

**UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA**

**ASSESSING COMMUNITY  
MANAGED LIBRARY (CML) IN  
SUPPORTING RURAL COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Community Managed Library (CML) is a library of new era operated solely by community and used by the community. CML is run by volunteers but at some places paid by the council. CML is funded by the council but still be in the network of public libraries. In theory, CML aims to create a sense of community hub and to provide free access to materials and services that improve minds, enrich lives, and fulfil cultural, civic, educational, and recreational needs of its community members. Currently in Malaysia, CML does exist. However, these CML are under used, short in supply and very unpopular. In fact, CML in Malaysia is being side line in terms of its impact and benefits to the local community development. This research has been carried out based on the case study method using the mix-method approach with quantitative and qualitative approach. The research aims to examine community member's awareness of CML development concepts, to investigate the extent of how far a CML supports local rural community development, to determine suitable CML activities and programs to support community development efforts and to propose a new framework of a Malaysian CML. The research found that the community member's awareness of CML development concept is at a low level. The programs and activities such as cooking courses, information and communication technology (ICT), entrepreneurship, leadership courses, sewing courses and personality enhancement courses was identified to enhance rural community development. A framework for Malaysian CML was developed and recommended. The framework also been tested during intervention.

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# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Overview

The focus of this study is to examine the effectiveness of a Community Managed Library in supporting rural community development in Malaysia. This study aims to examine the continuity of the Community Managed Library (Amberg, 2010) in Malaysia; and the role of Community Managed Library in supporting sustainable economic community activities (Hancks, 2011). Nonetheless, there is also a need to assess the impact of the Community Managed Library in learning and education efforts of the people, and how this may in turn, affect their lives and communities as a group.

This chapter briefly introduces the key concepts and terms that have been examined in this research, including ideas about community development besides discussing the Community Managed Library and its antecedents. Following this, the context, concepts, and key terms are discussed in relation to the roles of Community Managed Library in rural community development, specifically in the district of Kubang Pasu.

### 1.2 Community Library Versus Community Managed Library: An Overview

Community is a broad term that represents a group of people whether local residents, stakeholders, citizens and others. They live in the same place and same characteristic (Oxford University Press, 2018). A community may consist of a society in certain districts; group of people living in the same area, have the same interests as employees of an industry or sports clubs (The State of Victoria, 2013). Sociologists generally consider the community as a unit of social organization in which there are humans with spaces and units of his residence, doing jobs for life, managing family life and children, as well as continuing the bulk of the activities of their lives (Teuku Afrizal & Abdul Rahman, 2013). While Mohd Syariefudin et. al (2017), refers community to a cluster of small groups of society that are within a certain area. If referring to the epistemology, the meaning of the word community was derived from