



Applying Translational Research in University-Industry Collaboration through Crab Farming for Socio-Economic Alleviation of Disadvantage Communities

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Abstract

Innovations can be translated into social entrepreneurship to benefit disadvantage communities. This paper narrates the social entrepreneurship project between Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) and Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan Selangor (UCS). UNIMAS's crab cage innovation was implemented at the Pulau Salak community in Santubong, Sarawak. The social entrepreneurship expertise was provided by UCS. The translational research cum collaborative project has improved the living standards by exploiting on the built environment which is perfect for crab farming. Aquaculture as a cash crop will ensure food security and significant economic growth. Translational research projects should be the new normal after the pandemic lockdowns.

Keywords: Translational research; Social entrepreneurship; Socio-economy; Aquaculture

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1.0 Introduction

As the world recovers from the pandemic lockdowns, most countries have to realign their economic strategies. During the lockdown period, most economies came to a standstill. y's

The socio-economy for rural areas and among disadvantaged communities is the priority for all state governments in Malaysia. Assistance in building the economy has ranged from subsidies to expert advice from both the relevant government agencies as well as from universities. For university researchers, applying knowledge from basic theory to improve the living standard of disadvantaged communities has been a challenge in getting the right community and the right assistance. However, in the case of the community at Pulau Salak, Santubong, Sarawak, crab farming was the perfect match between the location and a Universiti Malaysia Sarawak's (UNIMAS) innovation testing project. Hence, this paper aims to describe the translational research project that has uplifted the socio-economy of a rural community at Santubong, Sarawak, Malaysia. After two years, crab farming has become a significant economic endeavor as the areas of Pulau Salak provided the marine species with an apt ecosystem. Through the collaboration between UNIMAS, UiTM Sarawak, and UCS from establishing the right community, training, and marketing of the matured crabs, the socio-economy of the families involved in crab farming has improved significantly. This is evidence in the purchase of new boats and fishing equipment as well as other household amenities such as refrigerator, television sets, cell phones, accessibility to satellite television and the internet, etcetera. It is proven that establishing partnerships between universities with industries (investors and entrepreneurs) will be beneficial to all stakeholders. Industries interested in utilizing the vast expertise in both UiTM and UNIMAS have shown project success with the

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