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CHANGE OF SMALL URBAN CENTERS IN THE NORTHERN CORRIDOR OF SELANGOR FROM THE EXPANSION OF KLANG-LANGAT METROPOLITAN REGION VALLEY, MALAYSIA

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ABSTRACT: This article aims to verify the critical elements in identifying factors for the change of small urban centers due to the expansion of the Klang-Langat Metropolitan Region Valley using the Exploration Factor Analysis (EFA) and Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA) approach. This study involved 355 respondents from Hulu Selangor, Selangor selected by random sampling technique. The Likert scale questionnaires 1 until 5 were used to obtain feedback. Overall, the questionnaire reached the level of reliability with Alpha Cronbach value for each construct greater than 0.7. The collected data were processed through EFA for the grouping of the constructs and items for the change factor of small urban centers. The CFA was done to verify the accumulated constructs based on their respective groups. The findings show that there are six constructs created which were access (5 items), environment (5 items), security (2 items), activity (4 items), neighborhood (2 items) and infrastructure (2 items). Therefore, hopefully, the finding of this research can help in identifying factors to the transformation of small urban centers due to the expansion of the Klang-Langat Valley and in the studies area in the transformation of small urban centers. This is because the transformation drives a positive and negative impact on both urban and rural areas through increasing socioeconomic in society and ultimately contributes to the quality of life of the community in line with the current globalization.

Keywords: Settlement of Small Centers, Factors for Change, Selangor Northern Corridor, Klang Langat Metropolitan Region Valley

1. INTRODUCTION

Urbanization is a growing phenomenon in the world. It has attracted the attention of urban geographers, planners and even policymakers because, without proper planning and policies, urbanization will have a negative impact on the socio-economic development of the population in an area or country. In line with current globalization, the process of urbanization is accelerating, especially in developing countries, including Malaysia, as well as changes in urban growth patterns that continue to develop [1].

Roberts, Sykes, & Granger state that urbanization can be viewed as a process in terms of 1) Increasing the number and density of the urban population. Cities become denser as a result of population growth, both as a result of increased fertilization of city dwellers and due to additional residents who live and develop in the city, 2) Increasing the number of cities in a country or region as a result of economic, cultural and technological developments, 3) Changing rural life or village atmosphere into city life atmosphere [2].

Ironically, the population growth rate in urban areas or what is known as municipalities in Malaysia is higher and faster than the rate of population growth in rural areas, which if it is seen in the 2000-2010 period (population census is carried out every 10 years, for 2010-2020 period, the census has not yet been released by the Department of Statistics Malaysia) the average annual growth rate is recorded at 2.17 per cent in urban areas [3]. This figure is directly contributed by the percentage of growth rate in big cities in Malaysia, especially cities in the Klang Valley area such as Subang Jaya (5.1%), Petaling Jaya (3.6%), Shah Alam (3.5 %) and Klang. (2.8%) (Mohd Fadzil and Ishak, 2014) [4].

In addition, the factors driving the rapid development of this city are also factors of globalization. The process of globalization has intensified the relationship between urban and rural areas. According to Katiman, globalization affects

the formation of urban space in developing countries [5]. One of the impacts is the development of developed metropolitan areas (WML) which is a process leading to the formation of large cities. The process of spatial transformation, especially land-use change, settlement function and subsequent social change occurs very quickly.

The centre area begins to saturate and eventually causes the urbanization process to start flowing to the periphery. Metropolitan suburbs including rural areas continue to be depressed and turn into cities. Small towns such as Nilai (Negeri Sembilan), Rawang and Dengkil (Selangor) are undergoing this change [5,6].

The Malaysian government's initiative in transforming urbanization adheres to four main pillars, namely Malaysia Master Philosophy, Government Transformation Program (GTP), Economic Transformation Program (ETP) and the Eleventh Malaysia Plan. Furthermore, the government's transformation step begins with the application of six National Key Result Areas (NKRA), namely targeting the reduction of crime, eradicating corruption, increasing student achievement, improving rural basic infrastructure, and improving the urban public transportation system. To ensure that the needs and desires of rural communities are met, the largest allocation has been made for the provision of basic rural infrastructure under the three-year NKRA [7].

The change in the centers of small rural settlements in Malaysia is also influenced by the presence of nearby cities. Factors such as accessibility, environment, security, activities, environment and infrastructure further enhance the existence of these cities [5]. According to Noraniza, Azlizan and Yusuf, infrastructure development has an impact on small-town changes as well as environmental [8] and security factors due to the addition of new, more organized housing projects [9].

The transformation of rural development focuses on the transformation of rural areas into better investment and attractive housing by enjoying all basic infrastructure facilities and quality social services [10]. However, according to Haryati and Nurasyikin, the impact of development transformation occurring in small towns also results in setbacks and puts strong pressure on the welfare of local communities in terms of environmental quality and public health [11].

Due to the lack of studies related to the factors and impacts of the metropolitan area expansion on the external zone of WML Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia, particularly in the northern corridor of Batang Kali, Bukit Beruntung. Kalumpang, Kerling, Kuala Kubu Bharu, Rasa, Serendah and Ulu Bernam, this study is very important. Population growth, changes in the function and role of cities, strengthening the economic base and environmental impacts that arise are some of the elements that are also studied. The findings in this study can be used as a guide to address the implications of urbanization in (small) residential centers which are now increasingly hit by the phenomenon of globalization.

Classical and modern growth theories emphasize the importance of small towns as a strategy for developing rural economies. In the 1950s and 1960s, small towns were seen as playing an important role in development as centers of innovation and modernization which were expected to 'flow' the existing welfare from innovation and modernization to rural areas [1]. At the same time (the 1960s) various policies were introduced for the development of small towns but the majority failed to achieve their goals. Since 2010, most researchers have focused more on economic development and poverty alleviation programs [12].

The best way to develop rural areas in small towns is to balance their development. The role of small towns in the development of rural areas and their surroundings also depends on the strategies given nationally and globally [12]. In general, research and discourse on small-town development are divided into two: and the function of small towns in the context of urban or regional development and both discourses that view small villages from a sociological, ethnological and psychological perspective, such as examining community stratification, community behavior patterns and social interactions between communities in small towns [13].

In particular, the small town is seen as the center where all innovation and modernization will flow to the countryside at the same time the interaction between the small town and other centers around it will increase and in the end, the suburban area around the small town will benefit from development. flowing from a small town. That is a mainstream view and is supported by most researchers such as Hopkins, Tacoli, Wandscheinder, and Satterthwaite [14-17].

It is common knowledge that small towns in most developing countries must be the driving force for the existence of agriculture-based business activities while providing infrastructure for their residents [18]. Small towns also provide institutions for the collection, storage, exchange, distribution of agricultural produce. In addition, formal and informal educational opportunities also occur. Social, cultural and administrative interactions between villagers and big cities must also be carried out. All these facilities and services are the basis for stimulating rural economic growth, integrating innovation and creating jobs in disadvantaged areas, especially in developing countries [18].

These service centers (small towns) should be

easily accessible from anywhere in the entire area of influence [19]. According to Rondinelli again, these centers provide goods and services such as education and health to improve the standard of living of rural communities [19]. If this function exists, then the role of the growth center as a social service provider, development driver, innovation spreader and job provider from the non-agricultural sector can be implemented [12, 18].

According to Hardoy and Satterthwaite, there are at least five potentials that cause governments in developing countries to focus on small-town development, namely key areas for rural communities and companies to make connections, regions that have their own political role, play a role in succeeding in national missions, have the potential in the framework of regional development and as a controlling agent for the urban sprawl process [20]. Wandscheinder looks at the role played by small towns in assisting local economic development [16]. Based on his findings in cities such as Betul and Narsimhapur in Madhya Pradesh and Bolangir and Nayarath in Orissa (all in India) he concluded that small towns do play an important role in rural development.

Moreover, the view put forward by Funnel explains that small towns are the place to extract all wealth for marketing and the luxury of big cities [21]. According to him, this scenario occurs when the traditional socio-economic system is destroyed through the entry of the capitalist economy, especially from the European colonial powers which made African countries the centre to extract surpluses from the rural economy. Currently, the domination of the economy is held by foreigners and at the same time the economic base is controlled from London or even Paris [21].

The main city center is seen as taking wealth and luxury from the countryside and at the same time not providing any (return) advantage to the small towns and countryside. In this respect, it was beyond doubt whether the small town was able to properly flow into the surrounding area. However, Funnel emphasized that there is a strong relationship between downtown and suburban areas through three activities including (1) marketing social services, (2) marketing consumer goods and services, and (3) service centers and agricultural product production [21].

In the Malaysian context, small towns, especially those located in developed areas, are dynamic settlements because they are influenced by rapid economic development in the nearest developed areas. In this country, a small town is defined as a city with a population between 10,000 and 79,999 [22]. In 2000, Malaysia had a total of 170 settlements called cities and of these 130 were small towns (Table 1). This is an encouraging sign because, in 1991, there were only 99 small towns in Malaysia [22]. What can be concluded is that the process of urbanization is now accelerating so that many small towns, especially small towns, have emerged as a result of the rapid urbanization process.

Table 1. Small Towns in Malaysia

Population Range	Number of City Centers	Population ('000)	Percentage of Distribution (%)
150 000 and more	27	8 959.1	65
75 000 – 149 999	13	1 387.3	10
50 000 – 74 999	13	775.5	6
25 000 – 49 999	34	1 248.2	9
10 000 – 24 999	83	1 390.2	10
Total Number	170	13 760.3	100

Source: Adapted from Jamaliah, 2004.

This rapid urbanization process requires the addition of new areas for housing development, public facilities, businesses and other urban land uses. In addition, the lack of control over clear urban development boundaries has created an 'urban sprawl' which results in development reaching environmentally sensitive areas, major agricultural areas and other areas unsuitable for development. The control process through the National Physical Plan (NPP) and the implementation of the state structure plan and district regional plans have not had a significant impact.

The National Physical Plan predicts that the rate of urbanization in Malaysia will increase to 75 per cent by 2020 [23]. This scenario will be followed by a population growth process that is mostly concentrated in big cities such as Kuala Lumpur, George Town, Johor Bahru and Kuantan. However, the function and role of small towns in the urbanization process should not be underestimated, small towns such as Nilai, Rawang, Dengkil, Balakong and Ulu Tiram have undergone drastic changes in the last 20 years [18, 23]. Furthermore, the globalization process that has carried the development process from the core to the periphery makes the functions and roles of small towns today very different from those in the past.

In addition, Katiman proves that the influence of globalization has a major impact on the urbanization process in Malaysia, especially in the Klang Valley [24]. The inflow of foreign capital through multinational companies accelerates the urbanization process. Although the city boundaries have not changed, the implications and effects of urbanization still occur in the suburbs and are increasing rapidly in recent times. For example, the expansion effect from the Klang-Langat Valley Metropolitan Area, which is currently starting to show up to Hulu Selangor and Kuala Langat.

At the same time, the acceleration of the urbanization process due to the influence of globalization has changed the function and role of cities that were once known as small towns. Cities such as Nilai (Negeri Sembilan), Balakong, Kajang, Hulu Langat, Dengkil, Banting (Selangor), and Senai and Ulu Tiram (Johor) have or are at least undergoing this relatively rapid transformation process [18, 23].

This scenario proves that in this globalization era, urbanization is not only concentrated in big cities but now also spreads to small towns. Therefore, the factors, influence, role and contribution of small towns in the development of the country should not be underestimated. This is because existing small towns become the supporting arteries of big cities (through the process of city-village interaction). In addition, the role of small towns also helps in the regional development process, both locally and globally.

2. RESEARCH METHODS

This study involved 355 respondents from the actual population, namely 4500 based on the schedule for determining the sample size of Krejcie and Morgan who were selected by purposive sampling consisting of heads of families in the study area conducted at the end of 2018 offline [25]. A two-point scale questionnaire instrument was used to obtain feedback.

2.1 Research Instrument

The instrument used in this study was a questionnaire that measured the change factor for small urban centers in the North Corridor of Selangor State due to the expansion of the Klang-Langat Valley Metropolitan Area. The questionnaire items were compiled based on the items identified from previous research.

This study uses six constructs, namely Neighborhood, Accessibility, Environment, Security, Infrastructure Activities that have gone through the process of Exploratory Factor Analysis and Verification Factor Analysis. Items are measured on a 5-point Likert scale (1- Strongly Disagree, 2-Disagree, 3-Disagree, 4-Agree and 5-Strongly Agree). The number of items and each item of questions posed in the questionnaire used in the study is presented in Table 2.

Table 2 Questionnaire Items and Questions

Item	Questions Item
J1	Satisfied with the atmosphere of the neighborhood
J2	Family ties with neighborhood spirit
J3	Neighborhood relations with factional groups
J4	Family ties versus neighborhood spirit
J5	Prioritize relationships with neighbors
J6	The intimacy of your relationship with neighbors
J7	Pilgrimage of neighbors
J8	Participation in community activities in your area
J9	The residence is safe to live in
J10	Promiscuity
J11	Immigrant
J12	Theft of motor cars, property
J13	Burglary case, armed robbery
J14	Extortion
J15	‘Rempit’ and drug abuse
J16	Safe in 10 years later
J17	Walking around the area is safe at night
J18	Water supply
J19	Domestic landfills
J20	Electricity supply
J21	Hall/Community Hall
J22	Accessibility to the nearest house of worship
J23	Accessibility to the grocery stores

J24	Accessibility to the mall
J25	Accessibility to the secondary/primary schools
J26	Accessibility to the clinics/health centers
J27	Accessibility to the public hospitals
J28	Accessibility to the recreational park
J29	Accessibility to children's fields
J30	Accessibility to the post office
J31	'Gotong-royong'/Mutual assistance in the area
J32	Religious Talk
J33	Feast activities
J34	Festive celebration program
J35	Deterioration of air quality, health problems
J36	Tap water quality, health problems
J37	Noise and psychological disorders
J38	Noise and well-being of life
J39	Land-use changes and green cover areas
J40	Rivers and the cleanliness
J41	Quality of air and water and open burning

2.2 Data Analysis

The data used in this study were analyzed using SPSS software version 22.0 and AMOS version 22.0. Data analysis involved three stages. The first stage is reliability analysis. This analysis is performed on each construct to see the level of reliability of the data obtained. The second analysis involved demographic information from the respondents involved in this study which was analyzed descriptively. It is important to know the frequency and percentage of each demographic factor of the respondents [26].

Furthermore, the third analysis is through exploratory factor analysis on the items in the study to see how the items used are classified according to the structure of certain factors [27]. The next step is to determine the validity of the hypothesis model with the Structured Equation Model (SEM) method through Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA).

2.3 Reliability Analysis

In general, the reliability test is important to measure the ability and capability of the items in the instrument used. Reliability is the accuracy and stability of the points or scores from the measurement scale [27]. According to Sekaran and Bougie, the higher the alpha value, the higher the internal reliability [28]. This study determines that the Cronbach Alpha coefficient of 0.70 is acceptable as stated by Hair et al., Pallant, and Babbie [27, 29, 30]. Referring to the results of the analysis in Table 3, the reliability of all items on this instrument is above 0.7. It shows that the reliability of the items built in the questionnaire can be accepted.

Table 3 Questionnaire Reliability Questionnaire Study

Section	Construct	Item Value	*Alpha Cronbach* Value
Change factors of small urban centres	Accessibility	5	0.846
	Environment	5	0.871
	Security	2	0.819
	Activity	4	0.883
	Settlement	2	0.729
	Infrastructure	2	0.766

Source: Results of Data Processing (2020)

2.4 Factor analysis

Factor analysis is a statistical approach used to analyze the relationship between several constructs and explain these constructs in the form of certain latent factors [27, 31]. It is a statistical approach used to summarize the information contained in some of the original constructs into smaller or more general dimensions. The factor analysis approach can be grouped into two fundamentally different approaches, namely exploratory factor analysis and validation factor analysis.

2.4.1 Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA)

Exploratory factor analysis can be drawn regularly to summarize the interrelated constructs.

It is a construct reduction technique that shows the latent number of constructs and factor structures that underlie a set of constructs [27, 31]. According to Chua, EFA is used to explore the structure of the factors that may underlie a set of constructs studied without forcing the structures that are formed before carrying out further analysis [31]. Through this EFA, the number of constructs and structural factors underlying the studied constructs can be identified. The factor structure that is formed is based on the feedback findings from the research sample.

2.4.2 Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA)

Factor verification analysis is a statistical technique used to validate the factor structure of a set of studied constructs [27, 32]. The validation factor analysis allows the researcher to test the hypothesis that the relationship between the construct under study and the factor loading is present or not [27, 32]. Researchers use theoretical knowledge, empirical research, or both to get a pattern of priority relationships and then the hypothesis is tested using statistical methods [27, 32].

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Respondent background

Most of the heads of families surveyed who live in Hulu Selangor are Malay people with 54.6 per cent (194 respondents). Chinese and Indian respectively accounted for 25.4 per cent (90 heads of families) and 20.0 per cent (71 heads of families). The Malays are the majority ethnic group who live in the Hulu Selangor district against the Chinese and Indians. This is evidenced by the analysis carried out by statistical data sourced from population reports and housing censuses since 1980 which were analyzed to show that the population is ethnic Malay, the majority of the population in Hulu Selangor Regency since 1980.

Based on population data and the results of the 2010 housing census, the ethnic Malay population of Hulu Selangor Regency was 127,783 people compared to 23,176 Chinese ethnicities. The population proposition for the Indian ethnic group is 31,580 people and is the second largest ethnic group as the population of Hulu Selangor Regency.

Judging from the age structure of the head of the family, it can be categorized into two groups, namely the active workforce group between 25 and 54 years old and the elderly group over 60 years. The highest group of heads of families was found in the active group in various labour sectors at 64.1 per cent (228 heads of families). The head of a family who is unemployed or retired is represented by 26.3 per cent of the total head of family involved, namely 127 heads of families.

The economic status of the surveyed heads of families varied. Judging from the average monthly income among the majority of content, among those with moderate monthly income. It was found that 31.2 per cent or 109 heads of families had an average income of around IDR 7,000,000 to IDR 10,000,000. Meanwhile, it was found that 30.2 per cent of those with low income ranged from IDR 3,200,000 to IDR 7,100,000 per month.

This shows that the population around the mukim in the study area is not considered to be poor. Most of the population in the district in the study area belong to the semi-skilled employment sector that does not require special skills. They are also assumed to be among middle-income non-professionals each month. Only a small proportion are categorized as high-income people with a monthly income of more than IDR 14,200,000 and IDR 17,800,000 per month and above, namely 14.0 per cent representing the 49 heads of families surveyed out of the total involved.

3.2 Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA)

The results of EFA on the change factor of small urban centers in the North Corridor of Selangor State due to the expansion of the Klang-Langat Valley Metropolitan Area explained that the anti-image correlation analysis procedure showed a correlation coefficient of more than 0.5. The measurement of the adequacy of the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) and Bartlett's Test of Sphericity sampling obtained shows that the KMO value is 0.759, while the Bartlett's Test Sphericity test is significant with a Chi-square value of 6821.722 at 820 degrees of freedom.

Table 4. *Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) and Bartlett Test*

Measurement of sample adequacy for KMO		**0.759**
Barlett Test	*Chi-square value*	6821.722
	Degrees of Freedom	820
	Significance	.000

Source: Results of Data Processing (2020)

Factor analysis is done by setting the number of factors to be extracted into six which are categorized in the questionnaire. Table 5 shows the component matrix with varimax rotation. The varimax rotation method is used because it can reduce the number of complex constructs and can

increase the expected results. As a result, it was found that items with an 'anti-image correlation matrix' value of less than 0.5 were dropped. While the values of J29, J25, J27, J30, J26, J24, J28, J23 and J22 are included in component 1, namely Accessibility, while J37, J36, J38, J35, J39 and J41 are stacked in component 2, namely Environment. Furthermore, J12, J13, J10, J15, J11 and J14 are grouped into 3 components, namely security and J33, J34, J32 and J31 are included in group 4, namely community activities. For component 5, namely neighbors, the items collected consist of J8, J6, J7, J9, J1 and J5. Then, for the last component, namely infrastructure, the accumulated items are J20, J18, J19 and J2.1 The values shown in Table 5 are the coefficients or load factors of each item that are inclined to each of the accumulated factors. This value shows the correlation between the items and the factors that are formed and it is the key to understanding the nature of these factors. Next, a CFA analysis was performed to confirm the results obtained from the EFA analysis.

Table 5. Matrix of Components with Varimax Rotations of Change in Factors for the Development of Small Urban Centers in the North Corridor of the State of Selangor due to Expansion of the Klang-Langat Valley Metropolitan Area

Item	Component					
	Access	Environment	Security	Activity	Settlement	Infrastructure
J29	**.764**					
J25	**.730**					
J27	**.711**					
J26	**.670**					
J24	.667					
J28	.657					
J23	.601					
J22	.522					
J37		**.858**				
J36		**.828**				
J38		**.803**				
J35		**.753**				
J39		**.734**				
J41		.595				
J12			**.708**			
J13			**.662**			
J10			.651			
J15			.647			
J11			.627			
J14			.586			
J33				**.857**		
J34				**.843**		
J32				**.838**		
J31				**.786**		
J8					**.707**	
J6					.661	
J7					**.649**	
J9					.574	
J1					.552	
J5					.525	
J20						**.780**
J18						.730
J19						**.719**
J21						.591

*Hint: bold items are the item that is not discarded
Source: Results of Data Processing (2020)

3.3 Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA)

According to Hair et al., the model is said to meet the characteristics of the appropriate model if it meets at least one matching index [27]. Moreover, to measure model suitability, statistical measures such as the chi-square relative test, the Comparative

Fit Index (CFI) and the Root Mean Square of Error Approximation (RMSEA) must be used [27]. To achieve a model fit, the relative chi-square value must be less than 5.0 while the CFI and TLI values must be above 0.90. For the RMSEA, the value must be less than 0.08 for the data to be adopted.

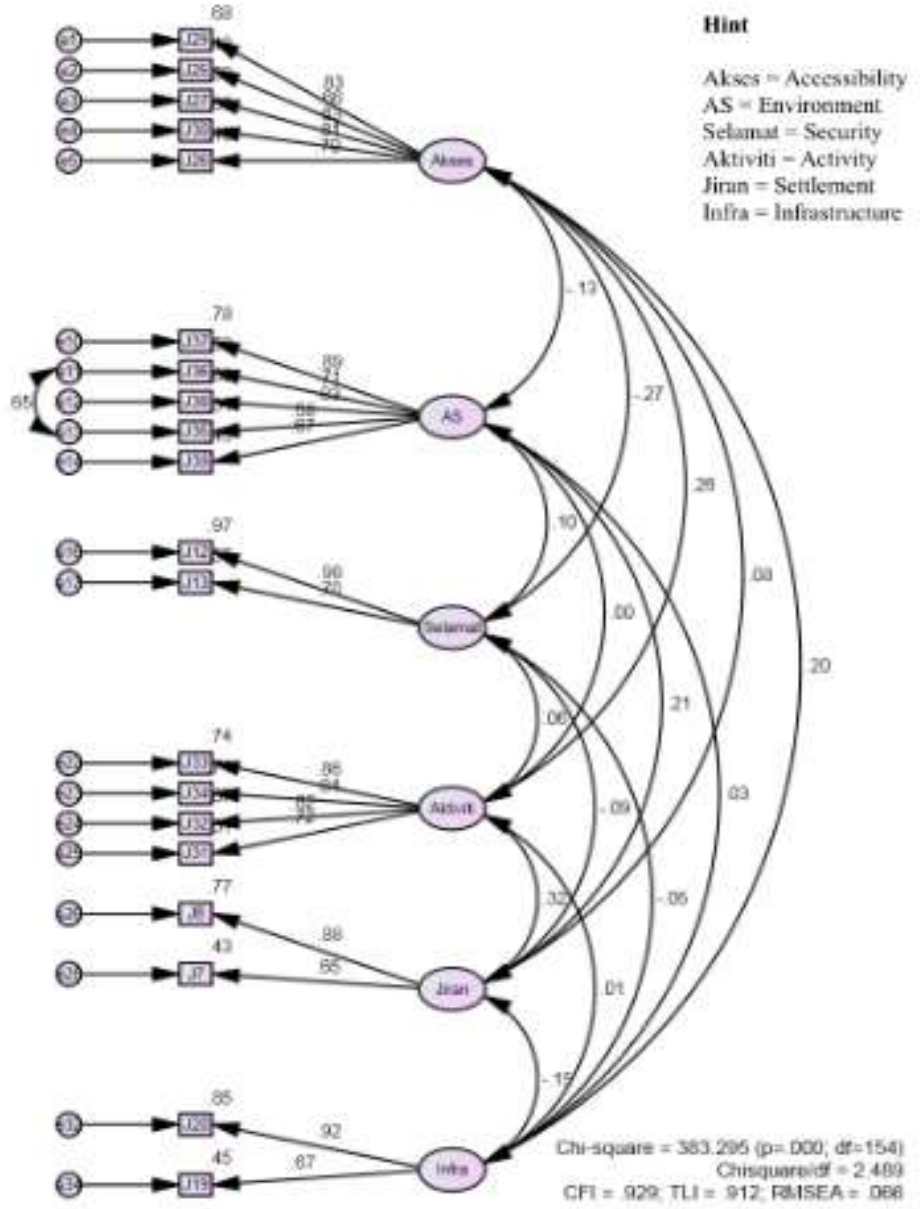

Fig. 1. CFA Analysis Shows The Change in Factor of Small Urban Center

In figure 1 CFA analysis shows the change in factor of small urban center in the North Corridor of Selangor State due to the expansion of the Klang-Langat Valley Metropolitan Area which reflects the corresponding model based on the matching index. The results showed that the value of the suitability index was equal to p = 0.000, the chi-square relative value was 2.489, the CFI value was 0.929, the TLI value was 0.912 and the RMSEA value was 0.066. The multiple-squared correlation (SMC) assessment also found that all values exceeded 0.50. This means that more than 50 per cent of the variance for each item can explain the construct.

In addition, it was found that these six constructs were correlated with each other (Table 6). This shows that accessibility, environment, security, activities, environment and infrastructure are the factors that cause changes in the small urban centers in the North Corridor of Selangor State due to the expansioning of the Klang-Langat Valley Metropolitan Area as stated by Katiman and

Noraniza, Azlizan and Yusuf [5,8]. The result of this transformation of rural development has changed rural areas to be better for investment as well as settlements and people in this area can enjoy all basic infrastructure and quality social services that exist in cities [9,10].

Table 6. Correlation between Constructions

Construct	Accessibility	Environment	Security	Activity	Settlement
Environment	-.132				
Security	-.268	.095			
Activity	.261	.004	.060		
Settlement	.079	.212	-.086	.318	
Infrastructure	.195	.032	-.054	.012	-.153

Source: Results of Data Processing (2020)

4. CONCLUSION

This study concludes that six factors lead to changes in small urban centers due to the expansioning of the Klang-Langat Valley, namely access, environment, security, activities, settlements and infrastructure. The small urban centers in the northern corridor of the state of Selangor have experienced rapid development as a result of the transformations that have taken place and have altered the socio-economic landscape and improved the welfare of its people as a result of these six factors.

Recent developments that have hit this area continue to change the face of these small urban centers, namely from a tin mining area and a waterfall recreation area that has increasingly turned into a residential area and a business center. This change will certainly require broader economic and social functions to meet the needs and desires of the current population. The existence of the industrial and service sector along the corridor in Rawang has also opened more jobs for residents and at the same time generates and increases income.

The changes that have taken place in the small urban centres in the northern corridor of the state of Selangor show similarities in line with the processes taking place in other large cities. Therefore, the results of the development of globalization have increased a very significant increase in population and at the same time have contributed to improving the quality of life of the people in line with the flow of globalization.

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