

## INFORMATION LITERACY AMONG ORANG ASLI

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### Abstract

The aim of this paper is to assess the level of information literacy among Orang Asli in Malaysia. This paper discuss on the issues in among Orang Asli in relation to the information literacy and education. It is imperative to locate the level of advancement to enhance the level of information literacy. At the same time, to improve the level of education among Orang Asli.

**Keywords:** education; ICT; information literacy; Orang Asli

### INTRODUCTION

Orang Asli is one of the populations that play role as a citizen that can contribute their own ideas in improvement their own future life. Orang Asli or known as Aboriginal people in peninsular of Malaysia is an original community that existed for the last thousands of years. These communities are divided into three main tribal that mostly settle-up in rural and urban area. In Malaysia, Orang Asli is popular regarding their traditional activities such as, hunting and collecting sources in forest. Orang Asli is one of the 'Bumiputera' in Malaysia, this means this race should in pay attention in terms of academic progress and also their lifestyle. However, most of Orang Asli community are not interested to improve their education background. This is because many of them prefer to work as they want to make sure that their heritage are not forgotten. At the same, the location of their community which is very far make it difficult for them to receive any current technology that not allow them to receive better information. As a result, it pose a difficulty for them to improve their education level. The aim of this paper is to evaluate the level of information literacy in their education.

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### ISSUES

In this paper, we identify several issues regarding to Orang Asli committee regarding information literacy. Even though there are some study have been done (Dali et al. 2013; Renganathan, 2013), there is still some limitations about information literacy awareness among Orang Asli. Some of the limitations are:

- Orang Asli committee do not receive a formal education.
- Low economic level that not enough to support in formal education.
- Low disclosure on formal education and not supported by committee.
- Inadequate of ICT's facilities in Orang Asli communities.
- Lack knowledge regarding information and communication technologies (ICT) among Orang Asli.
- Design of the online teaching and interactive learning intelligent feedback system.
- The impact of learning from media and technology in schools.

### RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The aim of this paper is to evaluate the level of information literacy awareness among Orang Asli. In order to achieve this aim, we identify the sub-goals:

- To investigate the level of interests on interactive learning among Orang Asli?
- To examine the important of Internet and ICT as a platform to get information?
- To identify the factor that lead to language barrier among Orang Asli on learning materials and education?
- To investigate the factor that encourage and influence the Orang Asli children to go to school?

### RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- How to develop interests on interactive learning among Orang Asli?
- In what way Internet and ICT are important as a platform to get information?
- How to improve the language barrier among Orang Asli on learning materials and education?
- Is it possible to encourage and influence the Orang Asli children to go to school?

**LITERATURE REVIEW AND PROPOSED FRAMEWORK**

In this 21st century, the developments of Orang Asli are still in slow progress especially in education of this specific group. In early 50’s, the Department of Orang Asli Development (JKOA) or previously knew as Department of Orang Asli Affairs (JHEOA) are created during Malaysian Emergencies on not only to preserve their culture and heritage but also the main priority at that time are to separate and avoid the Orang Asli participate and join the communist guerrillas in early 1950. Started in early 50’s, the department has started to focus more on development such as education, economy, settlement or residency, social, and skill enrichment for the better future of the Orang Asli. In this section, we focus on literacy and education, Information and Communications (ICT) Technology and Interactive learning development which has become main focus on Orang Asli development in achieving successful.

Orang Asli is Original People that firstly living in an area like Malaysia country. Their places are usually in rural area and mostly in the jungle and cave. They have many tribes among them. Hui (2007) studied on the tribes of group of orang asli in Malaysia which is Senoi, Negrito and proto-Melayu. Their activity is hunting animals in jungle and collecting sources in jungle and does a business with it. However, their tribe is falling behind in advancement of ICT and education. Without information, it can be dangerous for youth generation in future.

**Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Interactive Learning and Online Teaching**

Information and communication technologies (ICT) are standard nowadays around the world. This ICT is useful to all types of user regardless based on their gender, their age, and field of education or occupation. ICT can be define as set of modern technologies that can access and store the information and also communicate with people in worldwide by using technology facilities. The technology facilities are computers, networking, hardware and software, internet, online database, smartphone and also satellite system. Effectiveness of ICT in technology, social, political and global economic transformation gives fast and big impact to our communities (Rekabdarkolaei, 2008). ICT is not only happen in specific area such as private companies but also be in education background such as libraries. Ovens (1991) described computer literacy has become more and more important in libraries. Therefore, it is

important to use ICT toward interactive learning and online teaching.

**Education**

According to Dali et al (2013), he discussed an issue about The Orang Asli children who are not able to constructing sentence in Malay Language, essay writing and reading comprehension during learning session in class. Furthermore, he also did mention about the low ability to understand Malay Language among The Orang Asli. In contrast to Compare to Renganathan (2013), the author discussed on the text book for English Language lesson as recommended by Ministry of Education is not entirely suitable for the Orang Asli students. Moreover, The Orang Asli children have no other exposure or use for the English language outside their English lesson in schools.

The results are shows that teachers are not fully utilized on using interactive media as medium of teaching and learning methods. This probably is because of the lack of training whereby the teachers don’t know how to use method that could attract students in more creative way. Teachers also never expose and encourage student to do such activities related with media in computer lab. This has limited their imagination and creativity.

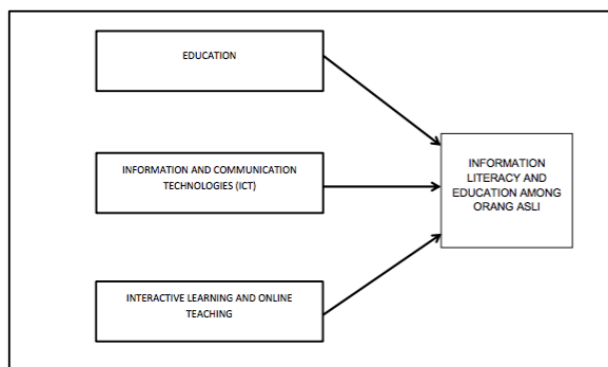


Figure 1. Research Framework.

In Figure 1, we propose the research framework in relation to the information literacy awareness among Orang Asli. In this figure, we identify three variables that can be used to evaluate the level of information literacy among Orang Asli. The variables are education, information and communication technology (ICT) and interactive learning and online teaching. In this research, the three variables will be an indicator for future research to evaluate the level of information literacy skill. It is important to identify the level of education among Orang Asli, the level of ICT awareness among Orang Asli and the level of interactive learning and online teaching among Orang Asli.

**CONCLUSIONS**

In conclusion, there are many issue in information literacy and education among Orang Asli. The issues are related with education, ICT and interactive media. The parents and teachers should plays big role on creating awareness of the important of education in our life especially for the young generation of Orang Asli community. In the future, this paper can contribute in developing this special community to be an excellent in achieving knowledge and success along with other community in Malaysia.

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