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Research Review



**“Bridging Communities,
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RESEARCH UPDATE

Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities Research Review 2019

THE SHRINKING PADDY FARMS AND THE BIDAYUH WOMEN RICE FARMERS: WHAT HAS CHANGED? (F06/DRC/1725/2018)

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The grant was officially approved on 17th August 2018. Thus, with the approval, I and my co-researcher Tracy Peter Samat held a brief to discuss and make plans for the fieldwork. Prior to the approval of the grant, we made a number of visits to the study areas. The essence of those visits were to gather preliminary data or information. Such information includes;

- i. Months for paddy planting
- ii. Community protocol
- iii. Acquaintance and permission from the Katu Kampung
- iv. Community engagement
- v. Rapport building
- vi. And other useful information before the actual data collection.

Subsequently, we made various fieldwork trips and gathered data from Kpg Bugu and Prankan the study areas. Below are some images taken during the data collection.



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SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SARAWAK, MALAYSIA (F06/PRC/1757/2018)

PARVEEN KAUR

This study intends to explore in-depth the push and pull factors of women and girls being trafficked into prostitution in Sarawak, how they view their unfortunate experiences and what psychosocial services are available to survivors of human trafficking in Sarawak. Ultimately it will provide a better understanding of the post trafficking psychosocial needs of women to transition back into mainstream society.

Human trafficking is defined as using force, fraud, or coercion to recruit, harbor, transport, obtain, or employ a person for labor or services in involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery or a commercial sex act. Malaysia is not only a destination country for human traffickers but also a source country.

Human trafficking is one of the fastest growing and spreading crimes in the world. Malaysia has shelter homes for trafficked victims in Johor, Selangor, Negeri Sembilan, Malacca, Kuala Lumpur and Sabah. All women and girls rescued in Sarawak, are placed in the shelter home in Sabah. All trafficked victims saved in Sarawak are sent to Rumah Perlindungan Wanita Kota Kinabalu (RPWKK) which is under the Jabatan Pembangunan Wanita Putrajaya. Permission has been granted for the researcher to do in-depth personal interviews with the human trafficked victims from Sarawak by the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development Putrajaya who are currently placed at this home.

The research is based on qualitative methodology involving first-hand information from these women and girls. The target participant size will be a total of 20 respondents who are victims of trafficking and immigration officers including the Head of Enforcement Unit Sarawak and the Director of Immigration Sarawak. A wide spectrum of demographic characteristics such as age, ethnicity, country of origin, marital status, education, occupation etc, will be chosen. An in-depth open ended interview will be conducted on each respondent. A detailed thick description will be narrated on the diverse case studies.

The findings of this study will be made known to the Ministry of Welfare, Community Well-being, Women, Family and Childhood Development Sarawak and the Immigration Department Sarawak to enable them to strategize further in their efforts in curbing human trafficking. Although the anti-trafficking laws are in place in Malaysia, there is a continuous rise in human and sex trafficking.

Today, sex trafficking continues on a global level because of various contributing factors such as globalization in terms of communication, internet, improvements in land, sea, and air transportation have permitted human smuggling to become systematic and organized by professionals.

AN ANIMATION OF AWARENESS AND INFORMATION ACCESS IN STORYTELLING WITH CANCER IN SARAWAK, MALAYSIA FOR CHILDREN (F06/SPMYRA/1674/2018)

PARVEEN KAUR

This research examines the problems of childhood cancer patients and their parents/caretakers in Sarawak. Specifically, this research intends to find the extent of problems comprising awareness, access to treatment, the coping strategies adopted and provision of support and services rendered by the Government and Non-Government Organisations (NGOs).

It is found that awareness of childhood cancer by parents/caretakers, early detection and timely treatment can increase survival rate. Many researches show that children cancer is curable if necessary resources and treatments are available across the world. Cancer in Malaysia has increased from 32000 in 2008 to 37400 in 2012 whereas in Sarawak one child is diagnosed with cancer every five days.

The review statistics also shows that a large percentage of these patients do not seek early diagnosis and follow up treatment and thus succumb to their illness (SCCS, 2014). This suggests that there is a need to study in detail the challenges faced by the cancer affected children and their parents/caretakers.

This study collected the cancer affected children and their parents' detailed profile, examined the extent of awareness, ascertain services and support provision, detected problems faced by them, identified coping strategies adopted by them and documented the findings in an informative way through animation and handbook.

This research incorporated both qualitative and quantitative methods of investigation. Observations and personal face-to-face interviews were conducted on the parents/caretakers, the doctors, nurses of the Pediatric Oncology ward at Sarawak General Hospital and the staff at Sarawak Children's Cancer Society.

Finally, the research found that parents of children diagnosed with cancer have very less education and knowledge on this disease and prognosis, thus reported a higher stress and emotional level. Some of the parents had experienced the high level of stress when their child was first contracted with cancer. With the help of the counsellors from the Sarawak Children's Cancer Society (SCCS), through the counselling sessions with the parents, this has contributed to a more stable emotion and richer knowledge about paediatric cancer.

The findings provide evidence about the parents' perspective towards childhood cancer and able to give us suggestions of the need for psychological and physical support to be developed for families caring for a child with cancer in Sarawak.