaysia that have investigated environmental behaviours in regard to environmental issues in Malaysia. For this reason, there is a need to conduct a tailored research that investigates Malaysia's environmental issues and develop an environmentalism model that could explain the environmental behaviours in response to on-going environmental issues in Malaysia.

Considering the problem and the gap that exists in examining environmental behaviours among Malaysians, this study aims to identify the environmental psychological factors that affect environmental behaviour rather than just focusing on single factors to evaluate environmental behaviour. This study also aims to investigate the interrelationship between environmental psychological factors and environmental behaviours pertaining to four major environmental issues, which are water, air, solid waste, and climate change among Malaysians, and later, extend this objective to include understanding of the significant difference of these interrelationships across urban and rural residents.

1.3 Research Questions

Based on the problem statement, the research questions of this study are as follows:

- a) What are the environmental psychological factors that influence environmental behaviour?
- b) What is the interrelationship between environmental psychological factors and environmental behaviour pertaining to four major environmental issues, which are water, air, solid waste, and climate change among Malaysians?
- c) Is there any significant difference in the effect of environmental psychological on environmental behaviour pertaining to four major environmental issues, which are water, air, solid waste, and climate change across urban and rural residents in Malaysia?

1.4 Research Objectives

Based on the problem statement, the following objectives of this study are formulated:

- a) To identify the environmental psychological factors that influence environmental behaviour.
- b) To investigate the interrelationship between environmental psychological factors and environmental behaviours pertaining to four major environmental issues, which are water, air, solid waste, and climate change among Malaysians.

c) To examine significant differences in the effect of environmental psychological factors on environmental behaviours pertaining to four major environmental issues which are water, air, solid waste, and climate change across urban and rural residents in Malaysia.

The framework of Figure 1.2 was developed to illustrate the concept and relevance of the environmental psychological factors (awareness, concern, and attitude) and environmental behaviour categorised as water pollution, air pollution, solid waste management, and climate change. This relationship is tested and investigated throughout this study.



Figure 1.2 Conceptual Framework

1.5 Research Scope

The nationwide survey conducted in this study covers a total of 13 States and 3 Federal Territories in Malaysia including Sabah, Sarawak, Johor, Kedah, Kelantan, Melaka, Negeri Sembilan, Pahang, Perak, Perlis, Pulau Pinang, Selangor, Terengganu, Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur, Federal Territory of Putrajaya, and Federal Territory of Labuan. This study adopted a questionnaire survey that was conducted from August 2014 to November 2014. The wuestionnaire was reviewed through a focus group discussion with respondents from the Department of Environment (DOE), Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water (KeTTHA), Biodiversity and Forestry Management (BBP), Water Resources Drainage and Hydrology (BSASH), Sustainable Energy Development Authority Malaysia (SEDA) and National Water Services Commission (SPAN), Malaysian Nature Society (MNS), Malaysian Green Technology Corporation, and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Malaysia. After that, the questionnaires were disseminated in selected city halls, city councils, municipal councils, and district councils of each State and Federal Territory to target the respondents, namely Malaysians from both urban and rural areas.

1.6 Research Process

The following discussion explains the stages for completing the research objectives in more detail:

Stage 1: Literature review

The literature regarding environmentalism theories and models is reviewed. The affecting variables that predict environmental behaviour are revised and studied. Then, the Theory of Reasoned Action (TRA), Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB), and Model of Responsible Environmental Behaviour (REB) are explored.

Stage 2: Identify environmental psychological factors that influence environmental behaviour

In this stage, environmental psychological factors are identified after the related environmentalism theories are reviewed and the literature review conducted. The key output in this stage is the selected environmental psychological variables or the proposed indicators, including environmental awareness (four major topics: water, air, solid waste and climate change), environmental concern, environmental attitude, and environmental behaviours (four major topics: water, air, solid waste, and climate change).

Stage 3: Verification and validation of proposed indicators and questionnaire

Later, the identified environmental psychological factors are reviewed by environmental-related government and non-government agencies through a focus group discussion. Consequently, the applicability of the questionnaire, and the relevance and consistency of each item in the questionnaire are explored. The focus group discussion is recorded for further analysis. Content analysis is adopted to analyse the expert reviews and comments.

After the focus group discussion, the questionnaire is amended such that a comprehensive research instrument for this study is generated. A pilot study is conducted right after the questionnaire is finalised. The results from the pilot study take into consideration of the items that are ambiguous or difficult to answer, whether or not the length of the survey is appropriate, and identification of any repetitive or redundant items. Then, corrections are made to the questionnaire, which is brought forward to Stage 4.

Stage 4: Conduct nationwide survey

To execute Stage 4, a nationwide survey is conducted involving 13 States and 3 Federal Territories. The questionnaire is distributed to the Malaysian public. A total of 13 States and 3 Federal Territories in Malaysia are surveyed including Sabah, Sarawak, Johor, Kedah, Kelantan, Melaka, Negeri Sembilan, Pahang. Perak, Perlis, Pulau Pinang, Selangor, Terengganu, Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur, Federal Territory of Putrajaya, and Federal Territory of Labuan.

The sampling method used in this study is multistage and stratified sampling. Because the entire nation is too large to survey, especially because the public population is widely distributed, multistage sampling is adopted to narrow down the scope of sampling frame in a systematic way. Stratified sampling is considered the most suitable to use for a sample that is heterogeneous (Varshney et al., 2011). Stratified sampling requires the whole population of the study to be subdivided into subpopulations called strata on the condition that the combination of all strata will form the population (Yadolah, 2008). By following the proposition of each stratum, the sampling is randomly selected, so that the fullest coverage of population distribution in the Malaysian population is accomplished.

It is important to note that as this study is a nationwide survey, the questionnaire distribution must be equally conducted based on the ethnic distribution composition in Malaysia, which was retrieved from the Department of Statistics Malaysia. Then again, the ratio of gender, living areas (urban and rural), age group of the respondents must also be widely covered and not only focusing on one group of age only. Both urban and rural areas in Malaysia are covered accordingly for each type of local authority, referred to as the city hall, city council, municipal council, and district council of each State in Malaysia. This is to ensure balanced yet thorough coverage of residents in Malaysia.

Stage 5: Analyse data using Partial Least Square Structural Equation Modelling (PLS - SEM)

This stage is executed by analysing the collected data using Partial Least Square Structural Equation Modelling (PLS-SEM) in order to investigate the interrelationships between environmental psychological factors that predict environmental behaviours (four major topics: water, air, solid waste, and climate change) among Malaysians (Ullman, 2007). By using SmartPLS software version 2.0 M3 (Ringle et al., 2005), PLS-SEM is conducted to present the interrelationships between environmental awareness (four major topics: water, air, solid waste, and climate change), environmental attitude, environmental concern, and environmental behaviour (four major topics: water, air, solid waste, and climate change) among Malaysians. These interrelationships are determined to accomplish the second objective of this study.

Stage 6: Analyse data using PLS-MGA

As for the sixth stage, the collected data is analysed using Partial Least Square Multigroup Analysis (PLS-MGA) to examine the significant differences in environmental behaviours (four major topics: water, air, solid waste, and climate change) across urban and rural groups. At this stage, SmartPLS software version 2.0 M3 (Ringle et al., 2005) is adopted as well to execute PLS-MGA. The significant differences of path models in between environmental awareness (four major topics: water, air, solid waste, and climate change), environmental attitude, environmental concern, and environmental behaviour (four major topics: water, air, solid waste, and climate change) across urban and rural groups are confirmed and discussed.

The research methodology is depicted in Figure 1.3.



Figure 1.3 Research Process Flow Chart

1.7 Thesis Chapters

This section presents the research outline, which consists of six (6) chapters:

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 1 presents the introduction to the study. This chapter discusses the research background and problem statements in relation to the environmental issues in Malaysia. The research questions, objectives, scope, and research process, are also outlined in this chapter.

Chapter 2: Literature Review

Chapter 2 lays out the literature review of relevant studies in this field. This chapter includes a review and identification of environmental psychological factors that influence environmental behaviour based on previous research. The first objective of this study is achieved at this stage. Later, grounded theories extracted from previous studies are discussed in order to develop an environmentalism model to explain the interrelationships between the proposed indicators or environmental psychological factors in predicting environmental behaviours (four major topics: water, air, solid waste, and climate change). The selection of environmental psychological factors that influence environmental behaviours (four major topics: water, air, solid waste, and climate change) are discussed in this chapter as well.

Chapter 3: Research Methodology

Chapter 3 presents the research methodology used to conduct the study. Questionnaire design based on the literature review, validation through focus group, and the pilot study are further discussed in detail in this chapter. Meanwhile, the nationwide survey covering sampling method, respondents, and data collection method is elaborated as well. Furthermore, the data analysis method including PLS-SEM and PLS-MGA is also delineated.

Chapter 4: Data Analysis and Findings

Chapter 4 reports the respondent profile and results gathered from the data analysis. The results of model assessment, which include measurement model assessment and structural model assessment, are discussed as well. Findings of hypothesis and testing of hypothesis of the second and third objectives are revealed in this chapter before proceeding with Chapter 5.

Chapter 5: Discussion

Chapter 5 discusses the results from the second and third objectives: 1) to investigate the interrelationships between environmental psychological variables and environmental behaviours pertaining to four major environmental issues, which are water, air, solid waste, and climate change among Malaysians; 2) to examine the significant differences in the effect of environmental psychological variables on environmental behaviours pertaining to four major environmental issues, which are water, air, solid waste, and climate change across urban and rural residents in Malaysia.

Chapter 6: Conclusions, Limitations, and Recommendations

Chapter 6 presents the conclusions and recommendations for this study. A summary of the findings is given and future research recommendations in the relevant field are discussed. The limiting conditions are also highlighted.

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