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HUMAN RESPONSE TO THE EFFECTS OF URBAN CLIMATE CHANGES IN KINTA VALLEY, MALAYSIA: SPECIAL REFERENCES TO IPOH CITY, PERAK

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ABSTRACT

This paper analyses human response to the impact of urban climate changes in Ipoh, Perak.

These changes are the result of rapid urban surface changes. Rapid urbanisation brings about the expansion of industrial, business, and commercial areas, as well as the opening of new land. Urban temperature changes and air pollution are the direct results of urban climate change.

The discussion in this paper is based on primary and secondary data from a questionnaire survey conducted in Ipoh. The analysis is limited to descriptive and inference statistics which is based on univariate analysis.

The results of the survey conducted on 534 respondents from Ipoh show some awareness of urban climate changes due to rapid urbanisation. 463 of these respondents (86.7%) noted that it is warmer in the center of Ipoh compared with its peripheries.
This can be associated with possible urban heat island having developed in the city center. The results also showed a significantly high awareness level among the respondents of the existence of the cement industry and quarry activities, which the local residents have found to be off-putting, and that negatively affects their appreciation of the urban environment.

As a result, the residents have to adapt their lifestyle to the changing urban climate due to these industries. The study proposes several suggestions on how to manage and overcome problems caused by the urban climate changes in Ipoh.

Keywords: Human Response, Urban Climate Change, Urbanisation, Air Pollution, Urban Environment