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Daniel U.E., Novel Lyndon, Suhana S., Sarmila M.S. & Zaimah, R.

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Strengthening Rural Economy through Regional Development Planning Approach in Sarawak

Daniel, U.E.¹, Novel Lyndon², Suhana, S.³, Sarmila, M.S.³ & Zaimah, R.³

¹*School of Social Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia, 11800 Pulau Pinang, Malaysia*

²*Program of Anthropology and Sociology*

³*Program of Development Science*

*Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia,
43600 Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia.*

Corresponding Author: danielusm@hotmail.my

Abstract

Rural development often linked with regional development and both are considered as detached entities in regional development efforts whereby they are mutually dependent on their development. Both of these developments are tied together by various types of rural-urban-regional linkages and the understanding of the reciprocal relationship behind these areas and consideration of this relationship in regional development strategies are very effective in the development of both areas. This paper seeks to discuss the rural development strategies in Sarawak through the implementation of regional development planning approaches such as the Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy (SCORE). For the purpose of data collection, this paper utilized qualitative research method of secondary data analysis of previous studies which did by government agencies and researchers. Therefore, the content analysis was used to analyze the data. The study found that the regional development policies in Sarawak have changed the rural economy by developing physical, social and economic programs under the corridor economic projects.

Keywords: *Rural Development, Regional Development, Economy, Sarawak, Score*

Introduction

Rural development remains a priority in the development policy of developing countries like Malaysia because the majority of poor people live in rural areas (Maxwell, 2005). After independence in 1957, Malaysia was characterized by uneven development between rural and urban sector. The urban sector, mainly relying on industrial economic activities which are generating more economic multiplier effects than agricultural activities in rural areas. Agricultural production has risen in rural