

FSSH

Research Review



**“Bridging Communities,
Research and Policy”**

NEW RESEARCH

Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities Research Review 2019

DEVELOPING A FRAMEWORK FOR ASSESSING HOUSEHOLD FOOD SECURITY IN MALAYSIAN CONTEXT (FRGS/RACER) F06/DRC/1845/2019

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In urban area, the most common place for the residents to get their food supply is from the market place. The one shown in the above picture specialises in selling vegetables and jungle products.

The aim of this research is to investigate the food security among low income households from different spatial locations and sociocultural backgrounds in Kuching Division, Sarawak. The focus will be on determining the level of household food security, access to food and identifying the household strategies in ensuring food security. Does sociocultural background play a role in influencing household food security? What is the relationship between residential locations and household food security? What are the strategies adopted when facing food insecurity? This study is significant as it examines 'food security' from aspects that have not been addressed in past studies. Past studies often focused on communities with similar 'sociocultural backgrounds' (e.g. Cooper's (2013) study on the Malay community) or similar spatial location (e.g. Saha et. al's (2009) study in rural Bangladesh and Omonona & Agoi's (2014) study on urban households in Nigeria).

Recognising this gap, the study aims to examine food security from the

perspectives of households from different locations (i.e. studying households that are permanent residents in urban areas, temporary residents in urban areas, and permanent rural residents) and cultural backgrounds in Kuching Division, Sarawak. Findings are expected to add value to the literature and are vital for policy making on food security, particularly in line with the agendas of the SDGs. One of the goals of the Sustainable Development Goals is to eliminate hunger through improved access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food for all. This puts food security, which is associated with food availability and access to food (FAO, 2002; Hesselberg & Yaro, 2006), high in the global agenda.

NEW RESEARCH

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ASSESSING AND ENHANCING UNDERGRADUATE ACADEMIC PROGRAM: AN ANALYSIS OF DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM SOTL(A)FSSK/2019(2)/005

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In order to prepare the students with 21st century skills, future ready curriculum should be designed to accommodate skills and capabilities that required in this era of Industrial Revolution 4.0 (IR 4.0). Current curriculum seems to be irrelevant in the new era where some courses are not relevant to the program, traditional way of teaching and learning and less involvement with the industries and stakeholders. Therefore, there is a need to assess the current curriculum in order to form a future ready curriculum and enhancing future graduates.

Qualitative and quantitative methods will be used in this research. A set of questionnaire will be distributed to existing students and a series of interviews will be conducted among the alumni, external parties such as the industries and the faculty administration. Focus group discussion will be done with the program members. Related documents will be reviewed to gain more information related to the research. By the end of this research, it is expected that the program will be able to produce a future ready curriculum in preparing the students with future work skill.

A STUDY ON IBAN KUNTAU MARTIAL ART IN KUCHING, SAMARAHAN, SERIAN AND SRI AMAN DIVISIONS, SARAWAK (DAYAK CHAIR) F06/DRC/1807/2019

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Being ethnically diverse, Sarawak has a rich variation of cultural practices, and one of these is the *kuntau* martial arts. However, research on *kuntau* Dayak is limited even in online journals including Google Scholar. For instance, when the words "*kuntau* and Iban" and "*kuntau* and Bidayuh" are typed in Google Scholar, the results are 7 for the former and 3 for the latter. *Kuntau* martial art is only briefly mentioned and there is no ethnographic research (which employed participant observation and interviews) on *kuntau* among practitioners, masters and officials in Sarawak. This implies that the production of knowledge on *kuntau* is neglected in academic research. In order to facilitate the understanding of the *kuntau* Dayak Iban, this study aims to explore the Iban *kuntau* with a focus on the history, development, ritual associated with training and role of *kuntau* in the respective divisions today. Several questions are formulated during the first stage of the

study. Survey are used in data collection together with ethnographic research methods. Survey make possible the efficient collection of data on large numbers of individuals (Giddens and Sutton, 2013). Ethnographic descriptions are holistic and factually accurate (Erickson, 2011) because the research grasps the point of views of community leaders (e.g. village heads) and people involved directly in *kuntau* martial art including the practitioners. Findings of the research are useful for the government and non-governmental associations to formulate policy related to *kuntau* Dayak Iban.