



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

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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*.