

This chapter provides time-series comparative data on some of the basic social indicators that reflect developments in the quality of life and welfare of the population.

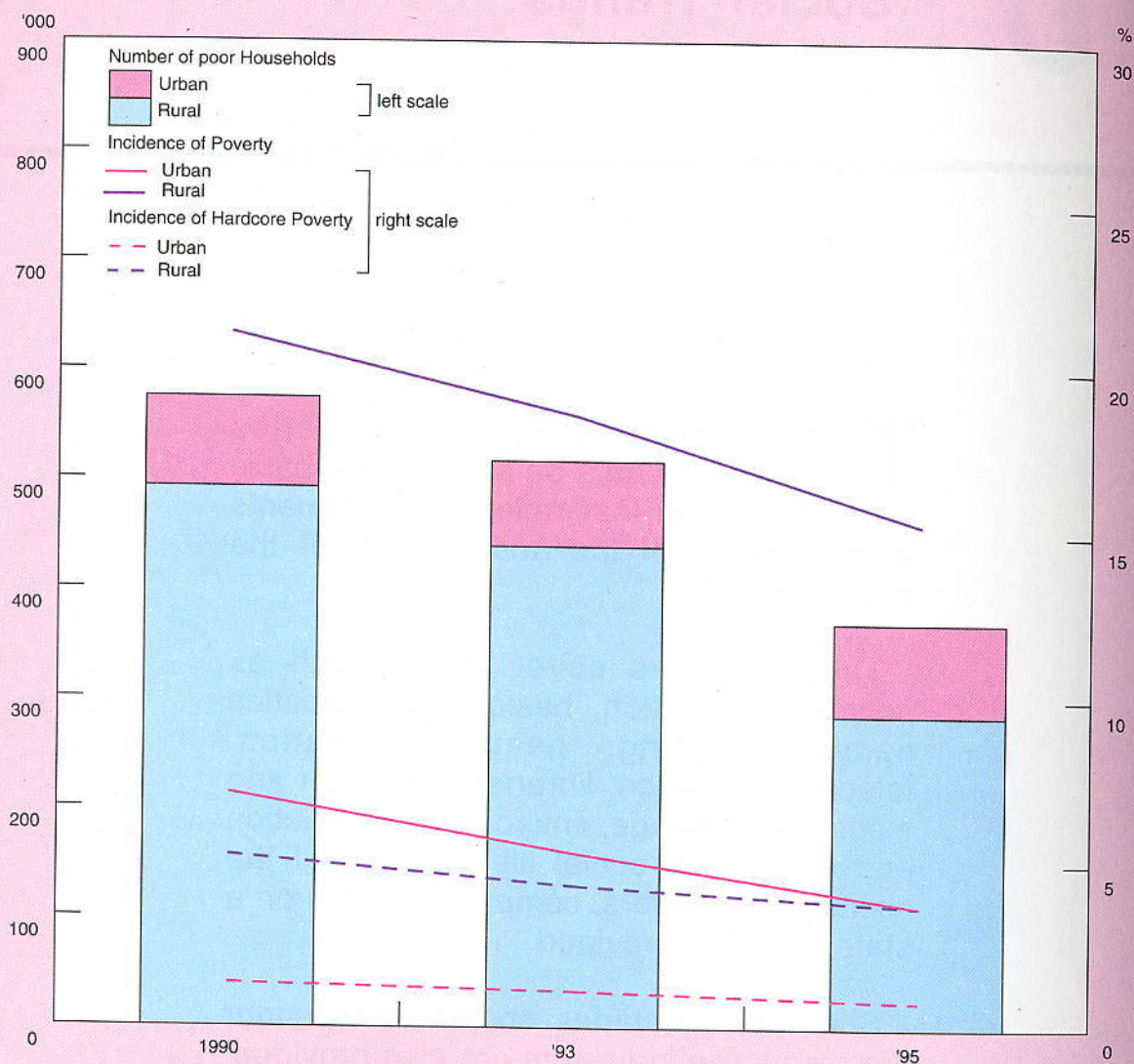
The indicators cover areas such as poverty eradication, basic social facilities namely housing, health, education, telecommunication, libraries and water and electricity coverage, environmental pollution and as well as social ills. In case of the social ills indicators, comparative data on a state basis is provided.

Short commentaries on the trend under the respective indicators are also provided.

Incidence Of Poverty (Malaysian Citizens Only)

Chart 10.1

Incidence Of Poverty And Number Of Poor Households



Source : Economic Planning Unit

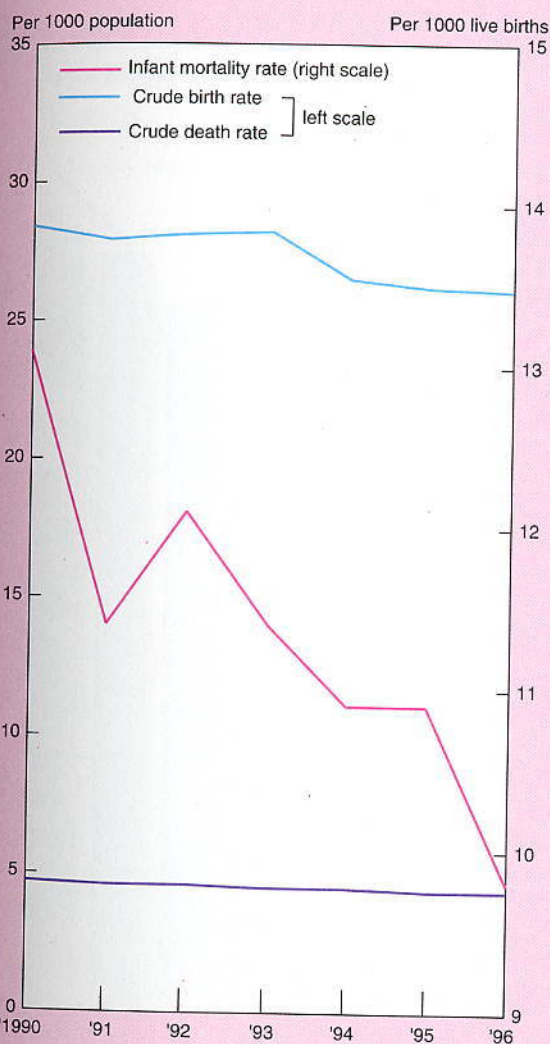
During the Sixth Malaysia Plan period, the incidence of poverty among Malaysians was reduced from 16.5% in 1990 to 8.9% in 1995. In line with this, the number of poor households decreased from 574,500 to 370,200. The progress in poverty eradication was made possible by the growth of the economy which increased employment opportunities for all and the implementation of various government programmes and projects aimed at rural and agricultural households.

In the rural areas, the incidence of poverty among Malaysians decreased from 21.1% in 1990 to 15.3% in 1995 while in the urban areas the incidence of poverty decreased from 7.1% to 3.7%.

Efforts to reduce hardcore poverty during the plan period resulted in the incidence of hardcore poverty among Malaysians being decreased from 3.9% in 1990 to 2.1% in 1995. The number of hardcore poor households decreased from 137,100 to 88,400.

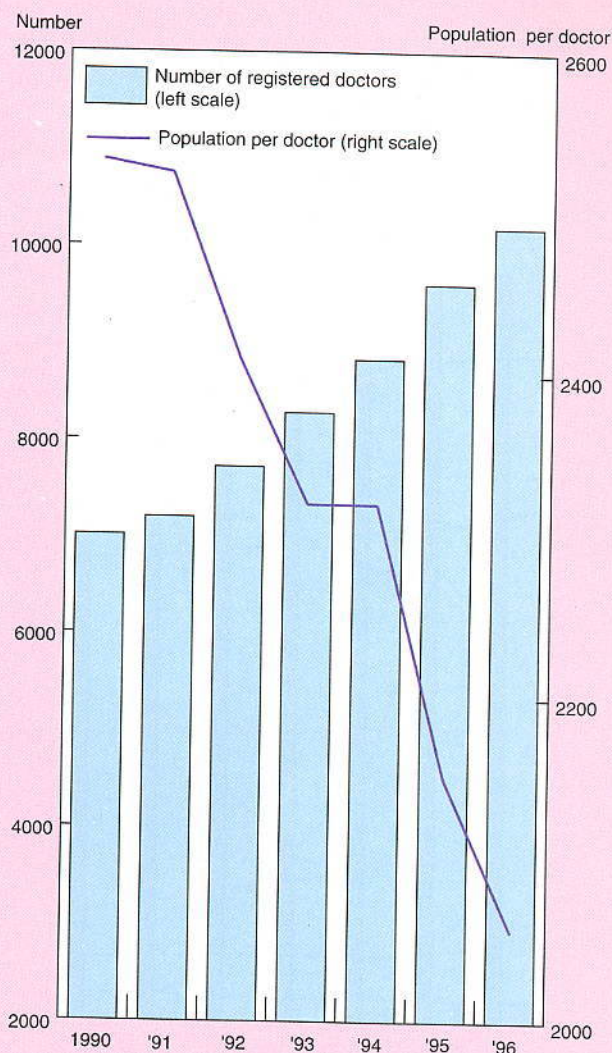
Health

Chart 10.2
Crude Birth Rate, Crude Death Rate and Infant Mortality Rate



Source : Ministry of Health

Chart 10.3
Number Of Registered Doctors and Population Per Doctor



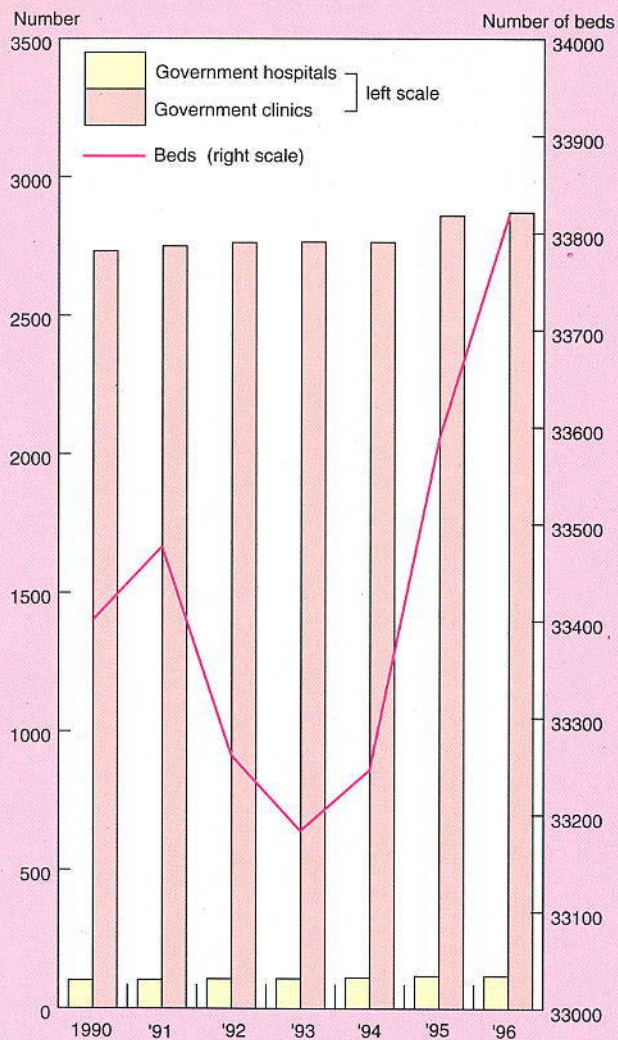
Source : Ministry of Health

The implementation of various health programmes and projects by the government has resulted in the overall improvement of the health status of the population as reflected in improvement in health indicators such as crude birth rate, crude death rate and infant mortality rate. In 1990, the crude birth rate was 28.4 per 1,000 population and this reduced to 26.1 per 1,000 population in 1996. The crude death rate per 1,000 population however improved from 4.7 in 1990 to 4.4 in 1996. Improved material and infant healthcare facilities has led to improvements in the infant mortality rate which was 9.8 per 1,000 live births in 1996 compared to 13.1 per 1,000 live births in 1990. It is significant to note that the improved health indicators approach the levels attained by developed countries.

Adequate supply of health personnel especially doctors to a large extent determines the standard of healthcare provided to the population. During the period 1990 to 1996 the number of doctors registered increased by 45% that is 7,012 doctors in 1990 to 10,196 in 1996 resulting in an improvement in doctor population ratio from 1:2,533 in 1990 to 1:2,056 in 1996. The target under the Seventh Malaysia Plan is to achieve a ratio of one doctor per 1,500 population by the year 2,000 and to achieve this about 1,200 additional doctors per annum will be required.

Chart 10.4

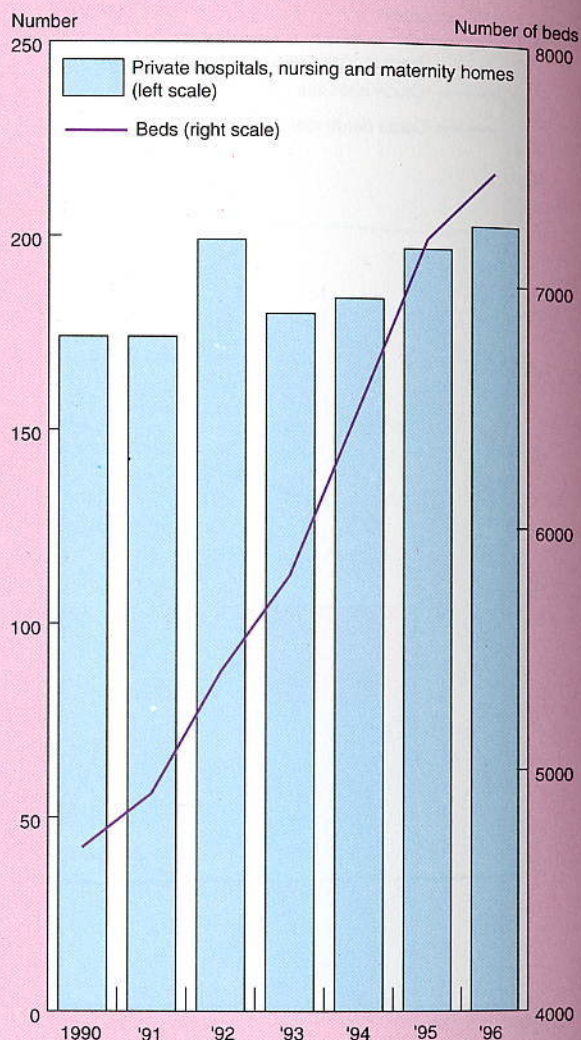
Number Of Government Hospitals, Clinics And Beds



Source : Ministry of Health

Chart 10.5

Number Of Private Hospitals, Nursing And Maternity Homes And Beds



Source : Ministry of Health

The provision and expansion of health facilities such as hospitals and clinics by the government rendered better healthcare to the population. During the period 1990 to 1996, the number of hospitals increased from 102 to 118. The new and replacement hospitals built helped to reduce over crowding in existing hospitals and extended facilities to new areas. The number of beds increased marginally from 33,400 in 1990 to 33,818 in 1996 as a result of deployment of beds from existing over crowded hospitals. The number of government clinics increased from 2,732 in 1990 to 2,875 in 1996. These include Health Centres, Polyclinics, Sattelite Clinics, Static Dispensary, Rural Clinics, Midwife Clinics and Mother and Child Health Clinics. The health status of the population has improved overall as evident in the increasing life expectancy and decreasing mortality rates.

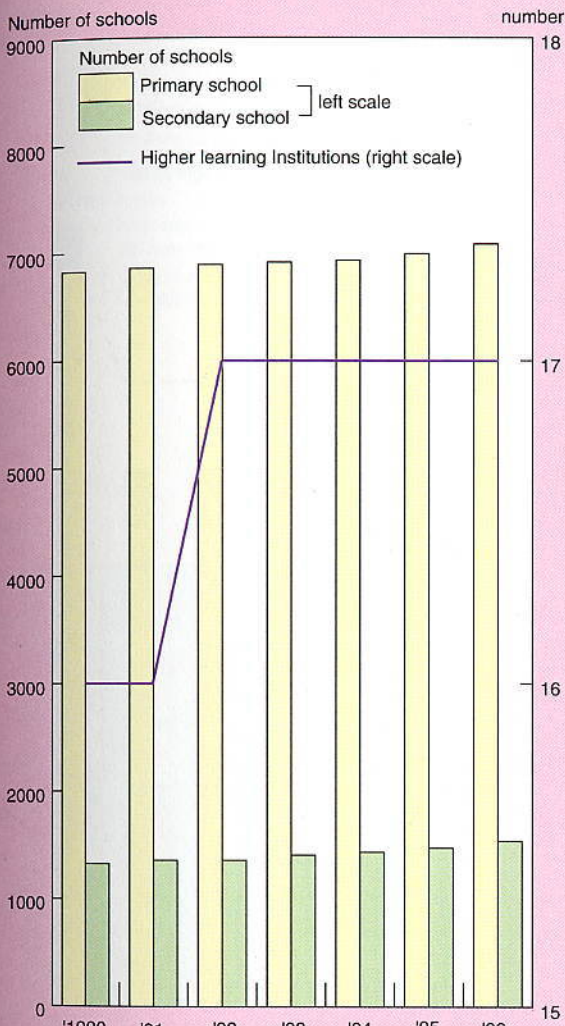
The private sector played an active role in complementing public health services during the period 1990 to 1996. In 1990 the number of private hospitals, nursing and maternity homes numbered 174 and this rose to 203 in 1996 i.e an increase of about 17%.

The increase in the number of beds in the private hospitals however was more significant i.e about 60%. In 1996, the number of beds in private hospitals comprised 18.1% of the total number of hospital beds in the country. The majority of the private sector facilities were however located in the urban areas.

Education

Chart 10.6

Number Of Government Assisted Schools And Higher Learning Institutions



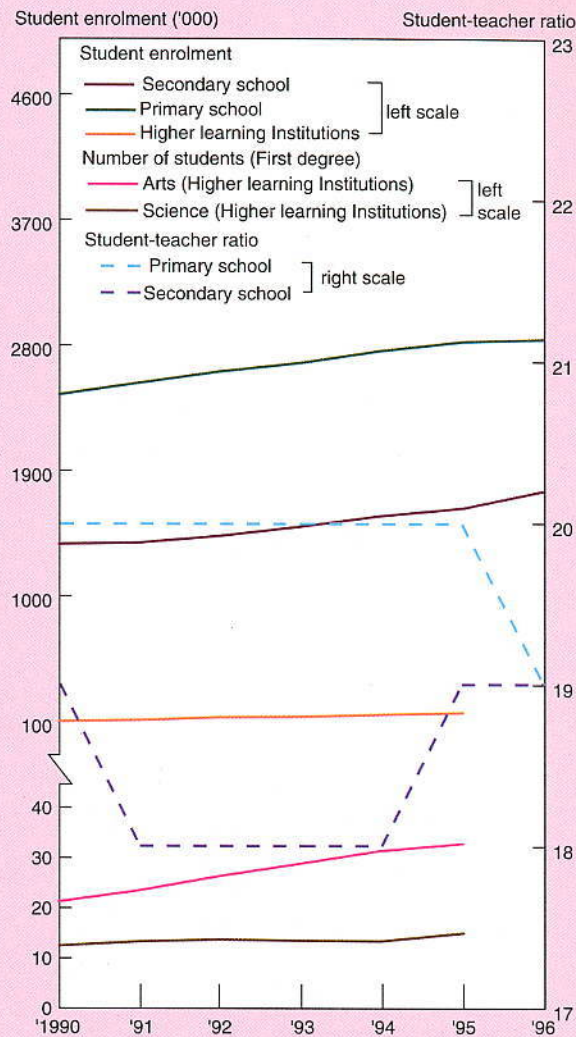
Source : Ministry of Education

During the period 1990 to 1996, emphasis was placed on expanding capacity at all levels of education. The number of primary schools increased from 6,828 units in 1990 to 7,084 in 1996 reflecting an increase of nearly 4%. The number of secondary schools however, increased at a higher rate i.e. about 16% with 1,538 schools in 1996 compared to 1,327 in 1990.

In order to meet the manpower requirements of a rapidly growing economy, efforts were made to expand physical facilities in existing government assisted institutions of higher learning. Two new universities i.e. University Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) and University Malaysia Sabah (UMS) were built in 1992 and 1994 respectively. However in 1994, Polytechnic Batu Pahat was closed down and the students were transferred to other existing polytechnics.

Chart 10.7

Enrolment in Government Assisted Schools and Higher Learning Institutions, Student-Teacher Ratio and Number Of Students (First Degree) by Types of Courses



Source : Ministry of Education

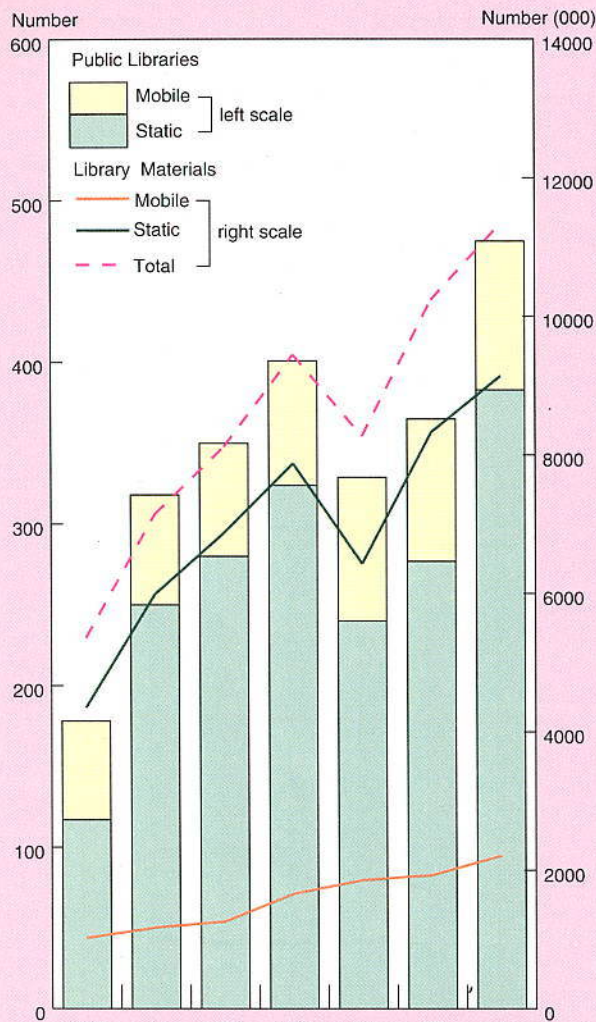
Student enrolment in government assisted primary schools increased by 16.6% from 2.4 million in 1990 to 2.8 million in 1996 with universal primary education being maintained throughout the period. Measures to increase the participation of rural children and retaining them in the education system, such as providing hostel facilities, financial assistance, textbooks-on-loan as well as health and nutrition programmes all account for the increased enrolment rate in primary schools.

In the secondary schools, the enrolment rate increased by 27.7% from 1.37 million in 1990 to 1.75 million in 1996, with increased emphasis given to expanding facilities, increasing accessibility and reducing the dropout rate. During the period 1990 to 1995, the overall enrolment of full time students in public institutions of higher learning increased from 101,457 in 1990 to 164,705 in 1995, that is an increase of 62.3%. Total enrolment in science based courses at the first degree level in institutions of higher learning increased from 12,477 in 1990 to 15,025 in 1995, an increase of 20.4%, while that in the arts courses increased by 54.5% during the same period.

In 1990 the teacher-student ratio in government assisted primary schools was 1:20 students while in the government assisted secondary schools it was 1:19 students. In 1996, the ratio in the primary schools improved to 1:19 students while that for the secondary schools remained static.

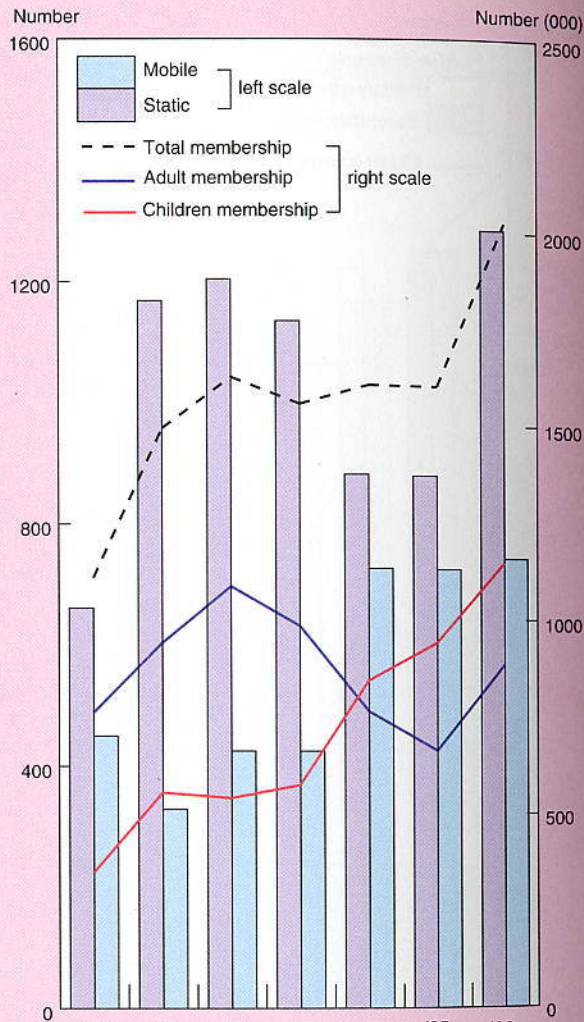
Public Library

Chart 10.8
Number Of Public Libraries And Library Materials



Source : National Library

Chart 10.9
Membership In Public Libraries



Source : National Library

The public library network throughout Malaysia expanded during the period 1990 to 1996 reflecting the government's endeavour to develop a knowledgeable and well-informed society. In 1996 the number of public libraries totalled 475 representing a nearly three-fold increase from 1990. Mobile libraries which mostly serve the rural areas comprised 34% of the total number of library outlets in 1990. In 1996 however, the proportion of mobile libraries decreased to 19% while that of static libraries increased from 65.7% in 1990 to 80.6% in 1996.

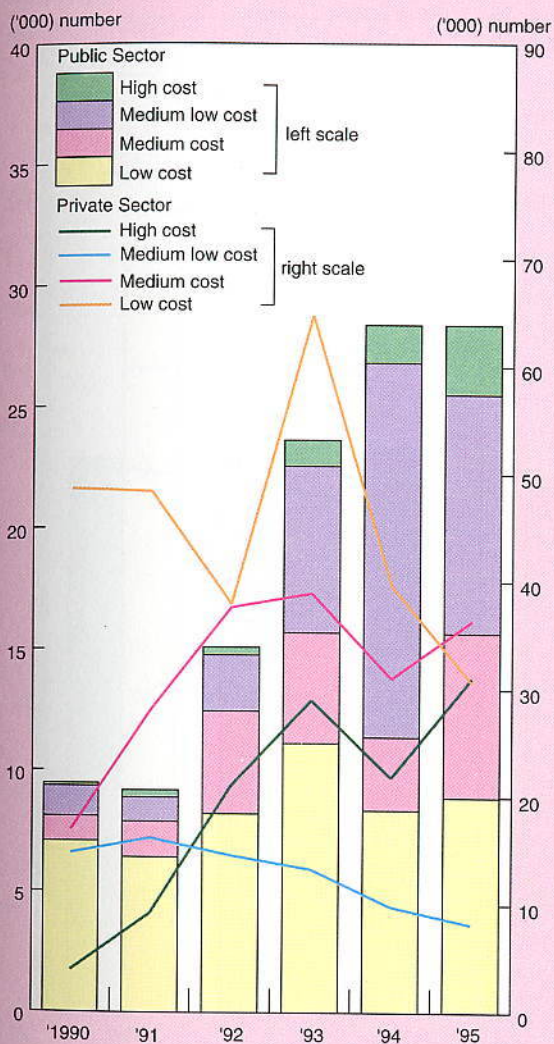
The collection of library materials more than doubled from 5.3 million in 1990 to 11.3 million in 1996. The establishment of the National Library Network infrastructure under the Jaringan Ilmu project provided wider access to reading materials to the public.

Membership in public libraries increased from 1.1 million in 1990 to 2.0 million in 1996 reflecting an increase of 82%. The completion of the National Library building in 1997 as well as the expanded collection and access to library materials attracted a wider membership. The increase in the membership of children was more than two-fold during the period 1990 to 1996 i.e. from 348,381 to 1,141,522. The increase in adult membership during the same period was 16%. The composition of adult membership in 1990 was 68.6% of total membership and this decreased to 43.7% in 1996.

It is noted that static libraries attracted a larger membership (59%) when compared to mobile libraries (41%) in 1990. In 1996 the proportion was 63% for static libraries and 37% for mobile libraries.

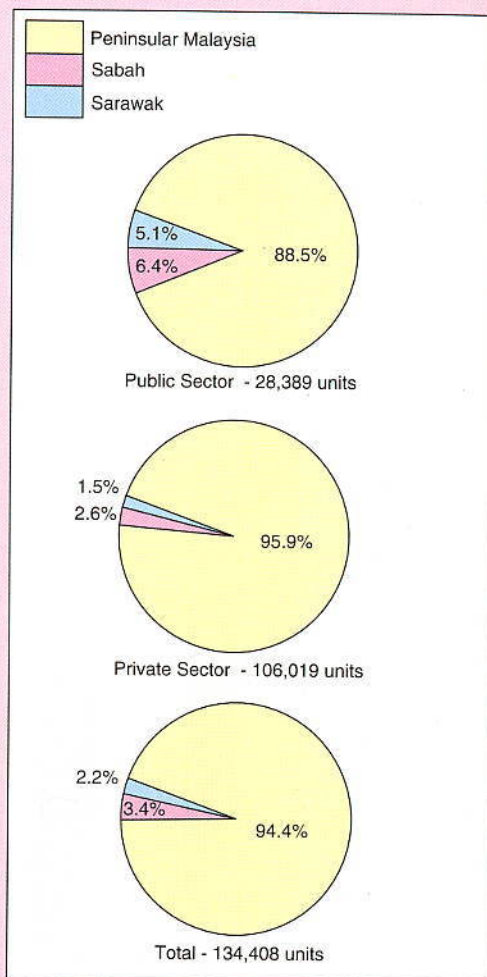
Housing

Chart 10.10
Distribution of Housing Units According To Cost Category



Source : National Housing Department

Chart 10.11
Percentage of Distribution of Housing Units By Sector In 1995



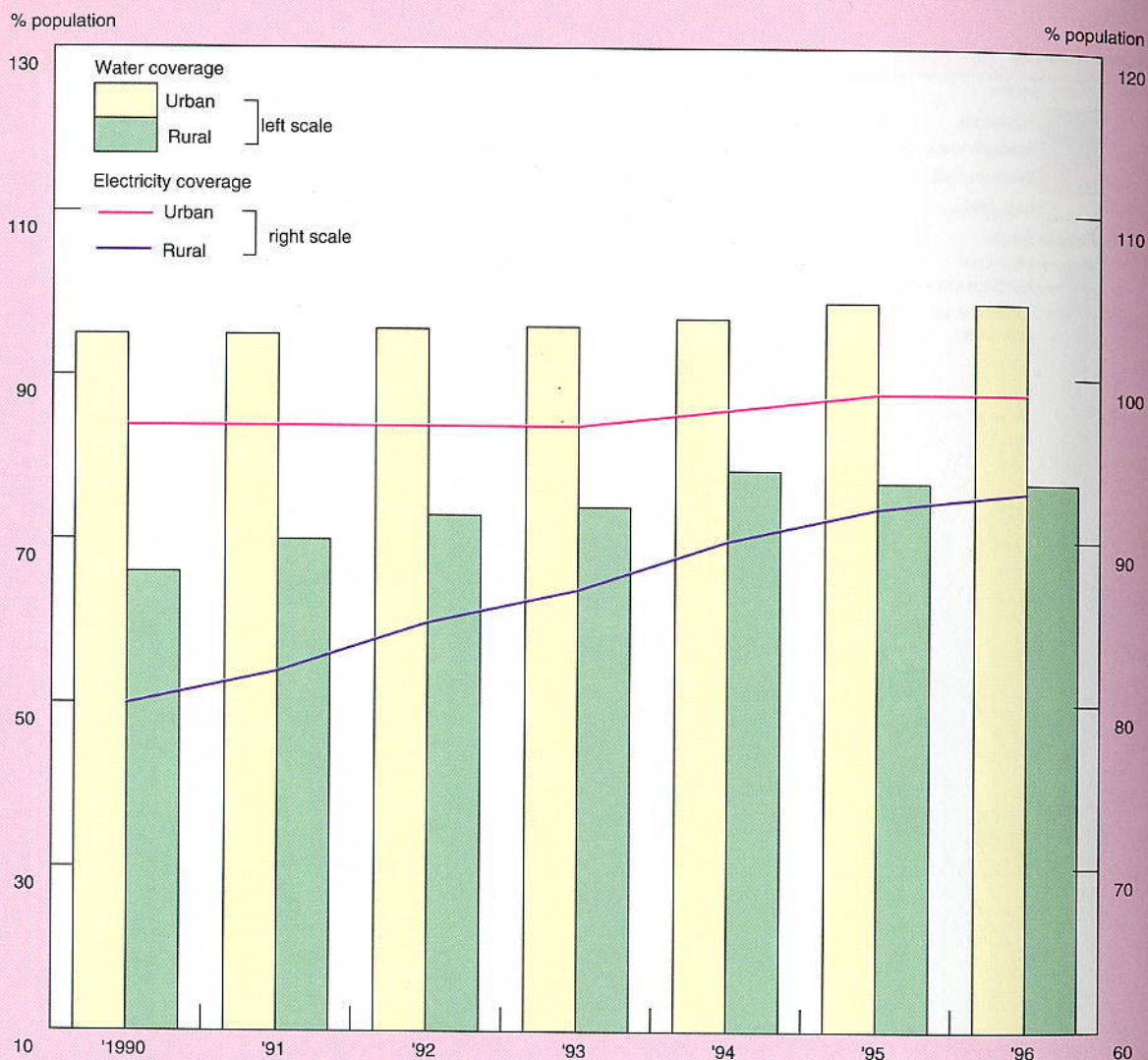
Source : National Housing Department

The overall achievement of construction of housing units during the period 1990 to 1995 was very encouraging. A total of 764,497 units were completed with the private sector building about 85% of the total units. With regard to medium and high-costs houses, a total of 347,619 units were built reflecting the demand for such houses, a result of higher levels of income. As to low-cost housing, a total of 416,878 units were built of which nearly 83% were built by the private sector. The low achievement by the public sector was due to problems of suitable sites as a result of competing demands for other purposes.

In 1995, a total of 134,408 units of housing were constructed. Of this, the private sector built 106,019 units or 79% of the total units of houses, while the public sector was responsible for building the rest i.e 28,389 units. Nearly 94% of the houses in 1995 were built in Peninsular Malaysia, while Sabah accounted for 3.4% and Sarawak 2.2%. This could be accounted for by the differing distribution of the population base as well as the varied income levels.

Public Utilities

Chart 10.12
Water And Electricity Coverage



Source : Economic Planning Unit

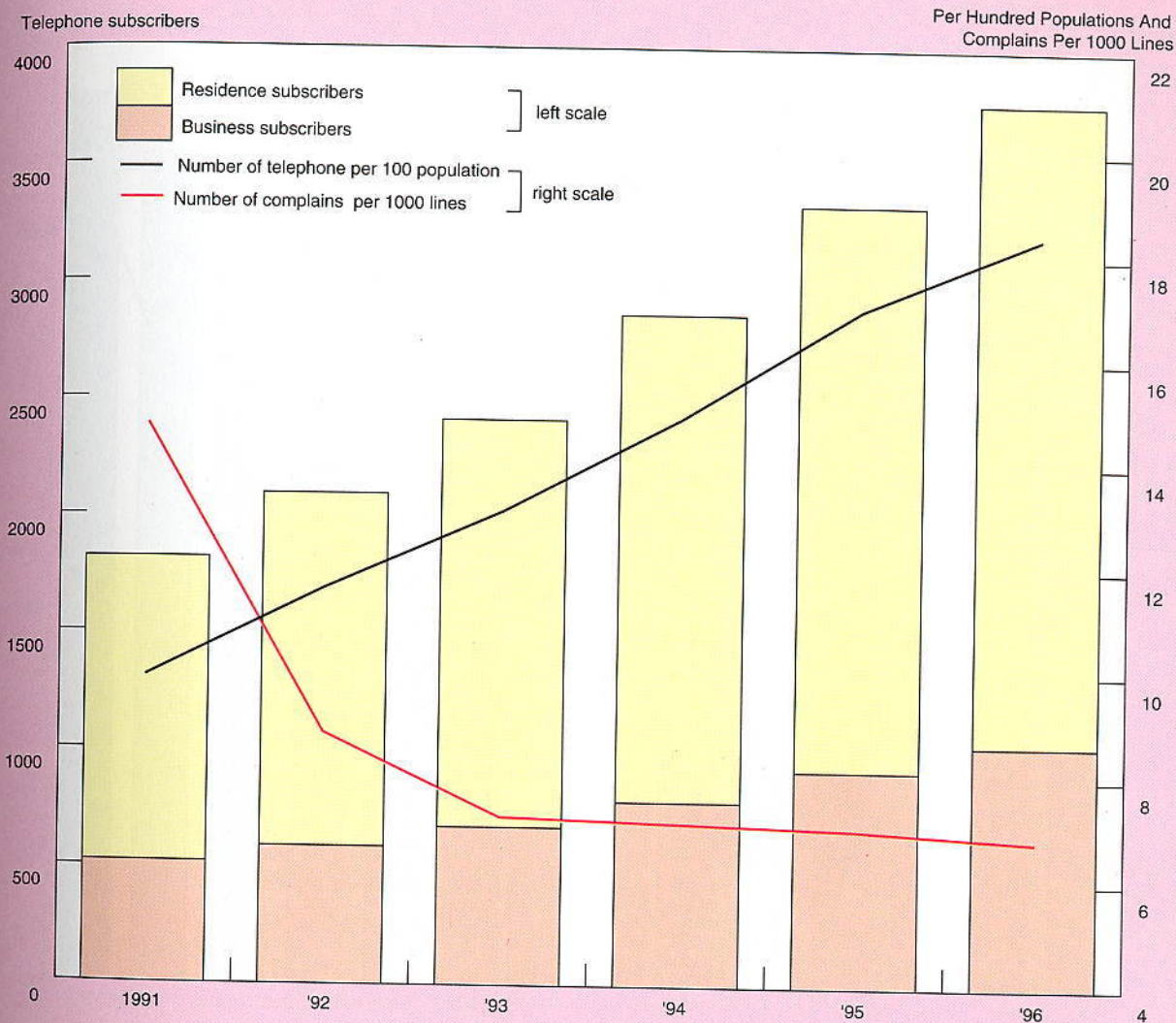
The national water supply coverage increased from 78.4% of total population in 1990 to 89% in 1996. Almost 99% of the urban population in 1996 were served with safe water compared with 95% in 1990. The national rural coverage increased from 66% in 1990 to 77% in 1996. However the rural areas in some of the states such as Kelantan, Sabah, Sarawak and Terengganu are still below the national rural coverage.

During the period 1990 to 1996, the national electricity coverage increased from 88.7% in 1990 to 95.8% in 1996. Urban electricity coverage increased from 97% in 1990 to 99% in 1996 while rural electricity coverage increased to 93% in 1996 from 80% in 1990.

Telecommunication

Chart 10.13

Number Of Telephones Subscribers By Sectors, Number Of Telephone Per 100 Population And Number Of Complain Per 1000 Lines



Source : Telekom Malaysia Berhad

In line with rapid technological developments, the demand for telecommunication services increased during the period 1991 to 1996. Total subscriptions increased nearly 86% with share of residential sector subscriptions increasing from 71.5% in 1991 to 72.6% in 1996 while that of business sector decreased from 28.5% to 27.4%. The national penetration rate increased from 9.9 Direct Exchange Line telephones per 100 persons in 1991 to 18.4 telephones in 1996.

The provision of new, sophisticated and value-added services and introduction of measures to increase efficiency have all contributed towards the reduction in complaints received per thousand lines during the period 1991 to 1996 i.e. from 14.7 in 1991 to 6.8 in 1996.

Environmental Pollution

Chart 10.14
River Water Quality Index

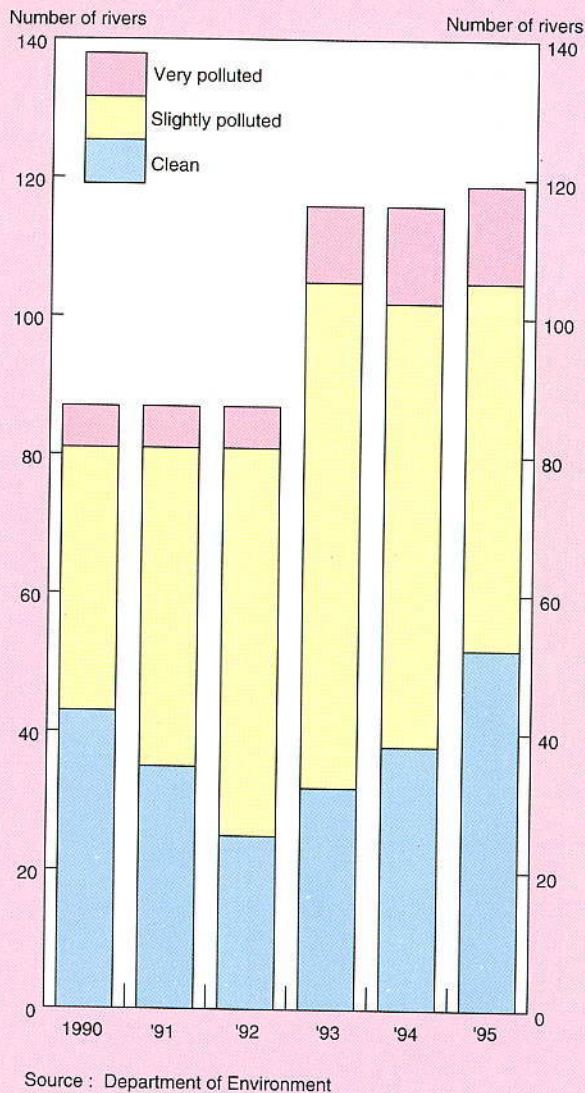
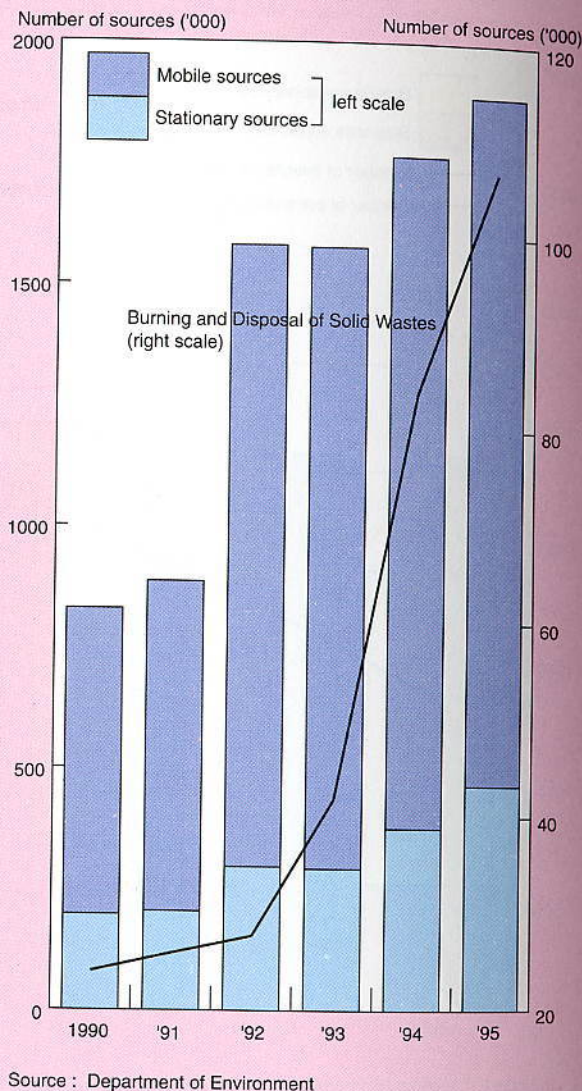


Chart 10.15
Sources Of Air-Pollution



River water quality based on the Water Quality Index was found to have declined slightly over the period 1990 to 1995. Of the 87 rivers monitored in 1990, 43 (49.4%) were found to be clean, 38 slightly polluted (43.6%) and 6 (7%) very polluted. In 1995, 119 rivers were monitored and of this 52 were found to be clean (43.7%), 53 slightly polluted (44.5%) and 14 (11.8%) highly polluted.

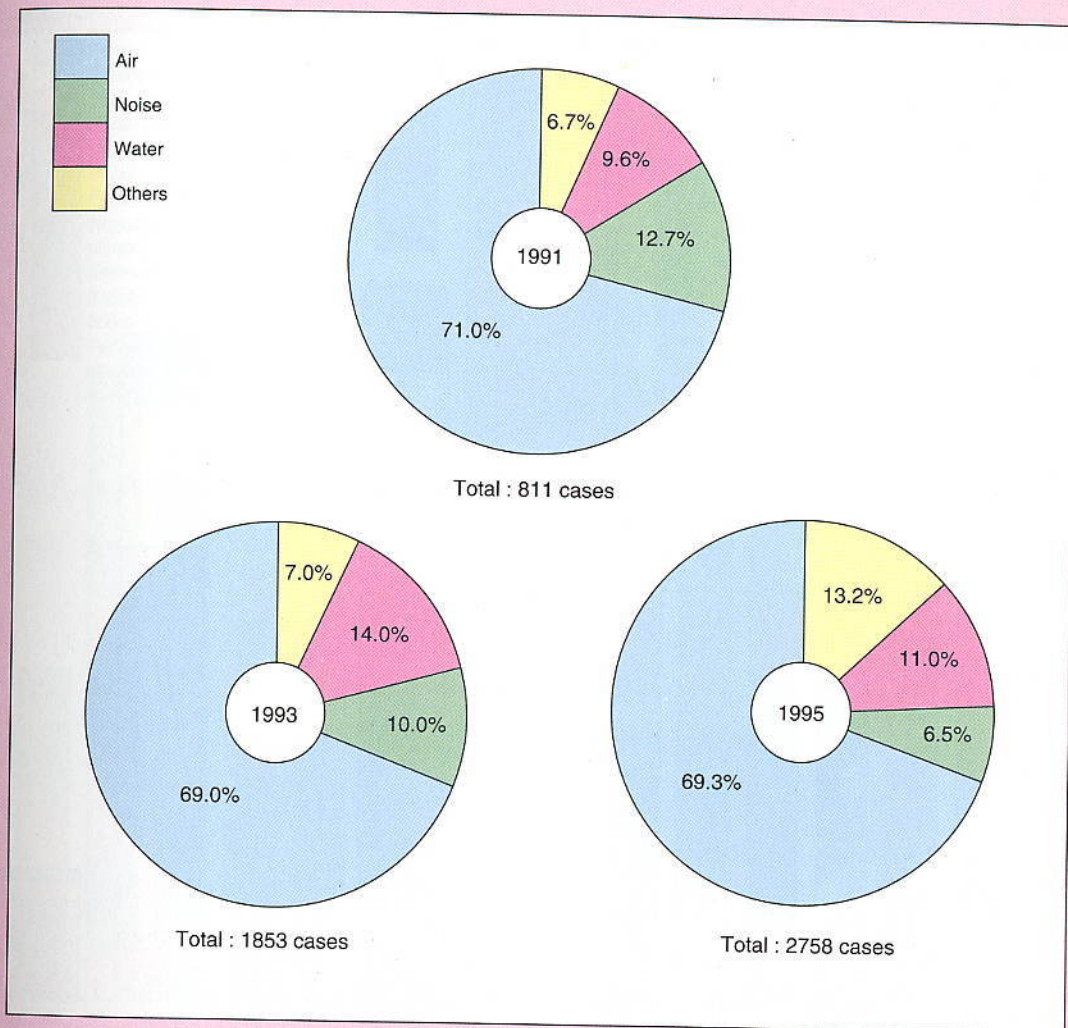
Five parameters were used to appraise water quality namely Biochemical Oxygen Demand, Chemical Oxygen Demand, Ammoniacal Nitrogen, Suspended Solids and Hydrogen Levels. Sewage disposals, agricultural and industrial activities, highlands development and land clearing activities all led to increase in river water pollution.

Two main sources of air pollution were mobile sources (vehicles) and stationary sources (power stations, industrial fuel burning processes and domestic fuel burning). In 1995, they contributed 71.4% and 23.3% respectively towards air pollution. In 1990, the corresponding proportion was 74% and 23%. The other sources include burning and disposal of solid wastes.

Transboundary atmosphere pollution contributed to serious haze problems in 1991, 1992, 1994 and 1997. Rapid industrial growth and urbanisation together with high demand for transportation in Malaysia have also contributed towards air pollution. Steps are being taken to improve air quality especially in terms of stricter enforcement efforts, relocation of federal administrative centres, environment-friendly transport programmes, promotion of the usage of unleaded gasoline etc.

Chart 10.16

Types of Pollution Cases Complaints Received By The Department Of Environment

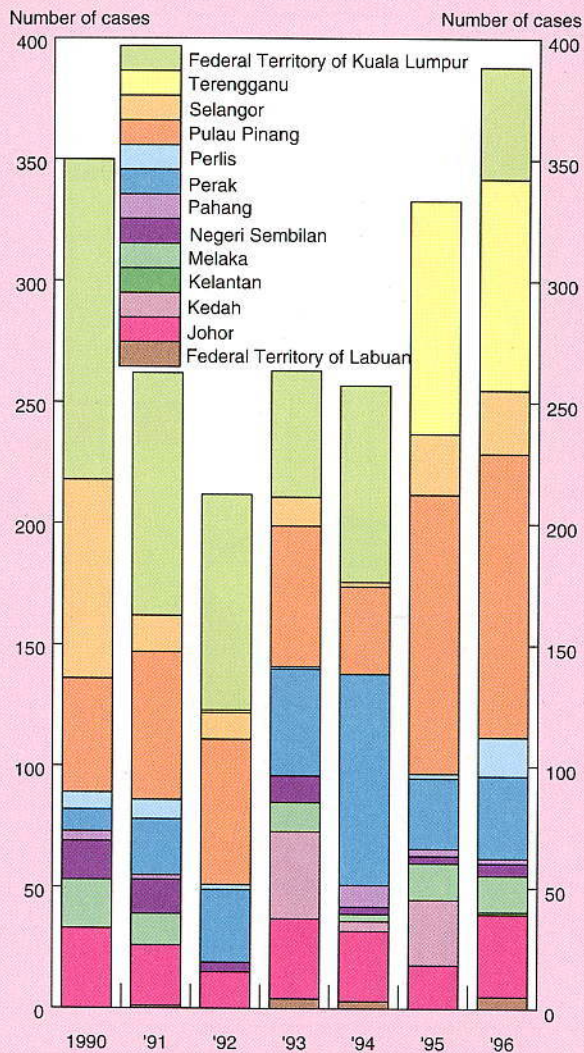


Source : Department Of Environment

The number of public complaints on pollution cases received by the Department of Environment has increased by more than three-fold during the period 1991 to 1995. Complaints received regarding air pollution were the highest i.e. 71% in 1991, 69% in 1993 and 69.3% in 1995. With respect to noise pollution, the number of complaints received have been on the decrease, i.e. from 12.7% in 1991 to 6.5% in 1995. Greater public awareness and adoption of noise control measures have contributed to the reduction in the noise levels. However, it is of concern to note that complaints on water pollution have risen from 9.6% in 1991 to 11% in 1995.

Social Ills

Chart 10.17
Number Of Family Welfare Cases Reported
According To States



Source : Ministry of National Unity and Social Development

During the period 1990 to 1996, the number of family welfare cases reported to the Social Welfare Department reflected an increase of 10.9% i.e from 350 cases in 1990 to 388 cases in 1996. Majority of the family welfare cases reported are related to marital communication breakdown problems. Rapid development and the resultant rural-urban migration together with the changing lifestyles could be attributed to the rise in these social problems.

In terms of the distribution of the cases by states, the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur and Pulau Pinang recorded the highest number of cases during the six year period i.e about 500 cases each or 48.1% of the total cases reported. This was followed by Perak 256 cases or 12.4%; Terengganu 183 cases or 8.8%; Johor 187 cases or 9.0% and Selangor 173 cases or 8.3%. It is however of interest to note that in the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur there has been a marked decline of nearly 65% in the number of cases reported in 1996 as against to 1990.

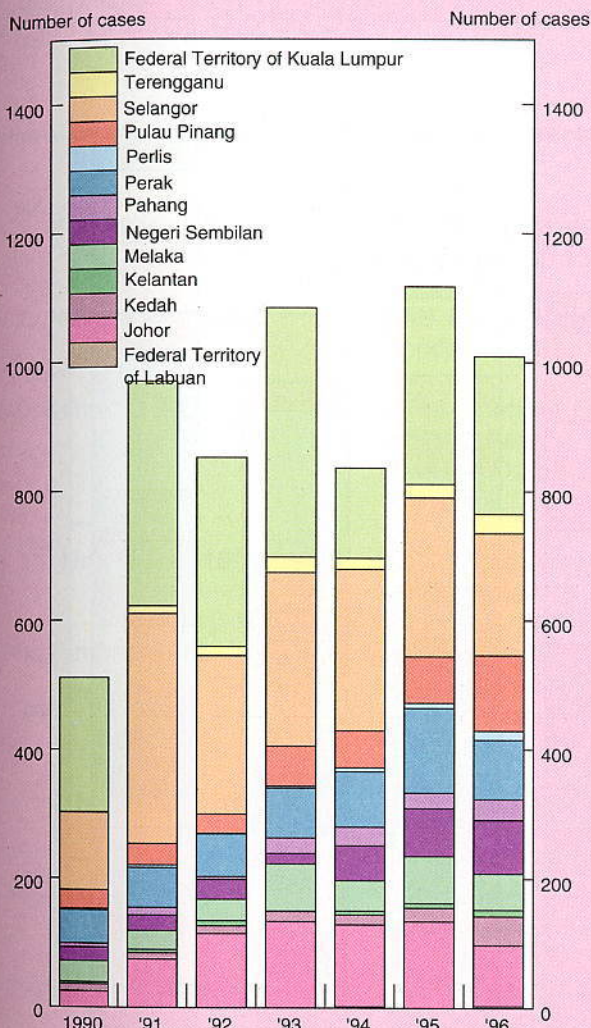
Chart 10.18
Handling Of Family Welfare Cases By The Social
Welfare Department As Of 25 April 1997



Source : Ministry of National Unity and Social Development

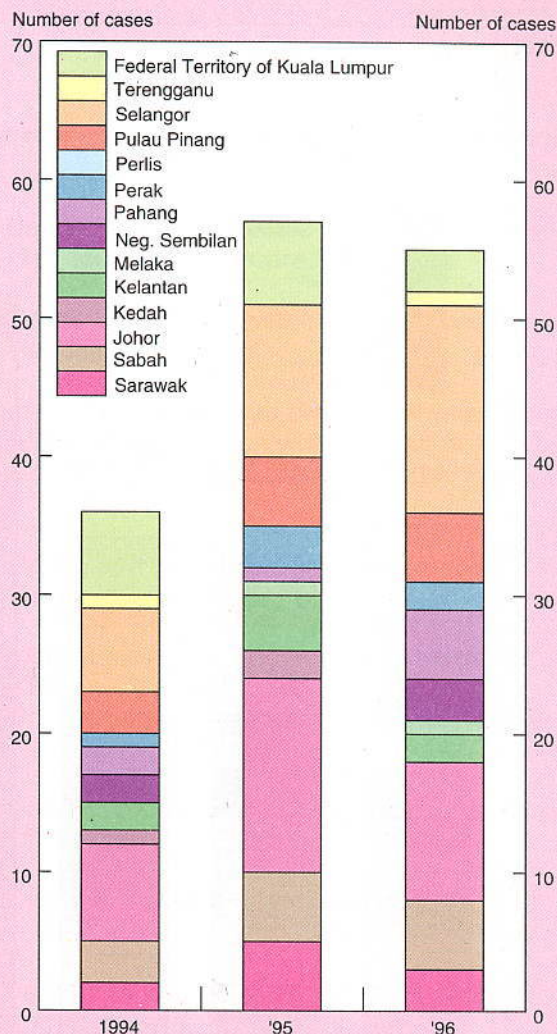
Since the implementation of the Domestic Violence Act 1994 in June 1996, a total of 293 family welfare cases have been handled by the Social Welfare Department. About 37.9% of the cases involve the Malays, 35.2% the Indians, 20.1% the Chinese and the rest 6.8%. These victims either were provided counselling services (50.9%); seek temporary protection order (19.5%); provided shelter in a safe place (11.3%); choose to live separately due to violence by husband (8.5%), referred to the Syariah Court (7.5%) or referred to the Legal Aid Bureau (2.3%). The Government has since 1991, initiated various family development programmes to promote and foster strong and resilient families.

Chart 10.19
Number Of Child Abuse Cases Reported



Source : Ministry of National Unity and Social Development

Chart 10.20
Number Of Abandoned Babies By State



Source : Royal Malaysian Police

In spite of the enactment of the Child Protection Act 1991 and the launching of the National Plan of Action for Survival, Protection and Development of Children in 1994, the number of child abuse cases has been on the increase. In 1996 there were 1,009 cases of child abuse, reflecting an increase of over 49% from 1990. In terms of the distribution of the cases by states, Selangor and the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur recorded 27.6% and 26.7% of the cases respectively, followed by Johor 11.6%, Perak 9.3%, Pulau Pinang 6.6%, Melaka 5.7% and Negeri Sembilan 5%.

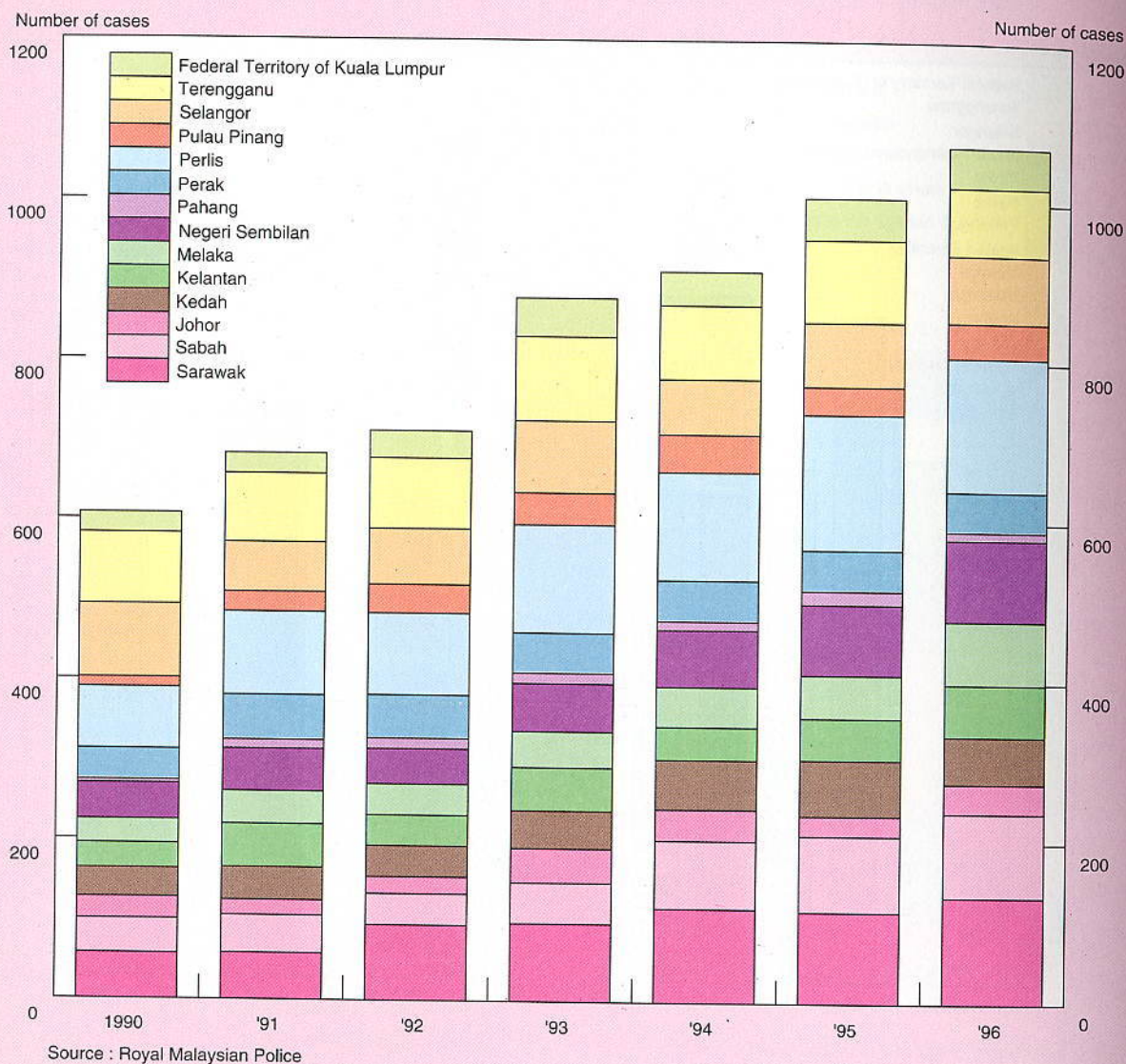
During the Sixth Malaysia Plan period, 15 states and 86 district-level child protection teams were established to provide counselling, welfare and child protection services to parents and children.

The increasing number of cases of abandoned babies has become a cause for social concern in Malaysia. During the period 1991 to 1996, a total of 278 cases were recorded. A marked increase in cases of nearly 90% was noted particularly during the period 1994, 1995 and 1996.

In terms of the distribution of cases by states (data available only for the period 1994 to 1996), the highest number of cases were found to be in Selangor (21.6%), followed by Johor (20.9%), Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur (10.1%), Pulau Pinang (8.8%), Sabah (8.8%) and Sarawak (6.8%).

The Child Protection Act 1991, also encompasses measures to control and prevent cases of abandoned babies.

Chart 10.21
Number Of Rape Cases Reported According To State



Rape cases has also been on the increase during the Sixth Malaysia Plan period. In 1996 there were a total of 1,071 rape cases reported, an increase of over 77% compared with 1990 when there were about 604 cases. In terms of the distribution by states, Selangor registered the largest proportion during the period, that is 15.2% followed by Johor 11.5%, Sabah 10.9%, Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur 9.2%, Perak 8.3%, Kedah 7.8%, Pulau Pinang 6.0% and Pahang 5.8%.