ABSTRACT

Based on the data of the field survey carried out in November, 1971, this article deals with the spatial relationship between distribution of the multi-storey factories and that of the Government Housing Estates in Tanglin Halt. It further analyses the labour structure on the basis of the aforesaid relationship.

The Tanglin Halt Industrial Estate, like the Kallang Basin Industrial Estate, is a light industrial estate of smaller size established as part of the Government’s Industrialisation scheme.

By the end of June 1971, printing and paper factories ranked first in terms of the factory units, 19% of 41 factories in the whole industrial estate falls within this category. Textile ranks second by 17%, followed by metal taking 16%, and plastic 12%. In terms of the capital composition, the majority of the factories are of the smaller sizes of local investments. Factories are mostly handled products belonging to the categories of pioneering industry.

Most of the pioneering industrial products are sold in foreign markets while non-pioneering industrial products make two-thirds of their sales in local markets. The pioneering industry employs 81% of the total number of workers in the whole estate. 88% of the workers are female, they are mainly unmarried girls. 65% of the workers are living in HDB multi-storey flats surrounding the estate. The average age of the workers is 20 to 22. Education standard of the workers is generally low, 49% of the workers attaining education lower than primary level, and even some illiterate. Statistics show high degree of labour movement especially female workers in the electronic, garment and textile factories.

With the exception of chemical, most of the factories are in short of skilled and semi-skilled workers. Labour wages are considered low. This is especially so with the prolongation of working hours by some factories which is detrimental to the labour health and working efficiency.