

A STUDY ON CAUSES OF POVERTY IN RURAL AREA
WITH A CASE STUDY IN TAMBUNAN

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This research has been completed with hard work and patient. Although many factors obstruct me in completing this study but with the help from many parties, made its less difficult. Big thanks to my supervisor, PM.Dr.Hj.Hilmi Abd Rahman for kept motivating and advising me on how to write a good research. Beside that, with the additional information given by him, it has helped me much to improve the study of my topic area. Not forgetting for the time that he spent, which makes me understand more about this course.

My appreciation will also go to the Assistant District Officer of Tambunan, Mr. Thomas Logijin for giving a very supportive information and motivation in doing this research. Beside that, to all respondents in Nambayan Village and those who concern answering the question during the interview a lot thanks dedicate to you.

I would like to thank my fellow classmates and friends who are greatly support me to complete this research especially to my editor, Miss.Fransisca for spending her valuable time to editing my paper. Their opinions, suggestions and information help me a lot, which make easier for me to study on causes of poverty in rural area. Your kindness remembered forever.

From the bottom of my hearts, to all people who is directly and indirectly involve helping me completes this study on poverty in rural area, thank you very much.

Abstract

Rural poverty remains a crucial part of the poverty picture in Sabah especially in the rural area. This paper used a rural dataset collected by interviewing method. Findings show that hardcore income poverty in rural areas reached most of the people in the selected study area. These families tend to: be large, and young, and to escape from poverty as they mature and children leave the household (life cycle); and be more likely to be small landholders than landless laborers. The structure of poverty in rural area shows that: larger households are poorer than smaller households, female headed households are poorer than male headed households, young households/household heads are poorer than older households/household heads, the poor tend to work more in the informal sector, and a greater share of those engaged in agriculture are poor. However, poverty is by no means strictly an agricultural problem. Furthermore, the deepest poverty is among the poorly educated and young household heads with children. Without interventions to improve their opportunities and assets, their plight is likely to worsen.

1.2	Problem Statement	2
1.3	Research Objectives	3
1.4	Scope of the Research	3
1.5	Significant of the Study	3
1.6	Key-Term/Concepts	4
Chapter 2: Literature Review and Conceptual Framework		
2.1	Literature Review	6
2.1.1	Introduction	6
2.1.2	Attributes of Poverty	7
2.1.3	Causes of poverty	10
2.1.4	Impact of poverty	10
2.2	Conceptual Framework	11
2.2.1	Independent Variable	12
2.2.1.1	Demographic of the Family	12

	Pages
Acknowledgement	i
Abstract	ii
Table of Content	iii
List of Table	v
List of Appendices	vi
Chapter 1: Introduction	10
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Problem Statement	2
1.3 Research Objectives	3
1.4 Scope of the Research	3
1.5 Significant of the Study	3
1.6 Key Term/Concepts	4
Chapter 2: Literature Review and Conceptual Framework	
2.1 Literature Review	6
2.1.1 Introduction	6
2.1.2 Attributes of Poverty	7
2.1.3 Causes of poverty	10
2.1.4 Impact of poverty	10
2.2 Conceptual Framework	11
2.2.1 Independent Variable	12
2.2.1.1 Demographic of the Family	12

2.2.1.2	Land Ownership	13
2.2.1.3	Lower Level of Education	13
2.2.2	Dependent Variable	13
Chapter 3: Research Method		
3.1	Introduction	15
3.2	Research Design	15
3.2.1	Population	15
3.2.2	Sampling Frame	16
3.3	Unit Analysis	16
3.4	Sample Size	16
3.5	Sampling Technique	16
3.6	Measurement/Instrumentation	17
3.7	Data Collection Method	18
3.8	Data Analysis and Interpretation Technique	20
Chapter 4: Findings and Data Analysis		
4.1	Demographic profile	21
4.2	Incomes and Benefit	27
4.3	Poultry / Livestock and Cultivation	37
4.4	Discussion	64
Chapter 5: Conclusion and Recommendation		
5.1	Conclusion / Recommendation	67
5.2	Limitation	69
5.3	References	71