This academic exercise aims at studying the migration motivations and patterns of activities of West Malaysian workers at a Jurong shipyard in Singapore. The West Malaysian migrants under survey which was undertaken in September 1973 were resident in Taman Jurong. The study shows that the sampled workers were exclusively young Chinese males (17 - 26 years) who were largely school-leavers from English schools and were looking for employment for the first time. Though reasons for their migration to Singapore are many and complex, yet chief among them are economic (such as unemployment in West Malaysia and more economic opportunities in Singapore). Other reasons of less importance are social and psychological.

While the migration was facilitated by well-developed communication networks in West Malaysia, the setting up of recruiting centres at certain period at certain centres and the diffusion of recruitment information had affected both the sources and patterns of out-migration over the period 1969-1973. Thus 85.4% of the migrants were from the urban areas as against 3.6% from the rural areas; stop-migration was insignificant. Being subject mainly to the selective control of the shipyard which in turn is subject to the control of Singapore Government, the migration was largely temporary.
For most of the migrants, monthly income derived from long hours of toil and sweat was barely enough for subsistence, let alone savings of which part was normally remitted home to help their families. Though the migrants had adjusted themselves well to the new environment, relations with their fellow Singapore work-mates were not exceptionally good as they were with their colleagues from West Malaysia. For the majority of migrants who were overtime labourers, leisure hours were limited and were mainly consumed in their quarters or in the more or less self-contained Taman Jurong.