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Education as a Mediator between Economic Inclusion and Quality of Life in Sarawak's Economic Landscape

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This study investigates the mediating role of education in the relationship between economic inclusion (EI) and quality of life (QoL) within Sarawak's evolving socio-economic landscape. As income disparities and social inequalities persist across East Malaysia particularly among rural and indigenous communities understanding how education enhances inclusive participation and well-being is increasingly vital. Drawing upon the Multidimensional Happiness Index and the Human Capital Theory, this research employs a mixed-methods approach that integrates quantitative household and education data with qualitative insights from focus group discussions and interviews. The analysis focuses on key dimensions such as access to education and skills training, income adequacy, employment stability, and subjective well-being. Education is conceptualized as a mediating variable that transforms the benefits of economic inclusion into improved livelihood outcomes by enhancing human capability, employability, and social empowerment. The study concludes that strengthening educational quality, relevance, and accessibility can amplify the impact of inclusive growth policies, thereby aligning with the objectives of Sarawak's Post-COVID-19 Development Strategy (PCDS) 2030 toward a more equitable and resilient society.

Keywords : Education, Economic Inclusion, Quality of Life, Mediating Effect, Sarawak, Human Capital