

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN
SUSTAINING THE CULTURAL
IDENTITY OF MAH MERI**

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Thesis submitted in fulfillment
of the requirements for the degree of
Master of Art and Design

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AUTHORS'S DECLARATION

I declare that the work in this thesis/dissertation was carried out in accordance with the regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA. It is original and is the results of my own work, unless otherwise indicated or acknowledged as referenced work. This thesis has not been submitted to any other academic institution or non-academic institution for any degree or qualification.

I, hereby, acknowledge that I have been supplied with the Academic Rules and Regulations for Post Graduate, Universiti Teknologi MARA, regulating the conduct of my study and research.

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ABSTRACT

Women play a fundamental role in the development of civilization. They do not only play a major role in the formation of the next generations, but also contribute to the development and survival of civilization. Their rights are protected and guaranteed by the national law without discriminations either as a majority or minority group. However, their role is not only important as a mother and a wife to help the husbands but also important in the family institution and the community. This group is seen as a major party in protecting and maintaining their cultural identity. The objective of this study was to identify the role of women and to analyze their contributions to the culture and economy of the the Mah Meri tribe in detail. This study utilized a qualitative research approach using an ethnographic research design to explore the role of women in the Mah Meri tribe. The findings of this study found that the Mah Meri women did not only play a role as a wife and mother but also play a role in increasing economic resources and maintain the culture of the Mah Meri tribe. This group started to venture into entrepreneurship by marketing handicrafts made of woven. Therefore, for subsequent studies, the proposed approach was suitable for upgrading their handicrafts and raise awareness among the Mah Meri youths community to protect and preserve the cultural heritage from being lost in the midst of development and modernization.

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