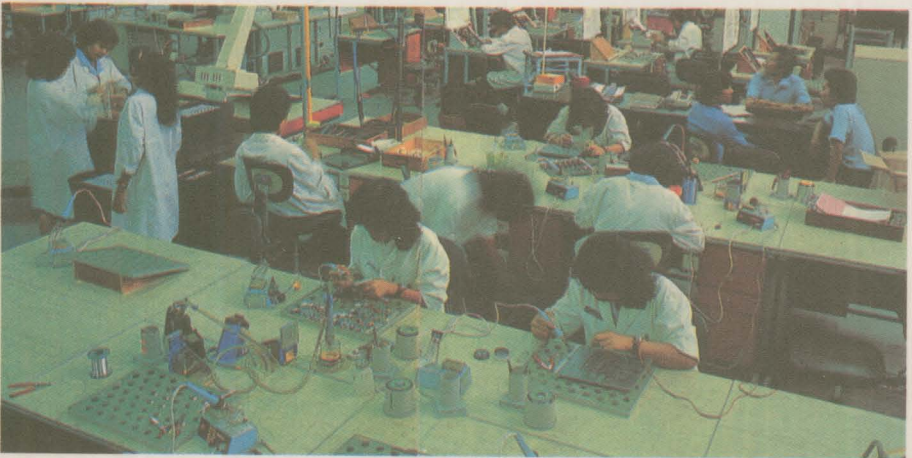


# FROM *KAMPUNG* TO URBAN FACTORIES

Findings from the HAWA Study



Coordinated and Edited by  
**JAMILAH ARIFFIN**

Foreword by  
**ROYAL PROFESSOR UNGKU A. AZIZ**



University of Malaya Press

# **FROM *KAMPUNG* TO URBAN FACTORIES:**

**Findings from the HAWA Study**

**Coordinated and edited**

**by**

**JAMILAH ARIFFIN**

**Foreword**

**by**

**ROYAL PROFESSOR UNGKU A. AZIZ**

**PUSTAKA PERDANA**



**1001187**

**UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA PRESS  
KUALA LUMPUR**

**1994**

# Contents

Foreword	vii
Preface and Acknowledgements	xi
<b>1</b>	
Introduction	1
<b>2</b>	
The Female Migration Process in Malaysia and the Socio-Economic Characteristics of the HAWA Women Migrants	9
<b>3</b>	
Accommodation Problems, Living Conditions and Transportation Needs of Factory Women Workers	52
<b>4</b>	
Employment and Working Conditions of the HAWA Girls	71
<b>5</b>	
Income and Expenditure Patterns of the HAWA Respondents	108
<b>6</b>	
Health Problems Faced by the Women Workers	129
<b>7</b>	
Social Interaction, the Adaptation Process and Perceptions of the HAWA Girls	141
<b>8</b>	
Summing Up: Underlying Gender Themes and Concluding Remarks	157
<i>Bibliography</i>	169
<i>Index</i>	175

# Preface and Acknowledgements

In 1983, I was pleasantly surprised to be invited by Royal Professor Ungku A. Aziz, (who was then Vice-Chancellor of the University of Malaya) to accept the task of processing the data from the HAWA Phase II Project on Factory Women. This I considered a singular honour and an acknowledgement for my Ph.D. work on the same topic i.e. Industrial Development and Factory Women in Malaysia for the period 1976-1983. However, little did I realise that due to unexpected events and unforeseen circumstances, I was also to become the overall coordinator of the HAWA Project in 1985, and given the responsibility to re-process the HAWA Phase I data and prepare the HAWA I Report. So it was really an odyssey of a sort which, although long and difficult, was extremely rewarding in terms of having to cope with challenges and the opportunity to work closely with Royal Professor Ungku Aziz.

Although the HAWA Phase I data-gathering process started in mid-1980, and some chapters for the draft report were prepared by 1982, it was felt by the Director of the HAWA Project, Royal Professor Ungku Aziz that there was a flaw in the data-processing stage, consequently leading to some untenable findings and conclusions. Therefore in 1985, Professor Ungku Aziz instructed that the data should be re-processed.

Due to various changes in the HAWA team arising from the resignation or transfers of its members from their jobs at the University to "greener pastures" and for other reasons, the progress of the HAWA Project was affected, leading to considerable delay in the production of the final report. My attempt to place the HAWA I Survey data (which were gathered in 1980) within the context of national-level population census figures of 1980, also contributed towards this delay. This is because after waiting for several months for the relevant census figures, such as the educational level of female rural-urban migrants by ethnicity, and their participation according to type of industry, we were informed by the Statistics Department in 1987 that such data cannot be made available.

As a full-time teaching staff at the University with other administrative and research commitments, I could not devote all my time to the HAWA Project and this also explains the long time taken to complete this report. Here I would like to record my

deep appreciation for Royal Professor Ungku Aziz's patience and for all the trust and support given to me throughout the span of the HAWA Project.

As most academic researchers would agree, it is always easier to write a research report when one is involved in the research project from its inception and especially at the stage of data gathering. In my case, since I was directly involved only at the tail-end of the HAWA Project and had to prepare a report based on whatever data which were available and collected by others, these circumstances made my task a lot more difficult. Nonetheless given these limitations, the report is now completed and although it may have several inadequacies, it is hoped that it is of a standard befitting the efforts put in by the earlier members of the HAWA team. Here, I would like to acknowledge the contribution made to the HAWA Phase I Study by Dr. Lim Lin Lean and Dr. Susan Ackerman-Lee. As the former Project Coordinator and Research Officer respectively, they were both involved in the data-gathering stage and wrote some draft chapters. It is hereby formally acknowledged that Chapter Two, Chapter Three, Chapter Four and Chapter Seven were based on the drafts written by either Lim Lin Lean or Susan Ackerman. These draft chapters have formed the basis of the chapters of this report although much of the early material provided has been updated and I have revised or amended its contents.

At the stage of re-processing the HAWA I data in 1985, I was fortunate to obtain the assistance of my former student, Dominic Pragasam. Thanks are also due to Miss Kulginder Kaur for helping in the collection of secondary data. In this regard, the assistance tendered by the Statistics Department of Malaysia and the Malaysian Industrial Development Authority (M.I.D.A.) must be gratefully acknowledged.

At the stage of report-writing, I was most loyally assisted by Mohan Balakrishnan. Thanks are also due to Mr. James Lockhead for providing the initial drafts of Chapters 5 and 6, and Miss Debbie Leon for editing assistance.

A special mention must be made of Mrs. Violet Fernando who has stayed with the HAWA Project from 1985 to the completion of the HAWA Report and who has painstakingly and patiently typed and re-typed various drafts of this report.

Last but not least, my appreciation to Miss Yoong Kam Ngor of the Bursar's Office, University of Malaya, who has kept the HAWA accounts in perfect order and who was always cooperative in enlightening me on the financial position of the HAWA Project.