

The prejudice of Bajau: From own and others ethnic perspective: A preliminary study in Sabah

Abstract

The purpose of the study is to identify prejudices among government and private worker toward the ethnic of Bajau in Malaysia, especially in Sabah state. A total of 22 workers from government and private agency were invited to join this study. In-depth interview had been used to investigate perception of Bajau towards own ethnic and perception of others ethnic toward Bajau. From analysis, ethnic groups identify themselves according three major aspects, which are 1) attitude and behavior, 2) physical and appearance, 3) culture. The conclusion from these research, the understanding from others ethnic groups toward Bajau is on the lesser side, but there are some of the factors that match the perception of Bajau toward themselves, such as Bajau is or rude natured. This might be due to the less understanding from others ethnic or the disappearing traditional culture of Bajau.