POLYTECHNIC OF NORTH LONDON
MEDICAL ARCHITECTURE AND RESEARCH UNIT

DST GRADUATE COURSE IN HEALTH FACILITY PLANNING 1988 - 1989
M.A FINAL DISSERTATION

PROVIDING FOR APPROPRIATE REHABILITATIVE FACILITIES IN MALAYSIA

submitted by

Siti Normahjasni Nordin (Dip. Arch., APAM) The starting point for the provision of appropriate facilities for rehabilitation is the government aim of achieving health for all by the year 2000. Malaysia has a range of health facilities for primary and secondary care in the form of rural clinics, health centres and hospitals which have been provided in accordance with the need and demand for health care. However in the early 1980s the country began an economic and social transformation with consequential changes in health patterns, resulting in increased hospital admissions. This has led to a need for more hospitals with a corresponding strain on resources and, as hospitals take a long time to build and require large funds, their provision has not kept pace with increased demand. As the year 2000 approaches, the government objectives of achieving health for all may not be met with the present pattern of use of hospital facilities.

An alternative approach is suggested in which non-acute patients are provided with alternative facilities, preferably out in the community, while acute beds are freed for those needing them most. The form of this service is proposed and the provision of appropriate facilities is examined including a review of existing resouces. Finally planning and design guidelines are developed to enable the facility to be implemented.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

I wish to express my gratitude for the generous help and support given me in the preparation of this dissertation by Professor Kurt Schwarz, Ms Margaret McCutcheon and Mr. Paul Cooper. Special thanks to my supervisor, Mr. Tony Howard who has patiently given direction and encouragement.

My sincere thanks go to Ms Pauline Briers, Administrator of the Camden Medical Rehabilitation Centre for providing me with the opportunity of visiting and observing activities and facilities which were tremendously enlightening on the subject of rehabilitation services.

I also wish to express appreciation to the librarians at the Polytechnic of North London, the King's Fund, the United Nations London Information Centre and the Health Education Council.

My heartfelt thanks also goes to all those people in Malaysia, particularly in the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Works Malaysia for furnishing me with data and information.

I would also like to thank the World Health Organisation for sponsoring my study.

My thanks also go to my course tutor Ms Rosemary Glanville for her tireless assistance during the entire course period.

Last but not least, I am very grateful to the support given me by my family. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my dear husband who has understandingly allowed me to pursue this course and who has patiently cared for our four small children in my absence. His constant support has been a tremendous source of inspiration which has given me the strength to complete this course. Acquiring knowledge is an exhilirating experience but not without its sacrifices.

May God bless them all.

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