Specialization of Skills and Traditional Treatment Methods by Namalo in Batak Toba Community, Indonesia

Rizabuana Ismail*, Ria Manurung*, Devi Sihotang*, Hadriana Marhaeni Munthe* and Ivana Tiar**

*Universitas Sumatera Utara, Medan, Indonesia
**Universitas Negeri Jakarta, Jakarta, Indonesia

KEYWORDS Batak Toba Society. Herbal Treatment. Medicinal Plants. Namalo. Traditional Healer

ABSTRACT Traditional medicine in the North Sumatera province of Indonesia is found in many rural areas. Traditional treatment by Namalo is known for using herbal medicines to treat internal diseases, as well as treating broken bones and conjured diseases. This paper will discuss the specialization of skills and traditional methods of treatment conducted by 12 Namalo practitioners in Toba Samosir and Humbang Hasundutan regency. The qualitative approach of in-depth interviews and participant observation of the Namalo was used to obtain the data. Namalo specialize in different treatment applications, depending on the illness or trauma suffered by the patient. In the process of treating patients, Namalo perform massage techniques on patients and then give a medicinal herb. There are 2 types of drug administration: either Namalo gathers medicinal plants and processes the plants, or secondly, the patient gathers the medicinal plants and processes them according to the instructions given by Namalo.