

GETTING CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH INMATES OF RSK BEDONG AND STUDENTS OF SEMUJI IN A COMMUNITY PROJECT 'SEMAIAN BUDI'

By: WAN NAZRUL HELMY WAN MOHD ZAIN

Thirty five Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) undergraduates had a meaningful semester holiday by taking some time off to be with inmates of Rumah Seri Kenangan (RSK) Bedong and students of Sekolah Menengah Sains Sultan Mohamad Jiwa (SEMUJI) in Sungai Petani, Kedah.

It was a community project, 'Semaian Budi', organised by In-Smartive Club and held on January 23, 2013.

The theme was 'From Campus to the Grass Root' and the project was supported by UMP's Student Affairs and Alumni Department (SAFFAD) and Kedah's Social Welfare Department.

The programme involved 250 senior citizens of RSK Bedong and 150 SEMUJI students who would be sitting for their Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) this year.

Project's Director, Muhammad Amin Mohd Faudzi, 21, said it was a two-pronged project, one to help bring joy and comfort to the senior citizens and the other was to assist the students in charting the right course for them after completing SPM.

"In the day, the volunteers of In-Smartive carried out their community service works in RSK Bedong according to the routines set by the department and this went on until 5pm while in the evening, they spent time with the students," said the third-year undergraduate of

Faculty of Mechanical Engineering. Muhammad Amin added that managing the bed-ridden senior citizens was based on the department's Standard Operation Procedures (SOP) and it was a new experience for the volunteers.

"The undergraduates were able to experience for themselves how to care and clean the people such as trimming their nails, cutting the hair, feeding and bathing them," he added.

As for Haffzothul Ommi Aziz, 22, an undergraduate with Faculty of Chemical & Natural Resources Engineering and In-Smartive Deputy President, said it was awkward, initially.

However, she realised that the inmates needed special attention just as how her own parents would want and this gave her strength to complete the tasks given.

RSK Bedong Supervisor, Shahrin Nizar Azudin was full of praise for the volunteers and initiative taken and described it as unique for prior to this, it had not been done by any institutes of higher learning.

He added that the programme was a bold step for the undergraduates who chose to be with the senior citizens who had been abandoned and that the project should be organised again in the future.

The project ended with souvenir presentation by Vice-Chancellor Research Head and In-Smartive Advisor, Wan Nazrul Helmy Wan Mohd Zain to SEMUJI Principal Pesol Md Saad and RSK Bedong supervisor.



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