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**Faculty of Administrative Science and Policy Studies**

**DRiploma in Public Administration**

**TITLE OF STUDY,**

**BASIC CULTURE OF SARAWAK: Integration process toward UITM Sarawak students from  
Peninsular Malaysia.**

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## **1.0 Introduction**

Malaysia has been considered to be a plural society. The plurality is because of the ethnic division coincide with religious and linguistic divisions enhanced by differences in customs and way of life.(Wan Hashim, 1983).

Sarawak, situated on the island of Borneo, is one of two Malaysian states along with Sabah comprising what is referred to as East Malaysia. Sarawak is the country's largest state, occupying a land area of 124,449.51 square km; some 37.5% of the country's total land mass. With a population of approximately 2.4m, Sarawak is the least densely populated of Malaysia's 13 states. Home to 28 culturally distinct ethnic groups, it is also considered the country's most ethnically diverse state, and is unique in that there is no single ethnic majority. The Iban, who are mostly agrarian and practice a form of Christianity mixed with traditional beliefs and rituals, comprise the largest ethnic group with approximately 30% of the population. The Chinese are next with some 27% of the population, followed by the Malays (23%). (Sarawak government portal). Sarawak is the largest state in Malaysia. It is separated to Peninsular Malaysia by the South China Sea. Sarawak has 26 ethnicity with differ from cultures of peninsular Malaysia.

Unity and National Integration are important to build a strong nation. Where there is an existence of toleration and cooperation from this multiracial group, then it will lead to unity. The 13<sup>th</sup> may 1969 racial riot tragedy, should remind us about how important the unity is. Cultural Integration is important because it maintains a unity and a certain balance in a particular society. Also, cultural integration helps keep a society together, so all can share the same beliefs and values in a social system. Therefore, it helps to reduce

## 2.0 Literature Review

### 2.1 Culture

According to Harris M, cultures refer to the learned, socially acquired traditions that appear in rudimentary form among mammals, especially primates. When anthropologists speak of a human culture, they usually mean the total socially acquired life-style of a group of people including patterned, repetitive ways of thinking, feeling and acting.

According to Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute, **Culture** is a definition highly misunderstood and misused, thus the need for an explanation: **Culture** refers to the following Ways of Life, including but not limited to:

- **Language** : the oldest human institution and the most sophisticated medium of expression.
- **Arts & Sciences** : the most advanced and refined forms of human expression.
- **Thought** : the ways in which people perceive, interpret, and understand the world around them.
- **Spirituality** : the value system transmitted through generations for the inner well-being of human beings, expressed through language and actions.
- **Social activity** : the shared pursuits within a cultural community, demonstrated in a variety of festivities and life-celebrating events.
- **Interaction** : the social aspects of human contact, including the give-and-take of socialization, negotiation, protocol, and conventions.