

MEDICINAL PLANT AND TRADITIONAL USE BY LOCAL PEOPLE AT BEAUFORT, SABAH.

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ABSTRACT

Medicinal plants known globally in healthcare as a source of income to local residents and users of the forest. In Malaysia, medicinal plants constitute an important component of the biodiversity of the rainforest. There are 15 000 species of higher plants were found and about 1, 200 of these plants have the potential to pharmaceutical. However, the extinction of medicinal plants has been criticized due to the disturbance of human activities on the environment. Therefore, a documentation is important as a medium of knowledge transfer to the younger generation who are still weak in the industrial exploitation of medicinal plants. This paper reviews the species of medicinal plants and their uses for traditional and medicinal plants contribute to the economic community in the area of Beaufort, Sabah. A total of 120 respondents were chosen from among the population of Beaufort in three villages, namely Kampung Mempagar, Kampung Kukut and Kampung Kampung Kota Klias. The method of selection is random. Five research methods were used for this study, namely a periodic review, key informant interviews, questionnaires, data collection, field survey and focus group discussion. From 120 respondents, 42.5% own plant medicinal plants in the home, while 35.8% found their own medicinal plants growing nearby. There are also respondents who cite medicinal plants from the forest nearby, which is 26 people. For the purpose of having a medicinal plant, a total of 84 people which is 70% who use medicinal plants without intention to sell it. There are 4.2% of the people who use medicinal plants, but in the meantime also sell medicinal plants as well. For ownership of medicinal plants, a total of 23 respondents planting medicinal plants, where they would eventually sell the guests nearby. A total of 7% to 8 people have medicinal plants for other purposes. Income earned if medicinal plants are sold under RM50. The majority of respondents did not receive any income from medicinal plants as they grow crops without any intention to sell it. A total of 4 people who earn between RM50-RM100 proceeds from the sale of medicinal plants.