

Migration from Traditional Village to Group Settlement Area: AN Analysis of Felda Experience



Zulkifli Mohamad, Nazri Muslim, Wan Zulkifli Wan Hassan, Azizi Umar, Maharam Mamat

Abstract: At the time the country gained independence, most Malays were still living in traditional village and in poverty. In order to overcome this problem, the government had introduced a form of well-planned migration. This migration was established with specific goals such as offering land to people without one, eradicating poverty, eliminating communist's hide-outs and boosting country's economic growth. By allocating some amount of fund, the government cleared-up forest land and provided basic facilities such as houses, roads, worshipping places and schools. This well-planned migration was top-down, locating only qualified migrants through process of interview. In order for this migration to be successful, the government introduced the motto best land for the best people. The first settlement of this agricultural migration is in Lurah Bilut, Bentong Pahang. A total of 616 migrants of all races and religions, from all over the country were located in FELDA of Lurah Bilut. The programme was then expanded to the whole country following its success. After 50 years of operation, there are now 317 settlements, dwelt by 112,653 families. FELDA agricultural migration programme is the only well-planned and most successful in the world. Currently, in average, participants of settlement enjoy higher standard of living than before, whereas their children benefit from highest education standard.

Keywords : FELDA, Malaysia, migration, group settlement, land

I. INTRODUCTION

Migration is relocation of someone from a place to another with the intention to reside either temporarily or permanently. It happens due to pressure of life and so, for improving quality of life as well as the future. This situation is normally driven by the individual's strong determination to brighten up his blurred future. Migration demands for sacrifice and migration of FELDA community is yet very unique. Determination for changes is triggered by the government as one of its responsibilities.

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* Correspondence Author

Zulkifli Mohamad*, Pusat Citra, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Malaysia. Email: zulmadani@ukm.edu.my

Nazri Muslim Pusat Citra, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Malaysia. Email: nazrim@ukm.edu.my

Wan Zulkifli Wan Hassan Pusat Citra, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Malaysia. Email: wenzoul@ukm.edu.my

Azizi Umar Pusat Citra, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Malaysia. Email: azizi_u@ukm.edu.my

Maharam Mamat Pusat Citra, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Malaysia. Email: maharam@ukm.edu.my

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The government through its agency has set target to transform the fate of its people and so, has provided basic facilities for this community. The main objective is not solely for profit, but also to attain the goals and purposes of national socioeconomic which have been fixed. Initially they were without land, but they were then given fertile piece of land. Initially they were without any knowledge, but they were then guided by manager and staff of FELDA. Initially they were in poverty, but with motivation they doubled up their effort and today some of them possess much better quality of life than before. In fact, some have achieved status of middle class. The children of the settlers were given opportunity to pursue for best education and now hold various important occupations. Therefore, FELDA migration and settlement is the first comprehensively-planned-community in rural area of Malaysia. This is exactly a social planning for upgrading the socioeconomic and living quality of rural community who are poor and landless.

II. TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FEDERAL LAND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (FELDA)

The Malays believe that land means the entire life, status, future, and family (Sulong 1985). To anyone, whether urban community or rural community, land is a kind of social and economic guarantees of the future. Population of the country after the independence from British colonial at the end of 19th century was still low, but it was noted that demands for land ownership exceeded the capability of almost all land offices in the whole country. According to Tunku Shamsul Bahrin et al. (1992) at the time of independence, about 200,000 land applications were awaiting for actions. Land and Mineral Commissioner reported that by end of 1962, total number of pending applications in all land offices excluding in Kelantan and Terengganu was 135,555. In May 1967, Johor State government had conducted an investigation on pending cases of land application and it was found that there was a big pile in Johor State Land Office awaited to be resolved as soon as possible.

Table 1: Total Land Application of Johor State, May 1967.

Application Type	Total case	Hectare
Application of land less than 4.05 hectare	5189	8,889.34
Application of land over 4.05 hectare	329	36,181.48
Application in new village	2181	-
Application for 'pocket land'	448	507.87
Illegal occupation of government land	6305	9,700.15

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Application for ownership of land	292	4,502.79
Application for changing terms	586	-
Approved application without paying any tax	2510	-

Looking at the current scenario of that time and socioeconomic problem of the rural community, the government and the policy makers decided to implement an organized migration planning or resettlement. These problems formed the essential basis in establishing the policy for FELDA settlement. Based on the situations, a decision had been made to establish new community in rural areas, with competitive socioeconomic characteristics. Major problems that became the driving force for this well-planned migration are as follows:

A. Land Problem

Land is the most critical resource in human life. In Malaysia, land problem has been existed the moment independence was obtained. The problem is divided into three situations namely; (1) land hunger, (2) ownership of non-economical size of land; and (3) land breaking-down. Land hunger means a situation whereby majority of the rural community are landless. They simply lodge in relative's or non-relative's land. According to Tunku Shamsul Bahrin (1992) data of 1960 Agricultural Census and 1967 Agricultural Ministry's Study in Melaka, show that number of landless padi planters increased from 28% to 48% within six or seven years. This factor was due to rapid growth of population in rural area. Syed Husin Ali (2001) estimated that in 1970 there were 2.4 millions of landless rural farmers. Issue of land hunger reflects that lands were owned by only small number of landlords (in Sulong 1985).

As for the case of ownership of non-economical land, the government has defined economical size of land that may ensure sufficient income for each family is at least 10 acre which is approximately 4.1 hectares (Tunku Shamsul Bahrin 1992). Whereas, the average size of land owned is merely 4.7 acre (1.9 hectares). The 1960 Agricultural Census discovered that 90% of owned land was below the economic size. Among the factors that caused this to happen were rapid growth of population, property inheritance according to *faraid* and new-land opening not in balance with land demand. Land breaking-down means the lands owned are divided and separated from one another. In Peninsular, 54% of agricultural land owned by farmers is located apart from one another. This may dampen agricultural activity and production. Tunku Shamsul Bahrin (1992) stressed that land location which is far apart from one another requires extra effort, time and cost. If land breaking-down is not controlled, it will result in agricultural land to be non-economical and non-effective.

B. Poverty

Rural community is overall farmers and fishermen, a group in poverty (Nazri Muslim, Wan Zulkifli Wan Hassan, Jamsari Alias, Norazila Mat and Abdullah Ibrahim. 2019). The poverty is due to the fact that they only involve in traditional economic activity with very limited output and thus, their income level is very low. Sanusi Osman (1984) estimated that household income of the farmer community in year 1960 was between RM40.00 to RM60.00 a month. Because of that very low income, some of them lived in debts. Therefore, money

loan institution became so important in the rural community (in Sulong 1985).

C. Imbalance Population

Population in some states of Peninsular Malaysia especially in the West Coast was relatively higher compared to population in the East Coast. Meanwhile, there were many undeveloped but fertile lands in states in the East Coast (Nazri Muslim and Azizi Umar. 2017). The pattern of ownership and demography were not in line with the total land areas. Currently, growth rate of population in Malaysia is 2.8% a year. Demography experts have the opinion that at a rate of 3% a year, total population may double up in 25 years time, consequently altering the man to land ratio.

D. Unemployment and Employment Wastage

In the decade of 60s and 70s, problems of unemployment and employment wastage in rural areas were much higher than in cities. In 1962, unemployment rate was 6% and increased to 8% in 1970. In addition, employment wastage occurred in traditional agricultural sector due to non-economical size of land. This problem was serious since many of the farmers possessed land with non-economical size. All these problems were linked to low income level and poverty in rural area.

Based on the above factors and issues, the government had taken action to migrate qualified rural community to an organized settlement. This migration was beyond state border. In the case of FELDA of Lurah Bilut Bentong, several settlers especially Chinese and Indian were immigrants to *Tanah Melayu* or Malay Peninsular. This information is based on birth details on their identity cards which stated code of birth state as 71. Those selected were provided with basic facilities and systematic training as preparation for leading a better life and out of poverty. This settlement is called *Tanah Rancangan FELDA* or FELDA Settlement, led by a manager and several staff. This group functions as facilitator.

III. FELDA SETTLEMENT OF LURAH BILUT, BENTONG PAHANG

The second Prime Minister of Malaysia, Allahyarham Tun Abdul Razak Hussein established Federal Land Development Authority (FELDA) on July, 1st 1956 under the 1956 Land Ordinance. Establishment of FELDA was set with several goals such as to channel financial aid to state government, to take over project of state government, to open new lands in organized way and give to those landless. In line with that, 1960 Land (Group Settlement Areas) Act was legislated and presented in the Parliament. By this act, land development for big scale agricultural, specifically permanent plant such as rubber tree, oil palm and cocoa is given ownership in organized manner not ad-hoc as practiced by *Kanun Tanah Negara (KTN)*. Basically, selection of participants to settlement land opening is crucial for its development. Apart from upgrading the standard of living of the settlers, FELDA also aims to create modern and progressive community of settlers. Based on this fact, selection of settlers to be placed at FELDA settlement is conducted conscientiously and according to several terms set out (Zulkifli Mohamad, Ruzman Md Noor, Suwaid Tapah, Wan Zulkifli Wan Hassan, Khalim Zainal, Nazri Muslim, Azizi Umar, Aminudin Basir,

Abdul Salam Yusuff, Nasruddin Yunus and Jamsari Alias, 2018).

Selection of participants to Lurah Bilut Settlement (the first FELDA settlement) was opened to all citizen of *Persekutuan Tanah Melayu* or Federation of Malay Peninsular with priority given to residents/people of Pahang Darul Makmur. The selection was done with the cooperation of District Office in states of *Persekutuan Tanah Melayu*. Those who wish to join FELDA of Lurah Bilut were required to fill up forms provided and later interviewed at respective District Office. Criteria set out by FELDA to the applicants of Lurah Bilut Settlement were age between 20 to 45 years old and married. Next criteria were based on skill especially in agriculture and occupation background. Priority is given to those without land and possessed strong willpower to clear up forest. For that, participants were required to have excellent health and physically strong (Tunku Shamsul Bahrin 1992).

Intake of the participants into Lurah Bilut Settlement may be divided into three stages. The first stage involved 418 people who joined FELDA of Lurah Bilut in 1959. The second stage was in 1960, with 92 people. The third stage, in year 1961 involved 106 settlers. Total number of settlers who joined FELDA of Lurah Bilut was 616 participants. This total of 616 people had included all the three biggest ethnic groups in *Persekutuan Tanah Melayu*. Out of this total, 394 participants (63.96%) were Malay, 169 participants (27.44%) were Chinese and 47 participants (7.63%) were Indian. These percentages clearly indicate that highest participation in FELDA of Lurah Bilut was the Malay.

Out of 616 settlement participants of FELDA of Lurah Bilut, 199 people (32.31%) were from Pahang State. 147 of them join FELDA Lurah Bilut in the first stage, 28 people in the second stage and 24 people in the third stage. The remaining of 417 people (67.69%) was selected from different states. In order to make them felt close to their states of origin, roads in FELDA of Lurah Bilut were named Jalan Perlis, Jalan Pulau Pinang and so on. Ramlah Hamzah (1991) declared that high participation from Pahang State was in line with the objective of FELDA as well as Pahang State government to open up more opportunity to the people of Pahang.

Table 2: Distribution of Settlers of FELDA of Lurah Bilut Bentong Pahang According to State

State of Origin	Total Settlers			Grand Total
	First Stage	Second Stage	Third Stage	
Pahang	147	24	24	199
Selangor	99	14	20	130
Perak	37	-	16	53
Pulau Pinang	40	1	-	41
Kedah	29	10	-	39
Kelantan	27	-	-	27
Terengganu	12	-	-	12
Perlis	27	-	25	52
Negeri Sembilan	-	31	10	41
Melaka	-	11	4	15
Johor	-	-	7	7
Jumlah	418	92	106	616

The very first group of participants arrived in FELDA of Lurah Bilut was the group from Kampung Datuk Keramat, Kuala Lumpur led by Haji Ahmad. This group was considered as the pioneer group into FELDA of Lurah Bilut. On November 7th, 1959, a group from Sabak Bernam Selangor

joined in. This group was led by Haji Hashim with around 30 participants.

Following Pahang, the next states with highest number of participants joining Lurah Bilut Settlement were Selangor and Perak. From Selangor there were 130 people while from Perak 53 people. Pattern of participation with more settlers came from the states in the West Coast was in line with the objective of FELDA to reduce population density of these parts. Less participation from Johor State was due to the fact that the problem of insufficient land was not so significant in this state, and in 1969 Johor State government itself had approved 64,578 acre for the purpose of agricultural development managed by FELDA.

Each participant was given six to ten acre of agricultural land (2.4 hectare – 4 hectare), besides half an acre for housing and another acre as orchard. Applications from the candidates of settlement were processed by FELDA and after obtaining approval from State Authority where the land of settlement be, FELDA issued a Register of Hold for the successful participants and located the participants at the settlement. In terms of cost, each participant was given loan of RM35,000 (1985) and they need to repay this land opening loan in 15 years. As wrote by Nik Mohamad Zain (1991) in his book "*Pembangunan Hartanah Mengikut Perspektif Islam*" most of the government's financial resources for opening FELDA settlements were from World Bank loan and Federal Government.

The history of FELDA began by the establishment of FELDA settlement in Lurah Bilut Bentong, Pahang in 1958. They cultivated rubber plantation of 1,708.31 hectare. Another 122.26 hectare was allocated as village area. After the success of this settlement, it was then expanded nationwide. Today, FELDA is one of Malaysian economic giants with billion ringgits of sales yearly. FELDA is also the largest plantation company in the world. Basically, FELDA has succeeded in nation development since its first fifty years of establishment, especially in the aspect of poverty eradication.

Ever since its establishment, FELDA has done good deeds to the nation particularly in upgrading living standard of the settlers. In general, total distribution of FELDA settlements all over the country, at present time, is 317 with as many as 112,635 settlers. While the area of land involved is 447,578 hectare. With these figures, we realize that they have very much been of service to the economy of the country. Based on data of FELDA, Pahang has the most settlement land, i.e. 115 with as many as 43,123 settlers and land area of 165,799.97 hectare. This is more than a quarter of the whole settlers and land area (Table 3).

Table 3: Distribution of FELDA Settlements and Number of Settlers All Over the Country (FELDA 2010)

State	No. of Settlement	(i) No. of Settlers	Area(Hectare)
Johor	73	27,641	112,626.71
Kedah	10	3,185	11,483.20
Kelantan	11	3,115	15,633.88
Melaka	5	1,330	4,824.21
Negeri Sembilan	49	16,429	70,100.26
Pahang	115	43,123	165,799.97
Perak	17	5,914	22,441.36
Perlis	3	857	1,773.53
Sabah	9	1,649	10,147.83
Selangor	4	1,929	1,152.43
Terengganu	21	7,463	31,594.62
Total	317	112,635	447,578.00

Source: <http://www.felda.net.my/feldav2/bm/pembangunan-peneroka/pemmpatan>. Wednesday, 10/11/2010 3.00 pm.

Tunku Shamsul Bahrin (1992) stressed that “It must be noted that this could be the first ever where land settlements have been proposed as a method/way to overcome problem that is caused by poor way of granting ownership and land administration in Peninsular Malaysia”.

IV. LAYOUT OF FELDA COMMUNITY

FELDA Community is formed by organized migration that the government has planned. Prior to locating them in the settlements, the government has designed strategic plans to raise the community as middle class community. Layout of FELDA community is based on:

A. Unity and Social Interaction

FELDA community consists of settlers from all over Peninsular Malaysia. There are differences in terms of custom and conversation among the people of the different states, even if it is not so apparent. This may cause the settlers to interact and mix around with those from the same state only. Therefore, meticulous planning is necessary and this condition is avoided from occurring in FELDA community through housing lot allocation and distribution. Settlers from the same state of origin are not grouped together in a community but instead distributed equally (Nazri Muslim, Nik Yusri Musa dan Ahmad Hidayat Buang. 2011). By doing this it is hoped that interaction and social unity are formed at all level in a community (Sulong 1985).

B. Pattern of Land Ownership

Pattern of land ownership for FELDA settlement is specifically designed to suit economical characteristic of plant and settler’s economic need. Method of land ownership in FELDA settlement is subjected to the 1960 Land Act. FELDA has set few conditions as discussed by Sulong (1985). Amongst (1) ownership of land in the settlement must be transferred to two individuals only, (2) joint-ownership is not

allowed for housing lot and agricultural land, but if it is necessary for the land to be developed by a group, based on principles of co-operation, then co-ownership is allowed and the revenue to be divided according to land area, (3) land is not for mortgage or rent either partly or in whole, (4) land is not for sale, (5) traditional practices and Islamic law on property inheritance which cause dividing of the land are not allowed, and if these rules are not complied with, the land ownership will be cancelled by the order of Land Revenue Collector, (6) land ownership will be withdrawn by FELDA if the settler do not abide by the rules after being given notice and chance to explain the reason for non-compliance, (7) any settler who is not satisfied with decision made by FELDA and its officers in performing these rules may make appeal to the relevant ministry and ministry’s decision is final.

C. Population Mixture

FELDA tries to develop a balance community through a population mixture that comprises of various backgrounds. This attempt may be seen from the selection of settlers. Selected settlers are different in their background. Age of those qualified is in the range of 18 to 35 years old. As for ex-army and ex-police, maximum age limit is 45 years. The reason is to avoid certain age group only in FELDA community. Another criteria that is given priority is married and with children. This would include lower age group into the community The next criteria are based on certain skill, educational background and occupational background. Settlers are not only those with agricultural background, but also small businessmen, ex-soldiers and ex-policemen, carpenters, barbers, unemployed persons and those with different background and training. This does not mean that applicants without formal education and training will not be selected. This kind of selection criteria will allow for various backgrounds of settlers to be in the community. Settlers are also selected from all the states in Peninsular Malaysia.

Table 4: Settler’s Occupation Prior to Joining FELDA of Lurah Bilut

Type of Occupation	Number
Businessman	30
Padi planter	186
Fisherman	20
Rubber tapper	76
Estate worker	2
Ex-security member	88
Labour and self-employed	70
No answer	15
Total	490

Source: 1976 Census of FELDA Settlers

Attempt is also made to get participation from the biggest ethnic groups in Malaysia. Although Malay ethnic group is the majority, there are other ethnic groups as well in FELDA community. This layout may be seen clearly in FELDA of Lurah Bilut, Pahang. Silcock said (in Sulong 1985) “FELDA locates not only Malay race in its settlements”. While Wikramatilake said “Other Malaysian ethnic groups are also qualified to apply for becoming settlers in FELDA settlements”. Therefore undoubtedly, with best policies and best selection of participants, FELDA now appears as the most successful model of land development and settlement programme in the world.

V. PLEASURE AFTER 50 YEARS OF MIGRATION

The success of FELDA today is the symbol of struggle and sacrifice of the settlers. They migrated and leaving behind their hometowns with the aspiration to build new life. Today, FELDA appears as country’s major producer of palm oil. Their continuous, striving effort without giving up has transformed the landscape of thick forest into unique settlement area. This invaluable sacrifice establishes FELDA as a giant in national economy. Thus, all the hard work is not disregarded by the government. Instead, the government has introduced several new incentive schemes in order to empower the community development of settlers and their younger generation.

Among the development schemes introduced are:

A. Support and Loan to Settlers

Service and sacrifice of the settlers are appreciated. In order to help them upgrading their life standard and to be of middle class group, FELDA always provide numerous support and loan.

B. Settler’s Welfare Fund

This fund was introduced in July 2005 with an amount of RM500,000.00. In 2007 and 2008 this fund had increased to RM1.5 millions.

The objective of this fund is to assist the settlers in the event of:

- i. Chronic disease
- ii. Natural disaster
- iii. In need of support equipment.

This contribution is given in order to enlighten their burden. In 2007, total of 280 applications were received and 207 had been approved involving value of RM1.06 millions. Up to March 2010, total of 1,003 settlers had received benefits through Settler’s Welfare Fund amounting RM5.26 millions.

Table 5: Receivers of Settler’s Welfare Fund

Year	Chronic Disease	Natural Disaster	Support Equipment	Total	Cost in RM
2005	13	-	3	16	97,844
2006	138	21	52	211	848,114
2007	148	25	82	255	956,165
2008	138	20	56	214	1,760,851
2009	159	19	72	250	1,285,632
2010 (Mac)	37	5	15	57	312,607
Total	633	90	280	1,003	5,261,213

C. Settler’s Housing Loan Fund

FELDA has also offered housing loan to qualified settlers. This loan facility is created in 2005 with the objective to assist the settlers in building or renovating their house on the settlement land. Rate of loan for each qualified settler is RM10,000 minimum and RM40,000 maximum. Through this, the settlers may enjoy more comfortable life. This non-interest loan is open to all settlers aged below 70 years old at the time of loan approval. One-time service charge of 2.5 percent for the whole loan period is incurred for management cost. Maximum loan repayment period is 15 years. Up to March 2010, total of 21,550 settlers had obtained approval for this loan amounting to RM591,778,000.00.

Table 6: Receiver of Housing Loan Fund

Year	No. of Borrower	Value (RM)
2005	320	7,295,000.00
2006	739	16,675,000.00
2007	7,223	195,015,000.00
2008	7,929	185,512,000.00
2009	3,346	116,958,000.00
2010 (Mac)	1,993	70,323,000.00
TOTAL	21,550	591,778,000.00

D. Settler’s Computer Loan Scheme

It is FELDA’s intention to ensure settlers are computer literate. Thus, loan scheme for purchasing computer was introduced in 2005 for improving settler’s skill in information technology. This non-interest loan worth RM2,400 per individual is given in the form of one complete set of computer including software to each qualified settler. Loan repayment period is 35 months. Through this package, settlers are involved in the mainstream of borderless knowledge. At the same time, they are no longer secluded in remote areas. Up to December 2009, total of 3,640 settlers had obtained loan approval with total amount of RM9.09 millions. For period of January till March 2010, total of 26 settlers got the computer loan approval with value of RM62,400.

E. Perumahan Warga FELDA (PWF) Project

Perumahan Warga FELDA (PWF) or Housing of FELDA Citizen is set up with the intention to assist the settlers and settlers’ younger generation to comfortably own affordable houses, besides developing FELDA settlements in organized manner. This may also help the government in expediting the growth of low cost housing. Up to this date, FELDA has carried out PWF in Taman Mempaga Utama, Taman Bukit Goh Perdana, Taman Lepar Hilir Saujana and Taman Desa Keratong Pahang.

Table 7: Housing Project of FELDA Citizen (PWF) 2008

Project Name	Number of House Unit			
	RKR	RKSR	Total House	SHOP
	Build	Build		Build
Taman Mempaga Utama, Pahang	161	47	208	-
Taman Bukit Goh Perdana, Pahang	338	139	477	4
Taman Lepar Hilir Saujana, Pahang	192	58	250	5
Taman Desa Keratong, Pahang	214	208	422	5
Total	905	452	1,357	14

Table 8: Housing Project of FELDA Citizen (PWF) 2009

Project Name	Project Status	Number of House Unit			
		RKR	RKSR	Total House	SHOP
		Build	Build		Build
Pasak, Johor	Started	423	339	762	11
Jengka 19, Pahang	Started	186	83	269	-
Triang 3, Pahang	Started	192	112	304	4
Jengka 11, Pahang	Site approval process	105	23	128	4
Chiku 5, Kelantan	Site approval process	277	121	398	4
Neram 1, Terengganu	Site approval process	111	28	139	4
Chini 3, Pahang	Site approval process	437	187	624	8
Total		1,731	893	2,624	35

Apart from that, commercial housing project was also carried out by redeveloping the housing site of FELDA staff in an area of 3.42 hectare known as Desa Semarak in Bandar Muadzam Shah Pahang. This project began on July 3rd, 2006 which involved construction of 125 units of medium cost houses with cost estimation of RM9.4 millions.

F. New Generation Education

Various programmes are conducted in the settlements that aim for participation of all settlers. The foci of this activity are education, health, spiritual and strengthening family institution (Nazri Muslim. 2012). Educational aspect at all levels is the priority of FELDA in ensuring settler community becomes the sample community of rural areas. Priority is given to educational sectors such as:

G. Asrama Semai Bakti FELDA

Asrama Semai Bakti FELDA, a hostel that was established in 1975 for locating students of FELDA’s new generation who are children of the settlers and staff, from form one to five, so as to give them opportunity of getting better education. Asrama Semai Bakti is build with the purpose to enable them obtaining complete education in major cities. Students who are placed at Asrama Semai Bakti FELDA receive education at selected schools in the city. Other than hostel, FELDA also provides transportation service to schools, tuition classes, motivation programmes and etc. All costs are fully borne by FELDA. Every year, FELDA

allocates about RM10 millions for funding the accommodation of students of FELDA generation in the hostel. A total of 12,651 students have had the benefit of Asrama Semai Bakti FELDA since its setting up in 1975 until December 2009. It has produced intellectuals and professionals out of settler generation all over the country. To date, there are 1,576 Ph.D graduates, 1,258 Master degree (M.A) graduates, 21,871 Bachelor degree (B.A) graduates and 42,412 Diploma and Certificate graduates of FELDA generation. Professionals of FELDA generation consist of 4,254 engineers, 742 doctors, 1,367 accountants, 323 lawyers, 18,044 profesional officers, 18,212 teachers and 14,868 entrepreneurs in various fields.

H. FELDA Tuition Scheme (STF)

The objective of Skim Tuisyen FELDA (STF) or FELDA Tuition Scheme is to increase academic performance of settlers’ children in major examinations such as Ujian Pencapaian Sekolah Rendah (UPSR), Penilaian Menengah Rendah (PMR) and Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM). STF was started in October 2004 in all primary and secondary schools in FELDA settlements for form 3 and form 5 students. In 2005, STF was expanded to year 5 and year 6 students. Total of 370 schools are involved, out of these 100 are secondary schools and 270 are primary schools. Every year, FELDA allocates RM20 millions in funding STF. As many as 332,003 students have had the benefit of STF.

Table 9: Fraction of STF Students 2004 – 2010

Year	Primary	School	Secondary	School	TOTAL
	Year 5	UPSR	PMR	SPM	
2004	-	-	16,631	18,319	34,950
2005	16,658	17,849	18,507	18,356	71,370
2006	12,386	16,958	15,725	15,174	60,243
2007	15,765	16,177	15,859	14,941	62,742
2008	10,617	11,787	13,742	13,786	49,932
2009	-	13,704	12,931	12,031	38,666
2010	-	8,100	3,000	3,000	14,100
					332,003

I. Support and Loan for Pursuing Studies to IPTA/IPTS

Apart from education facility, support and loan are also given to students who are qualified and excellent in academic. Various supports are provided as incentive for them to attain highest qualification. FELDA provides three types of

supports namely Bantuan Pelajaran Tinggi or Higher Education Benefit, Skim Pinjaman Pelajaran Tinggi FELDA or FELDA Higher Education Loan Scheme and Basiswa Kumpulan FELDA or FELDA Group Scholarship.



J. Higher Education Benefit

Higher Education Benefit Scheme is given to settlers' children who are qualified to pursue study in Public Higher Learning Institute or *Institusi Pengajian Tinggi Awam (IPTA)* and Private Higher Learning Institute or *Institusi Pengajian Tinggi Swasta (IPTS)* recognized by the government, at Diploma and Bachelor degree levels of full time courses. This benefit is given to enlighten their financial burden and encourage them to pursue for higher education.

Table 10: Value of Higher Education Benefit

No.	Level	Grant (RM)
1	Diploma	500.00
2	Degree	1,000.00
3	Overseas Degree	1,500.00

For 2009, total of 3,055 students including 1,459 diploma students, 1,555 degree students and 41 overseas degree students had received intensive benefit, to higher learning institute with total allocation of RM2.3 millions.

K. FELDA Higher Education Loan Scheme (SPPTF)

This scheme is given to help settlers' children, as source of funding for them to further their studies at higher learning institution. This loan is offered to all children of FELDA settlers who are studying in IPTA/IPTS all over the country and also to those who do not receive any financial support from any party.

Table 11: Value of FELDA Higher Learning Loan

No.	Level	Loan Rate per Year (RM)
1	Diploma	4,500.00
2	Degree	6,000.00

For 2009, total of 123 applications were approved, with 67 at diploma level and 84 at degree level, and total value amounting to RM2.04 millions.

L. Special Fund for Excellent Students

In 2008, FELDA has offered 20 nominations to 2007 SPM holders for the 2008 Excellent Student Special Fund Award. Only 14 students were found qualified and then sent to undergo foundation programme at several institution such as the following:

Table 12: Institution and Programme of FELDA Excellent Students Special Fund Award

No.	Institution	Programme	Programme
1	UMC	Diploma IB	Engineering
2	KYUEM	A-Level	Engineering, Accountancy, Biotechnology
3	KMB	IB	Engineering, Biotechnology

In 2009, FELDA has begun to send students abroad. A total of 36 students were sent to United States, United Kingdom and Ireland, starting August until October 2009. Fraction of students according to country is as follows:

Table 13: Country and Course of FELDA Excellent Students Special Fund

No.	Country	Number of Students	Intake	Course
1	United States	3	August	Engineering
2	United Kingdom	32	September/October	Engineering, Biotechnology, Medical, Accountancy
3	Ireland	1	September	Medical
Total		36 persons		

VI. CONCLUSION

The success of FELDA settlements nationwide is due to migration willpower among the settlers. This migration is indeed unique because it is done in organized manner, big scale and the most successful in the world. Should migration is without planning, success is indefinite. The success of this migration is because of the government has organized action plans and it is participated by the best participants. After more than 50 years of migration, now they are enjoying the sweetness. Perhaps, this is what was meant by Tun Razak, "Best Land for The Best People", FELDA has proven it.

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AUTHORS PROFILE



Zulkifli Mohamad, Lecturer at Pusat Citra, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Malaysia



Nazri Muslim, Lecturer at Pusat Citra, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Malaysia



Wan Zulkifli Wan Hassan, Lecturer at Pusat Citra, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Malaysia

Migration from Traditional Village to Group Settlement Area: AN Analysis of Felda Experience



Azizi Umar, Lecturer at Pusat Citra, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Malaysia



Maharam Mamat, Lecturer at Pusat Citra, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Malaysia