

FSSH

Research Review



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

RESEARCH UPDATE

Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities Research Review 2019

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD FRAMEWORK FOR THE RIVERINE COMMUNITIES IN WESTERN SARAWAK (F06/FRGS/1606/2017)

WONG SWEE KIONG, REGINA GARAI ABDULLAH, NEILSON ILAN MERSAT AND SPENCER EMPADING

This study focuses on developing a sustainable livelihood framework for the riverine communities in western Sarawak. The study aims to identify the livelihood resources, institutional processes and livelihood strategies that enable or/and constrain the achievement of sustainable livelihoods of riverine communities. The study also aims to assess the relationship between the livelihood resources, institutional processes and livelihood strategies before developing a framework for riverine communities to achieve sustainable livelihoods. Mixed method combining both qualitative and quantitative approaches is adopted in this study. The population of this study comprises all the families residing along the three riverine areas at Sungai Sarawak, Batang Sadong and Batang Lupar. Preliminary findings show that the availability and accessibility of livelihood capitals differ from one area to another area even though the communities were all residing along the riverine area. This had led to different vulnerabilities faced by the concerned communities. Consequently, this resulted in different livelihood strategies adopted by the local communities though there were relatively similar institutional processes experienced by the villagers.



Conducting mapping exercise with the locals in one of the study areas



Interview with villagers from Kampung Sungai Suai, Maludam

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INDEXING DRUGS KNOWLEDGE AND INTERVENTION STRATEGIES ON DAYAK AND OTHER LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN SARAWAK WESTERN SARAWAK (F06/DRC/1806/2019)

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This ongoing study concentrates on parents' knowledge on drugs, and their involvement in prevention measurement on drugs use. Since Malaysians have experienced massive increment in terms of drug use, studies should be performed to (re)diagnose the factors and its prevalence from every aspect.

The study embarks on the evidences that peer groups and parents have always been among the factors contributing to the increment of youth involvement in drugs. However, studies mainly concentrated on drugs users (that of youth) leaving the parents factors unattended. When parents are seen as among the contribution factors why youths drugs should be performed. This study then focuses on the experience and knowledge of parents on drugs in local communities. These includes their involvement and contribution.

The objectives of the study among others are, to identify the relationship between digitalized infrastructure and youth involvement on drugs, and to capture parents' knowledge related to the use of drugs and its prevention.

This proposed study captures several types of respondents in terms of ethnic background - namely Iban, Bidayuh and other local communities. Several Divisions and Districts will be selected accordingly, namely Kuching, Samarahan and Sri Aman divisions. To complete the methods, Drug Rehabilitation Center (Pusat Serenti), Sekolah Tunas Bakti (STB) and Seri Puteri in Kuching will also be selected and become the focus locations for youth involvement. Based on the confidential records, their parents will also be interviewed to measure parents' knowledge and involvement on youths' drug usage. The ethnographic method utilizes the strength of face-to-face interviews, participant observation and focus group discussion. Other than conventional methods, the internet will be employed in interviewing respondents. Data will be analyzed and research ethics applied. Whenever needed, quantitative and qualitative software will be employed in analyzing the primary data.

Findings will be disseminated through proper channels such as conferences and reliable Social Sciences Indexed Journals. At the end of the study, researchers will be able to suggest social policies and intervention programs related to digitalized world and recommendations will be made in enhancing the (indigenous) social policies and programs for parents and youth related to Internet in Sarawak.