

THE SUCCESSFUL OF UMP READING CIRCLE PROGRAM

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Reading Circle Program (RCP) for Gambang Campus was successfully held at Astaka Hall, Universiti Malaysia Pahang on April, 27 2016.

The event was officiated by the Deputy Dean of Research and Innovation, Dr. Hafizoah Kassim. RCP is an annual collaborative event organised by the Centre of Modern Languages & Human Sciences (CMLHS) and the UMP Library.

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Other notable VIPs present were Deputy Chief Librarian, Dzull Zabbarod Ahmad and Head of Modern Languages Department, Dr. Noor Raha Mohd Radzuan.

RCP adopts an interactive instruction methodology as it relies on discussion and sharing among participants which is the core of the program.

Students were asked to read a book assigned to them prior to the event. On the day of the program, they were divided into small groups.

A facilitator was assigned to each group and together they reviewed and discussed all the important elements such as the theme, moral values and the characters involved.

At the end of the program, students with outstanding participation in the discussion were awarded the top reviewer award. This encouragement of an open discussion hopefully creates a community in which all members participate and learn with and from each other.

This process of interacting, discussing and sharing ideas assist in improving students' reading and listening skills, understanding, esteem and emotional intelligence.

Adolescents entering the adult world in the 21st century will need to read, write and possess advanced levels of literacy, more than at any other time in human history in order

to perform their tasks and cope with the flood of information around them.

Dr. Hafizoah Kassim in her speech stated that a desire to read should be ignited in students as they are future leaders.

“Leaders must possess creative thinking which can be nurtured through reading.

“Through this program, participants gain benefits such as increased self-knowledge and awareness, reading and academic motivation, and critical thinking.

“This program also acts as a channel to encourage UMP students to read different ranges of reading materials.

“Our UMP Library is one of the best libraries that offers vast books, journals, articles, magazines and other readings that should be made useful by everyone here,” she said.

It is also hoped that RCP has sparked interest in independent reading among the students which lays the foundation for becoming enthusiastic lifelong readers.