

10

Social Trends

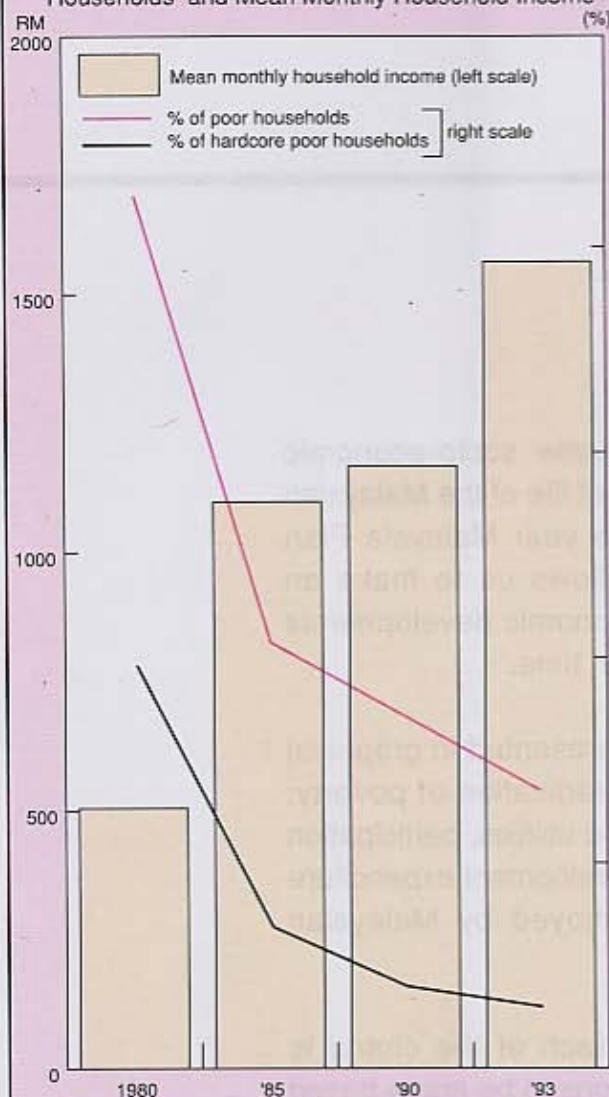
This section provides some socio-economic indicators on the quality of life of the Malaysian population over several five year Malaysia Plan periods. The information allows us to make an assessment of the socio-economic developments that have taken place over time.

The indicators which are presented in graphical form cover areas such as eradication of poverty, education, health, housing and utilities, participation of women in employment, development expenditure allocations and benefits enjoyed by Malaysian workers.

A short commentary on each of the charts is provided to enable comparisons to be made based on a time series basis.

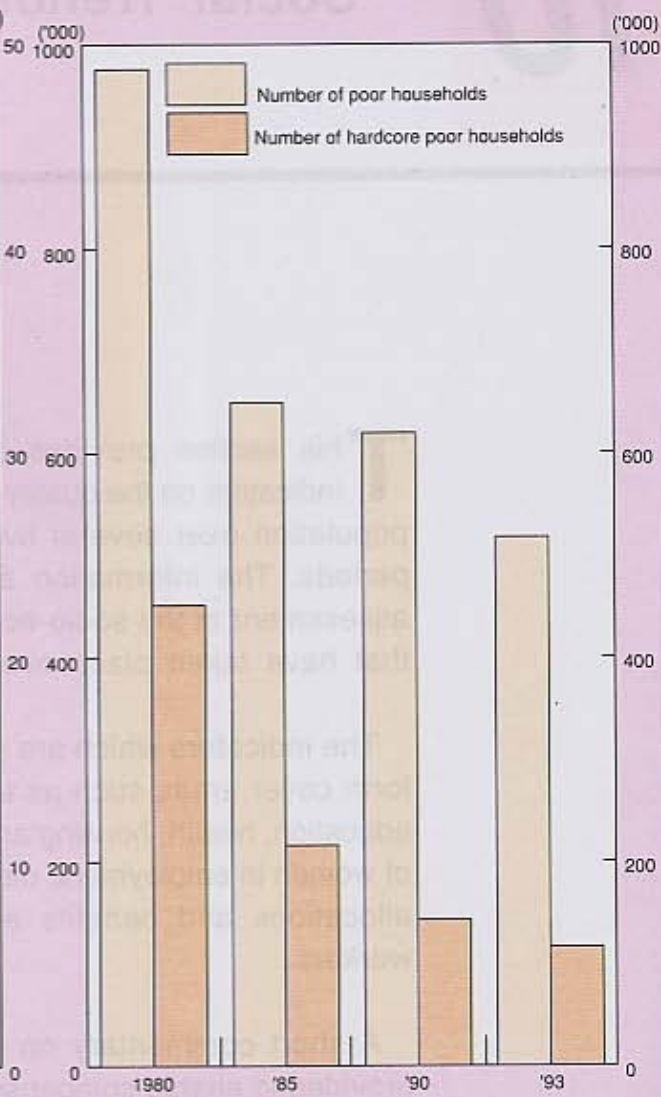
Eradication of Poverty

Chart 10.1
Percentage of Poor and Hardcore Poor
Households and Mean Monthly Household Income



Source : Agriculture Census 1976 and Household Income Surveys, Department of Statistics

Chart 10.2
Number of Poor and Hardcore Poor Households



Poverty has been significantly reduced in Malaysia with the implementation of programmes and projects to eradicate poverty. Poverty, especially absolute poverty in the form of starvation, famine or lack of shelter, does not occur but relative poverty of the lower bottom 40% of households remains an issue.

The incidence of poverty in Malaysia has declined significantly from 42.4% in 1976 to 13.5% in 1993. In line with this, the hardcore poverty rate had also declined from 19.6% in 1976 to 3% in 1993.

Reflecting the progress achieved in poverty alleviation, the mean monthly household income for Malaysia in current prices has, on the whole, improved from RM505 per month in 1976 to RM1,563 per month in 1993.

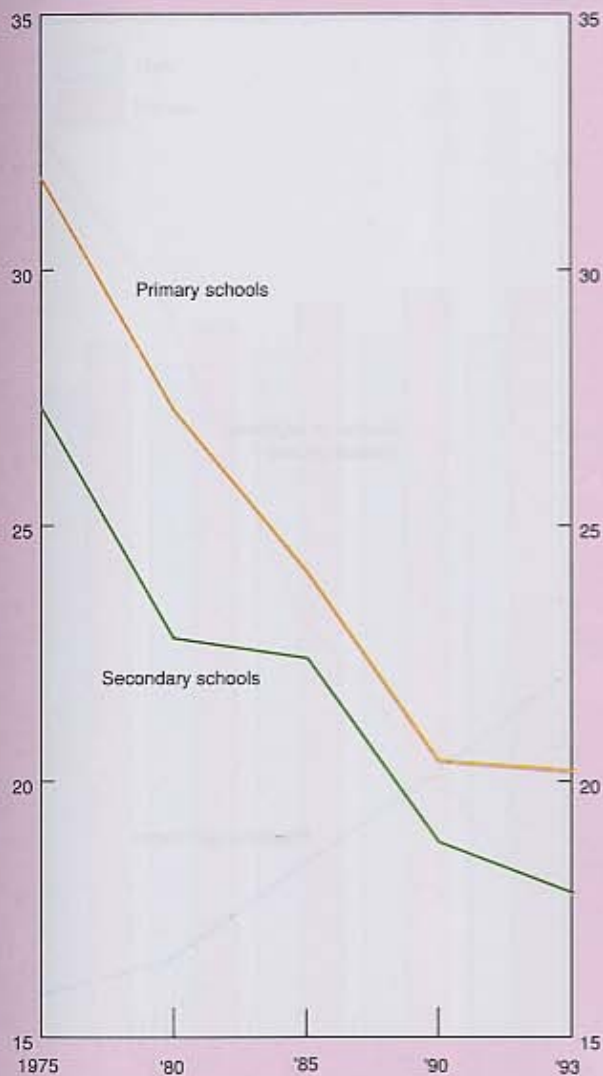
In counting the number of poor households and measuring the incidence of poverty, the approach used is a poverty line income. The poverty line income takes into account three major components namely food, clothing and footwear as well as other non-food components such as rent, fuel and power, transport and communications, health, education and recreation. In 1993, the poverty line income amounted to RM405 per month for a household size of 4.8 in Peninsular Malaysia, RM582 per month for a household size of 5.1 in Sabah and RM495 per month for a household size of 5.1 in Sarawak. For estimating the incidence of hardcore poverty, half of the poverty line income was used.

The number of poor and hardcore poor households in Malaysia has been considerably reduced from about 975,800 households and 451,300 households in 1976 to 517,200 and 116,400 households respectively, in 1993. The number of poor and hardcore poor households is expected to be further reduced in the near future with the continued implementation of the Development Programmes for the Poorest, which is tailored to meet the specific needs of the poorest. Government allocation for the hardcore poor programmes in 1993 was RM280 million.

Education

Chart 10.3

Student - Teacher Ratios
(number of students per teacher)

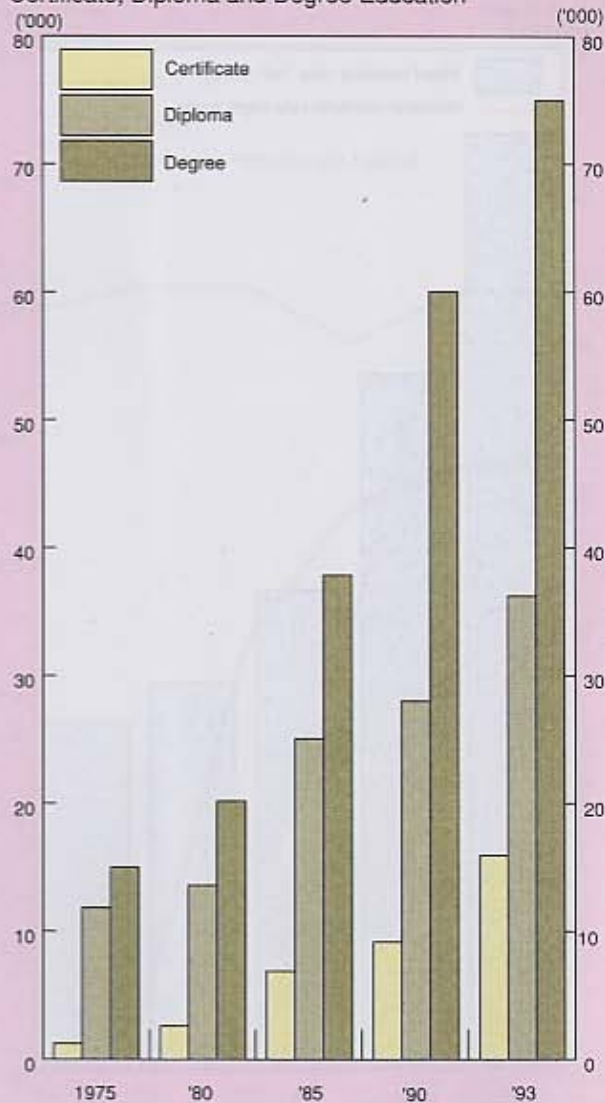


Source: Ministry of Education

The student-teacher ratio in government-assisted primary schools has improved from 31.8 students per teacher in 1975 to 20.2 in 1993. The same trend also occurred for government-assisted secondary schools where the student-teacher ratio has improved from 27.3 in 1975 to 17.8 in 1993.

Chart 10.4

Student Enrolment in Local Public Institutions -
Certificate, Diploma and Degree Education



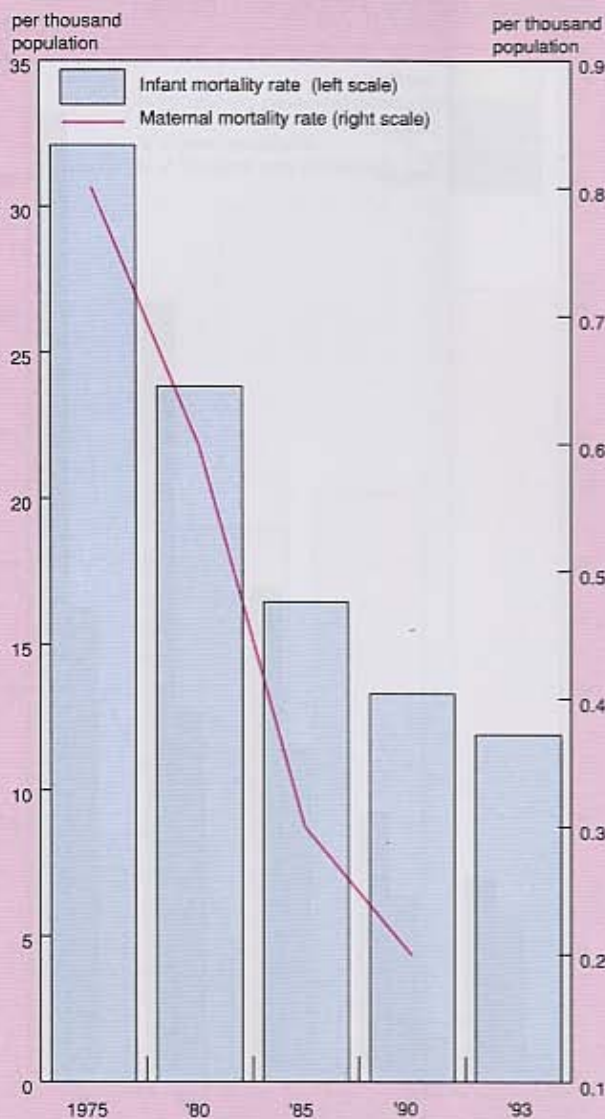
There were substantial increases in enrolment in certificate, diploma and degree education over the five year Malaysia Plan periods. In 1975, student enrolment in a first degree course was 15,000 students while in 1993, the enrolment increased to about 75,000 students, a five fold increase, as new universities, new facilities and expansion of existing facilities have made possible the substantial increase in the intake to tertiary education. A similar trend was also registered for enrolment in the Diploma and Certificate courses.

Diploma enrolment increased three fold to 36,200 students in 1993, compared with an intake of 11,800 students in 1975, while enrolment in Certificate education was 15,900 students in 1993, about 13 times more than the enrolment of 1,200 students in 1975.

Health

Chart 10.5

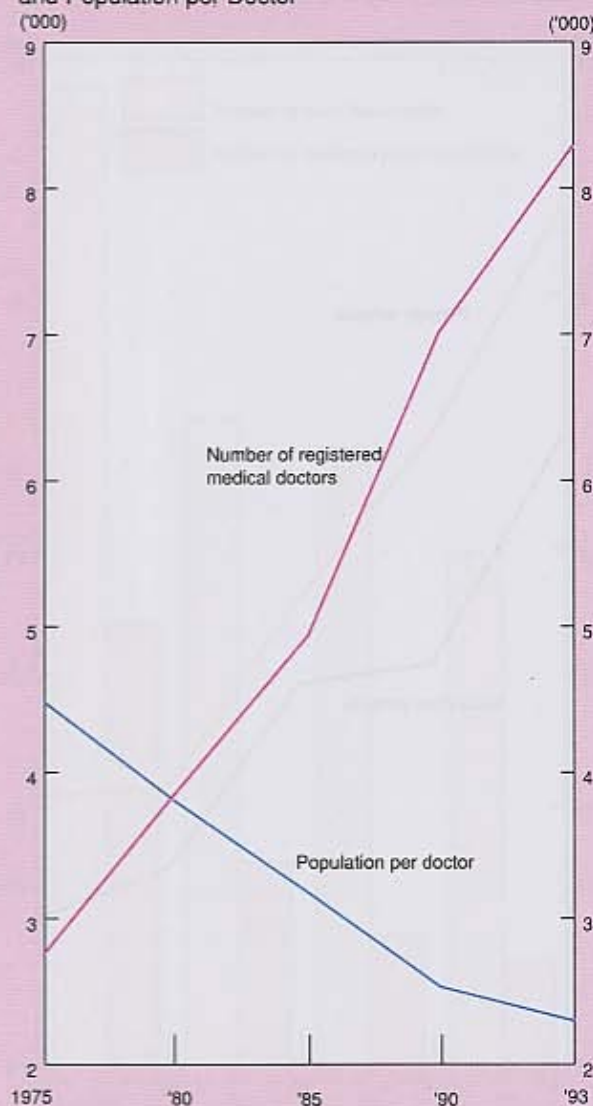
Infant and Maternal Mortality Rates



Source: Department of Statistics

Chart 10.6

Number of Registered Medical Doctors and Population per Doctor



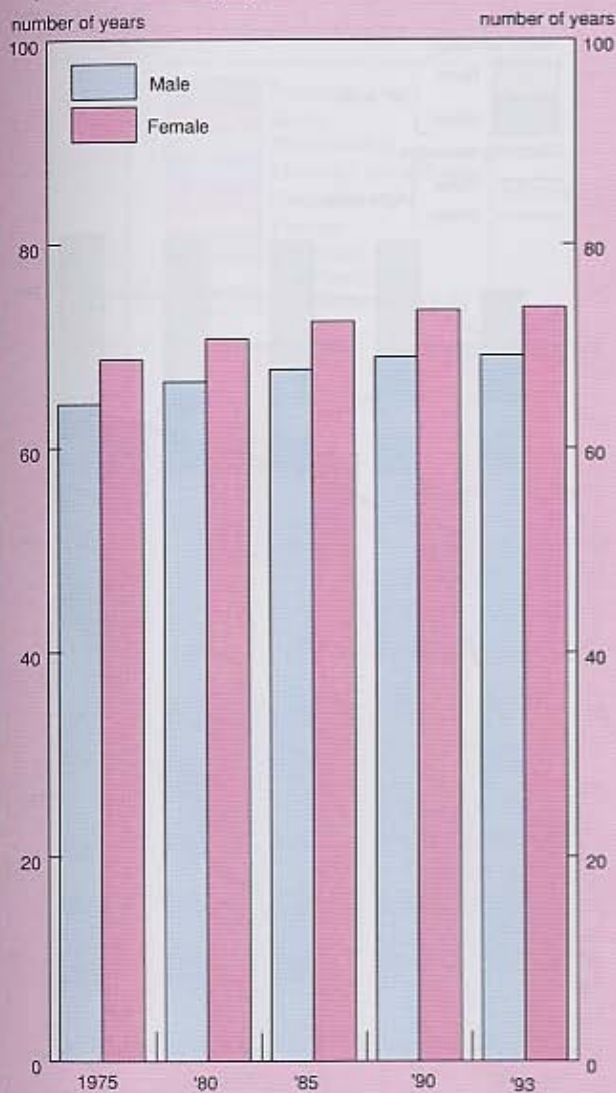
Source: Ministry of Health

The infant mortality rate for every 1,000 live births in Peninsular Malaysia has improved in the five year Malaysia Plan periods. The infant mortality rate which was 32.1 live births per thousand population in 1975 declined to 11.9 live births per thousand population in 1993. The maternal mortality rate which refers to the number of deaths from puerperal causes also declined from 0.8 per thousand live births in 1975 to 0.2 per thousand live births in 1992.

The number of registered medical doctors has increased from 2,800 doctors in 1975 to 8,300 doctors in 1993. As a result, the population-doctor ratio has declined. In 1975, the population-doctor ratio, which was 4,480 people per doctor, improved to 2,300 people per doctor in 1993.

Health

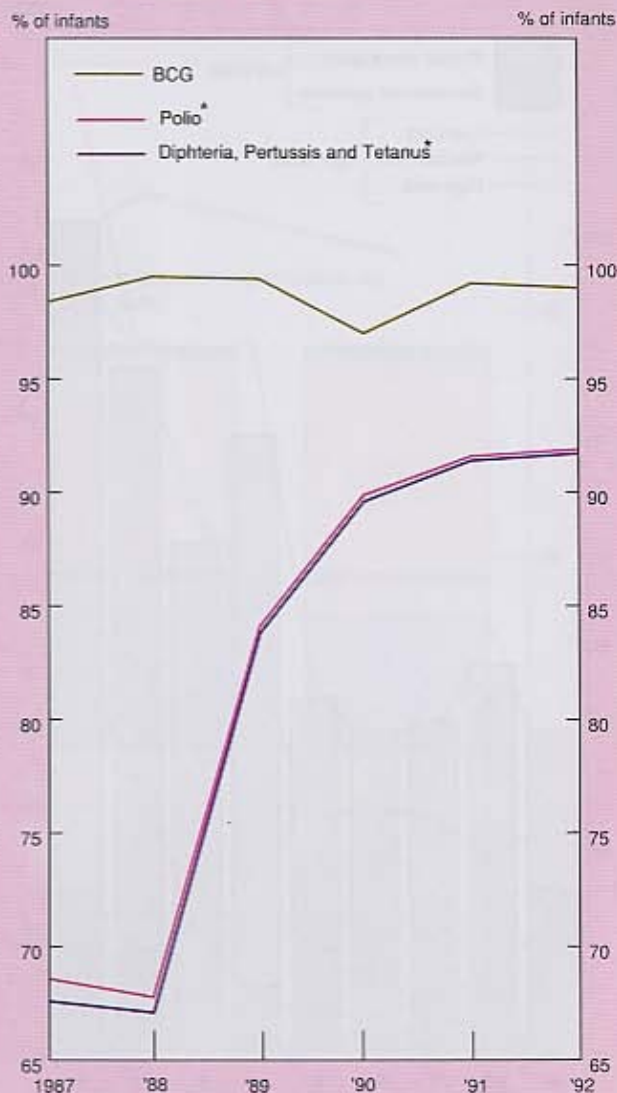
Chart 10.7
Male and Female Life Expectancy
(Peninsular Malaysia)



Source : Department of Statistics

The life expectancy for male and female population in Peninsular Malaysia has improved over the five year Malaysia Plan periods. Male life expectancy increased from 64.3 years in 1975 to 69.1 year in 1993. The same trend was also registered for the life expectancy of the female population which improved from 68.7 years in 1975 to 73.8 years in 1993. The longer life enjoyed by both sexes was due to better health facilities.

Chart 10.8
Immunisation Coverage of BCG, Polio and
Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus



*Completed dosage
Source : Ministry of Health

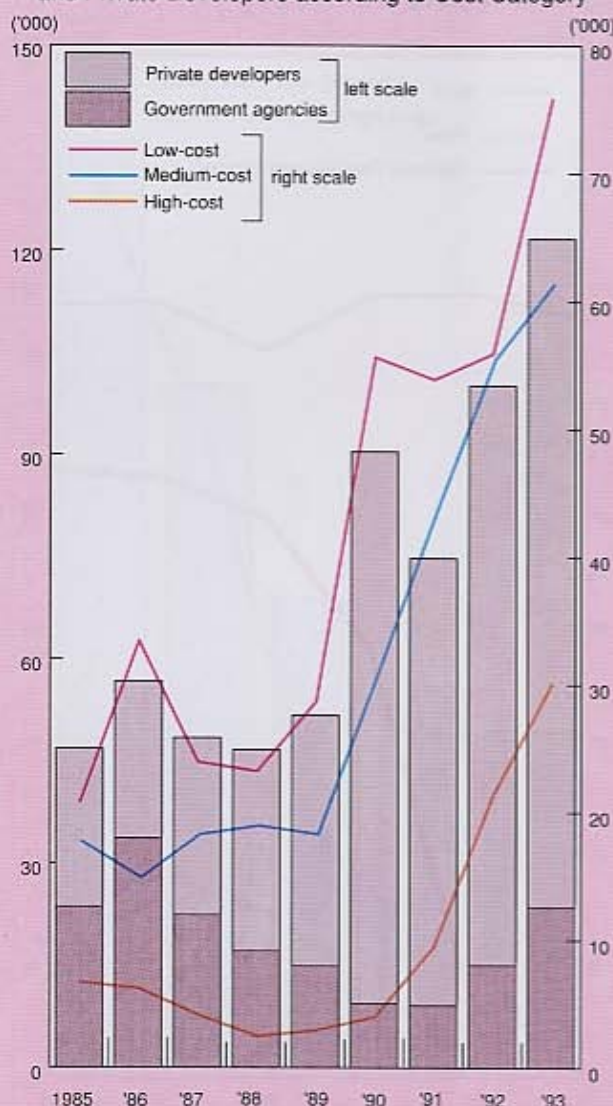
Malaysia provides free immunisation against major communicable diseases such as tuberculosis, polio, diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus. The above chart indicates records of infants who have received the completion doses of polio, diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus and also BCG injections.

The coverage of infants for BCG immunisation has improved. In 1987, the BCG coverage for infants was 98.7% and this has improved to 99% in 1992. The completion dose coverage for polio and diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus immunisation also showed similar improvement. Coverage improved from 67.6% for polio and 68.6% for diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus in 1987 to 92.1% and 91.9%, respectively, in 1992.

Housing and Utilities

Chart 10.9

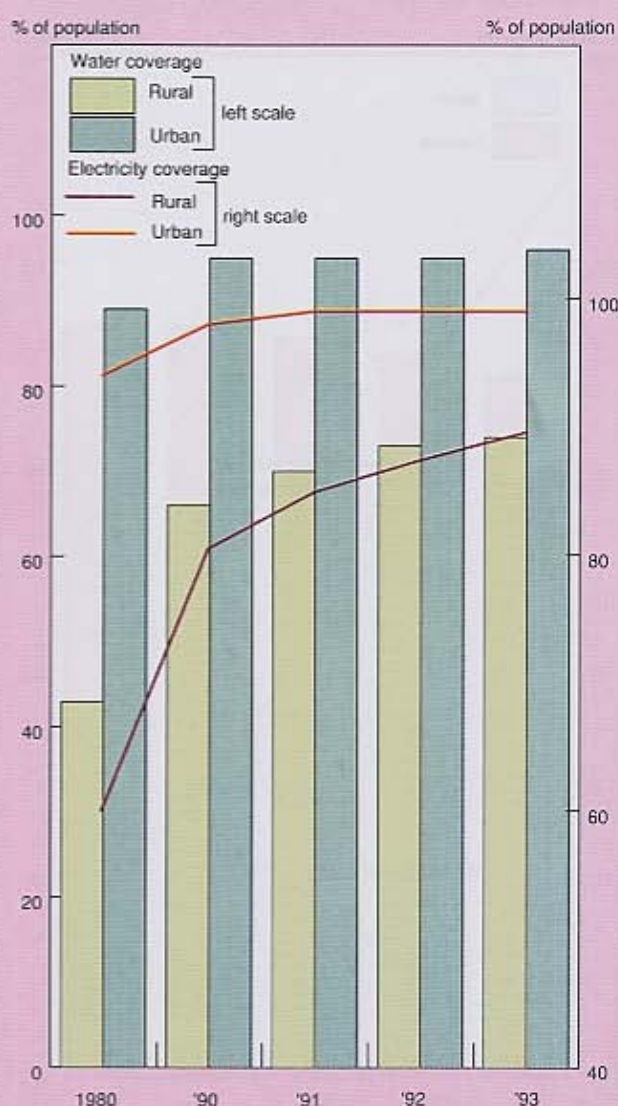
Housing Units Completed by Government Agencies and Private Developers according to Cost Category



Source: Ministry of Housing and Local Authority

Chart 10.10

Water and Electricity Coverage



Source: Economic Planning Unit, Prime Minister's Department

The objective of the housing policy is to provide Malaysians of all income groups, particularly the low income level, accessibility to adequate and affordable shelter. Towards this end, a steady supply of houses, particularly low-cost and medium-cost houses, have been built to cater for the needs of the population. Low-cost housing, with the maximum price tag of RM25,000 per unit, is developed both by the Government, through public funding, as well as by the private sector. In 1993, about 75,835 low-cost houses were built compared with 20,857 units in 1985. The same trend was registered for the medium-cost and high-cost houses.

About 63,514 of medium and 30,048 units of high-cost houses were developed in 1993 registering increases of 229% and 350.2% respectively when compared with 19,307 units and 6,674 units developed in 1985. In 1993, the number of units of houses built by the Government was 23,630 units, which was about the same number of units built by the Government in 1985 (23,632 units). In 1993, private developers built 98,074 houses of all categories, an increase of 322.6% over the number of houses built in 1985 (23,206 units). This reflects the enlarged role of private developers in housing programmes as well as the increased demand for houses in 1993 compared with the recessionary year of 1985.

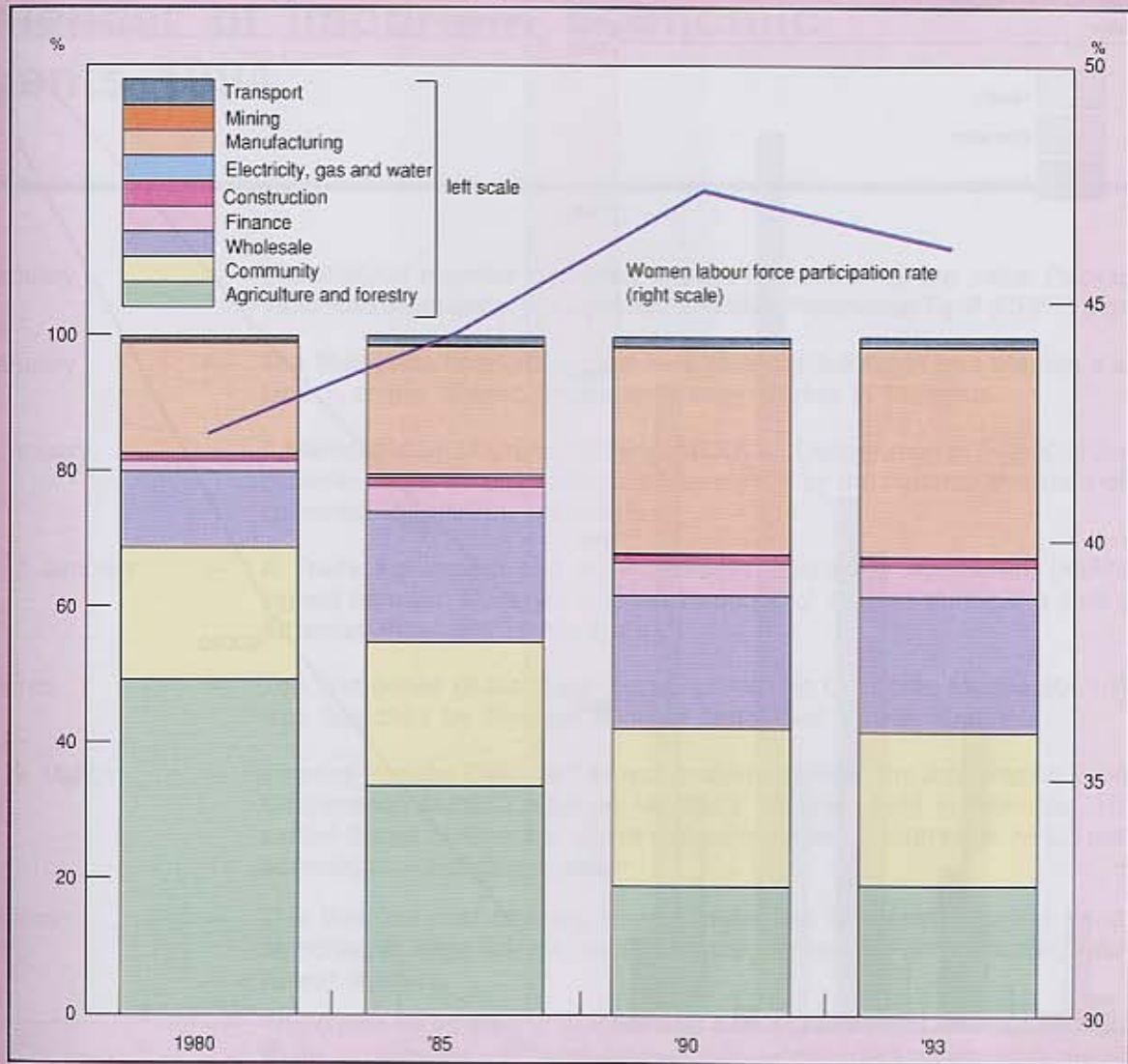
Water and electricity are two basic public utilities. It is the objective of the Government to provide safe water for the whole population in Malaysia. In terms of urban coverage, 89% of the total urban population were served with safe water in 1980. This increased to 96% in 1993. Similarly, the same trend was registered for the rural areas, where coverage improved from 42.9% in 1980 to 74% in 1993.

Electricity coverage for the population of Malaysia has increased substantially, especially, for the rural population. For the urban population the coverage which was 94% in 1980 increased to 99% in 1993, while for the rural population, the coverage which was 60% in 1980, increased by 29.6% to 89.6% in 1993.

Participation of Women

Chart 10.11

Women Labour Force Participation Rate and Employment by Industry



Source: Economic Planning Unit, Prime Minister's Department

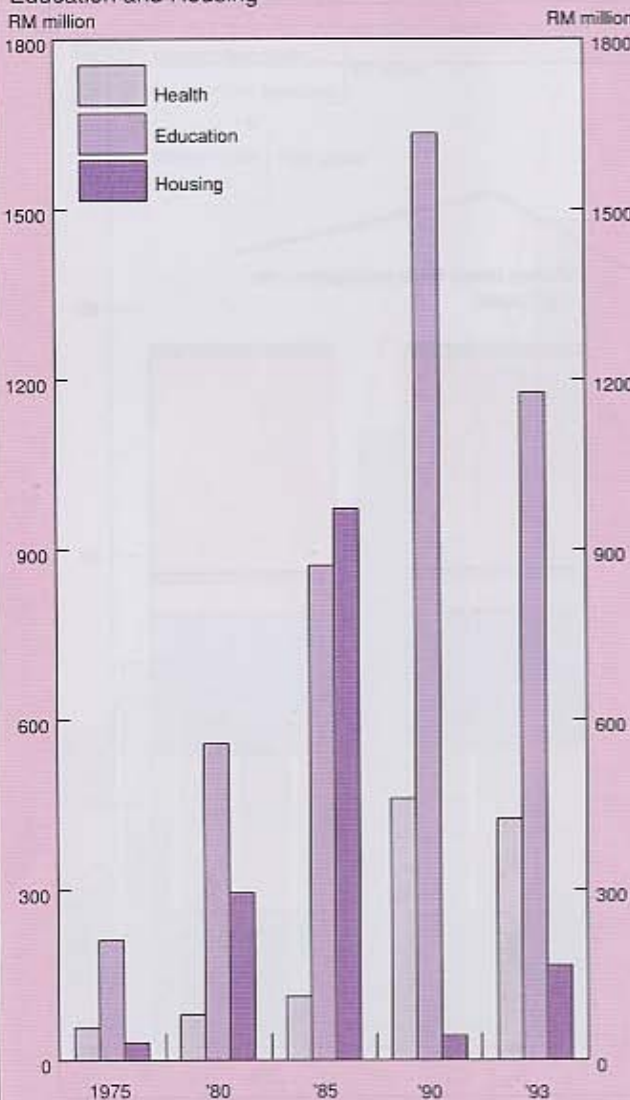
The labour force participation rate for women increased from 42.2% in 1980 to 46.1% in 1993. However, this participation rate still lags behind that of men which was 84.8% in 1980 and 87% in 1993.

Participation of women by sector of employment has shown structural changes over the years. A bigger share of women are employed by the manufacturing sector in 1993 (30.8%) as compared with 1980 (16.3%). The same trend was registered for employment in the wholesale and retail trade, hotels and restaurants sub-sector where the share of women participation increased from 11.2% in 1980 to 19.9% in 1993. As proportionately more women are employed in the manufacturing, trade and services sectors due to increased employment opportunities in these sectors, the share of women employed in the agriculture sector declined from 49.3% in 1980 to 19.2% in 1993.

Development Expenditure for Social Services and Coverage of Workers Benefits

Chart 10.12

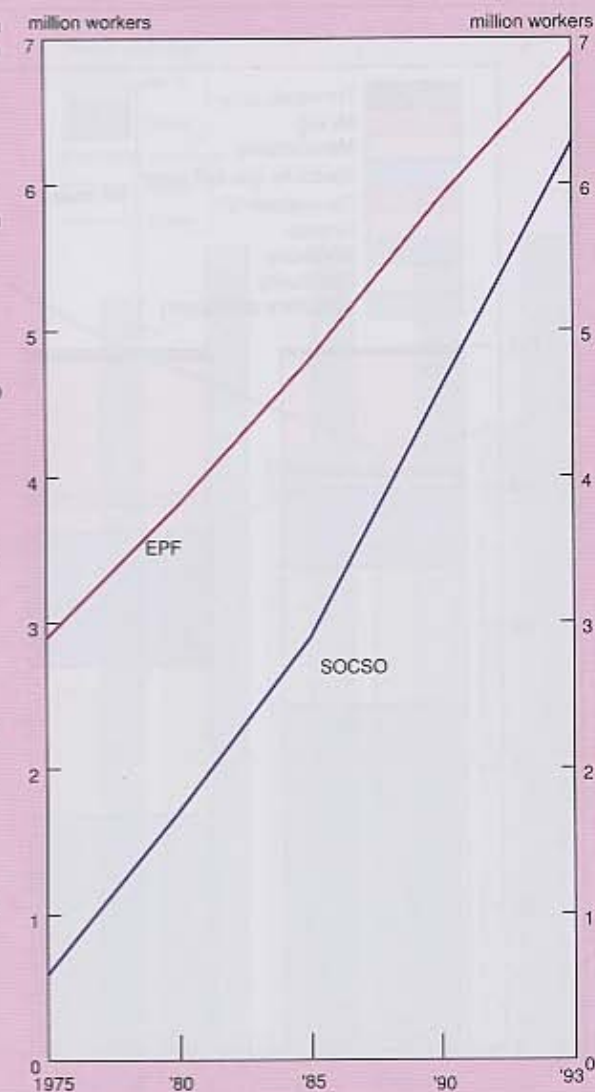
Development Expenditure for Health, Education and Housing



Source : Ministry of Finance

Chart 10.13

Workers Benefits Coverage



Source : Employees Provident Fund (EPF)
Social Security Organisation (SOCSO)

Development expenditure of the social services sector, of which health and education were major components, accounted for 24.2% of the total development expenditure in 1993. Education which accounted for the largest share of expenditure in the social services, increased from RM212 million in 1975 to RM1,177 million in 1993, due to the construction of a new university in Sarawak, a new campus of the International Islamic University (IIU) at Gombak, as well as the feasibility study for IIU's medical faculty at Kuantan and the upgrading of educational facilities and support programmes such as hostels, quarters for teachers, special education assistance and sports facilities. To upgrade the health and the quality of life of the people, development expenditure on health was increased from RM57 million in the 1975 to RM425 million in 1993. Part of the expenditure was for the construction of new hospitals including nucleus hospitals, staff hostels, health centres, rural clinics and upgrading health facilities in existing hospitals.

Provident, pension and insurance funds are financial schemes designed to provide members and their dependants with social security in the form of retirement, medical, death or disability benefits. The Employees Provident Fund (EPF), which was established in 1951, is the premier social security institution in the country. With growth in the labour force, as well as increased coverage, membership in the EPF increased from 2.9 million contributors in 1975 to 6.9 million contributors in 1993. The Social Security Organisation (SOCSO) was established in 1971 to provide social security benefits to low-income workers in the industrial and public sectors. Reflecting the increase in the labour force and the extension of the coverage by the organisation to cover a larger proportion of the labour force, the total number of workers registered under SOCSO rose steadily from 645,933 workers in 1975 to 6,285,194 workers in 1993.