

**THE PARTICIPATION OF BIDAYUH PEOPLE IN DEVELOPMENT: A
GENDER PERSPECTIVE ANALYSIS**

By

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**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in
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Faculty : Educational Studies

The focus of the research is to study the education and employment participation trends of the Bidayuh in Serian and Bau Districts from a gender perspective. The specific objectives are to determine the trend of change in educational attainment between Bidayuh men and women based on 1990 and 2000 census data; to determine whether the survey data on educational attainment are comparable with the trend of change in educational attainment of the year 2000; to determine the trend of change in employment participation between Bidayuh men and women in the three employment sectors namely agriculture, service and manufacturing based on 1990 and 2000 census data; to determine whether the survey data on employment participation are comparable with the trend of change in employment participation of the year 2000; and lastly to explain reasons for differences between educational attainment and employment participation of Bidayuh men and women.

The study was conducted in four zones of districts of Serian and Bau in Sarawak. The study consisted of two phases. The first phase was on the survey involving a total of 150 households including husbands and wives, who were personally interviewed using structured questionnaire. The data from the first phase were aimed at answering the first, second, third and fourth objectives of the study. The data were analysed using simple statistical tools such as frequencies, percentages, mean, standard deviation and chi-square. The second phase was on an indepth interviews among eight selected informants who were knowledgeable about Bidayuh community. The purpose was to find explanation on the differences between Bidayuh men's and women's educational attainment and employment participation. Qualitative data analysis was used for this phase of the study.

The trend of change in educational attainment between Bidayuh men and women based on 1990 and 2000 census data shows that the opportunities for education continued to increase but disparity persisted between the two genders. The disparity is seen in terms of accessibility to primary education and attainment in tertiary education. The imbalanced in educational attainment between Bidayuh men and women for 1990 and 2000 census data continued as indicated by the study survey data.

Majority of both Bidayuh male and female labour forces continue to concentrate in the traditional and labour-intensive farming between 1990 and 2000. Manufacturing sector that required some level of education, technology and skills, the survey data show that the participation of Bidayuh women in the sector was still lower than Bidayuh men. As in the

1990 and 2000 census data, the 2002 survey data show that employment participation in all sectors was continued to differ for Bidayuh men and women.

The qualitative data show that there are two reasons why Bidayuh women lag behind the men in educational attainment. The two reasons are cultural influence and historical background that stated Bidayuh women have been long neglected in many aspects of educational opportunities. Similarly, reasons for the differences in employment participation between Bidayuh men and women are traditional gender related division of labour, employer's bias on gender and the lack of education, skills and training among women.

The study poses recommendations for extension, development planners, Sarawak state government, Bidayuh organizations and policy makers. It is hoped that the findings are useful for extension policy and programme planning for rural population with some gender perspectives. The study also recommends that future research should be conducted on the impact of development on the social mobility of Bidayuh men and women.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sains

**PENGLIBATAN ORANG BIDAYUH DALAM PEMBANGUNAN: SATU
ANALISA DARIPADA PERSPEKTIF GENDER.**

Oleh

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Fokus kajian ialah mengenai trend pendidikan dan penglibatan pekerjaan Bidayuh di Daerah Serian dan Bau dari perspektif gender. Objektif khusus kajian ialah untuk menentukan perubahan trend dalam pencapaian pendidikan antara lelaki dan wanita Bidayuh berdasarkan data bancian tahun 1990 dan 2000; untuk menentukan sama ada pencapaian pendidikan data tinjauan boleh dibandingkan dengan perubahan trend dalam pencapaian pendidikan tahun 2000; untuk menentukan perubahan dalam trend penglibatan pekerjaan antara lelaki dan wanita Bidayuh dalam tiga sektor pekerjaan iaitu pertanian, perkhidmatan dan pembuatan berdasarkan data bancian tahun 1990 dan 2000; untuk menentukan sama ada penglibatan pekerjaan data hasil tinjauan boleh dibandingkan dengan perubahan dalam trend penglibatan pekerjaan bagi tahun 2000; dan akhir sekali, untuk menerangkan sebab-sebab berlakunya perbezaan pencapaian pendidikan dan penglibatan pekerjaan antara lelaki dan wanita Bidayuh.

Kajian ini dijalankan di empat zon dalam daerah Serian dan Bau di Sarawak. Kajian ini dilaksanakan dalam dua fasa. Fasa pertama ialah kajian survei yang melibatkan sejumlah 150 pasangan suami isteri yang telah menjawab soal selidik yang berstruktur. Data di fasa pertama bertujuan untuk menjawab objektif kajian yang pertama, kedua, ketiga dan keempat. Data dianalisis dengan menggunakan statistik asas seperti kekerapan, min, peratus, standard deviation dan ujian chi-square. Fasa kedua ialah temubual secara mendalam ke atas lapan responden yang terpilih dan berpengetahuan tentang komuniti Bidayuh. Tujuannya ialah untuk mencari penjelasan tentang perbezaan pencapaian pendidikan dan penglibatan pekerjaan di antara lelaki dan wanita Bidayuh. Analisis data secara kualitatif digunakan untuk fasa kedua kajian ini.

Trend perubahan dalam pencapaian pendidikan antara lelaki dan wanita Bidayuh yang berdasarkan data bancian tahun 1990 dan 2000 menunjukkan bahawa peluang bagi mendapatkan pendidikan terus meningkat tetapi terdapat jurang antara kedua-dua gender. Jurang ini dilihat dari segi mendapatkan pendidikan di peringkat rendah dan tinggi. Ketidakseimbangan pencapaian pendidikan antara lelaki dan wanita Bidayuh bagi tahun 1990 dan 2000 berterusan seperti yang terdapat dalam data survei kajian ini.

Majoriti buruh lelaki dan wanita Bidayuh terus tertumpu dalam bidang pertanian secara tradisional antara tahun 1990 dan 2000. Sektor pembuatan yang memerlukan tahap pendidikan, teknologi dan kemahiran, data kajian menunjukkan penglibatan wanita Bidayuh dalam sektor ini masih rendah daripada lelaki Bidayuh. Seperti yang terdapat dalam data bancian pada tahun 1990 dan 2000, data survei tahun 2002 menunjukkan

kadar penglibatan kaum lelaki Bidayuh masih melebihi kadar penglibatan kaum wanita Bidayuh dalam semua sektor pekerjaan.

Data kualitatif menunjukkan terdapat dua sebab utama mengapa wanita Bidayuh masih jauh ketinggalan daripada lelaki Bidayuh dalam pencapaian pendidikan. Sebab yang ketara ialah pengaruh budaya dan faktor latar belakang sejarah yang menyatakan wanita Bidayuh telah lama diabaikan dari aspek peluang mendapatkan pendidikan. Manakala wujudnya perbezaan antara lelaki dan wanita Bidayuh dalam penglibatan pekerjaan pula disebabkan oleh tradisi pembahagian kerja mengikut gender, keadaan tidak sama rata majikan terhadap aspek gender dan kurangnya pendidikan, kemahiran dan latihan di kalangan wanita.

Cadangan untuk tindakan seterusnya dikemukakan kepada agensi pengembangan, perancang pembangunan, kerajaan negeri Sarawak, organisasi Bidayuh dan pembuat dasar. Adalah diharapkan dapatan kajian ini berguna untuk penyelidikan masa hadapan tentang dasar dan perancangan program untuk penduduk luar bandar dengan mengambil kira perspektif gender. Begitu juga penyelidikan akan datang perlu memberi fokus kepada kesan pembangunan ke atas pergerakan sosial lelaki dan wanita Bidayuh.

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I certify that an Examination Committee met on Mac 25th, 2004 to conduct the final examination of Novel ak Lyndon on his Master of Science thesis entitled “Education and Employment Participation Trends of the Bidayuh in Serian and Bau Districts: A Gender Perspective Analysis” in accordance with Universitii Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Act 1980 and Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Regulations 1981. The Committee recommends that the candidate be awarded the relevant degree. Members of the Examination Committee are as follows:

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the thesis is based on my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted for any degree at UPM or other institutions.

NOVEL AK LYNDON

Date: 14/6/2004

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