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BACHELOR IN ADMINISTRATIVE SCIENCE (HONS)**

**THE STUDY OF DIGITAL DIVIDE BETWEEN RURAL AND URBAN
PEOPLE IN KUCHING AND SAMARAHAN**

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Abstract

This paper describes how community informatics can help to overcome the digital divide between rural and urban communities in certain areas in Kuching and Samarahan. This research could provide a context to demonstrate how information and communication technologies (ICTs) can provide opportunities for remote and rural communities to develop socially, culturally, and economically. The results shown in the findings show many ways in which ICTs can be used to improve the lives of the rural groups. However, other than the opportunities that this research suggested, there are also many challenges that will be encountered along the way. These challenges, based on the current situation of digital divide in Sarawak are the major focus of this paper.

TABLE OF CONTENT

CHAPTER 1	INTRODUCTION	
1.1	Introduction	pg. 1
1.2	Problem statement	pg. 3
1.3	Research objectives	pg. 6
1.4	Scope of the study	pg. 6
1.5	Significance of the study	pg. 7
1.6	Definition of terms and concepts	pg. 9
CHAPTER 2	LITERATURE REVIEW	
2.1	Literature Review	pg. 11
2.2	Conceptual Framework	pg. 22
CHAPTER 3	RESEARCH METHOD	
3.1	Research Design	pg. 26
3.2	Units of analysis	pg. 26
3.3	Sample size	pg. 26
3.4	Sampling technique	pg. 27
3.5	Measurement/Instrumentation	pg. 28
3.6	Data collection	pg. 29
3.7	Data analysis	pg. 29
CHAPTER 4	FINDINGS	
4.1	Respondent's file	pg. 30
4.2	Respondent's reaction on ICT	pg. 39
4.3	Objective 1	pg. 47
4.4	Objective 2	pg. 50
4.5	Research Hypothesis	pg. 52
CHAPTER 5	DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION	
5.1	Introduction	pg. 53
5.2	Implication of the study	pg. 53
	LIMITATION OF THE STUDY	pg. 57
	CONCLUSION	pg. 59
	REFERENCES	pg. 60

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Sarawak has gone through phases of development in terms of social, politics, economy and as well as its information technology in line with the development of Malaysia itself. From the era of telegrams, typewriters and conventional use of telephones to the advance era of ICT, major cities such as Kuching, Sibul and Miri has been blooming with wireless hotspots for internet access via laptops, hand phones and this includes wireless broadband networks allowing access to the internet anywhere, anytime. These advance networks of ICT eases the citizens of Sarawak as well as the population of the whole world. The question is has this technology really benefited every society that exists within Sarawak?

Sarawak is the biggest state in Malaysia and it has the biggest population of indigenous people populating either the urban or the rural areas. Some of these rural areas are situated near the outskirts of big cities but some are located far deep into the dense rainforest of Sarawak. Amazingly, although cities such as Kuching and Miri are highly developed in terms of its technology, some of these rural areas are not even reachable by land and does not even have the supply of electricity and treated tap water. If these basic necessities are not there, what more is there to say about the existence of ICT? This shows that the divide in terms digital technology is still too far apart and there should be something that is doable to bridge the gap.