

No.1/2026

MED BULL'

FACULTY OF MEDICINE UiTM



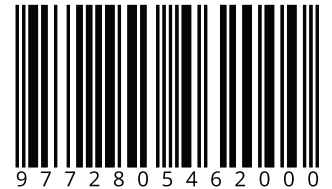
**A new
column
inside!**

Featuring
Assoc. Prof. Dr.
Norhafiza Razali



**Through the
Medical Lens**

eISSN 2805-4628



9 772 805 462 000

BAKTI SISWA 2025: MEMORI EMAS BRIDGING MEDICAL STUDENTS AND THE COMMUNITY IN SABAK BERNAM



Dr. Muhammad Fairuz Azmi, Muhammad Alif Heikal Mohd Khairulnidzam & Nik Mohamad Shakir Nik Yusof

Bakti Siswa 2025: Memori Emas was successfully conducted from 28-30 November 2025 at Batu 2, Sepintas, Sabak Bernam, Selangor. Organised by the Exco Kebajikan of the Medical Student Association (MESTA), the programme brought together 50 medical students and 10 dental students in collaboration with the Faculty of

Medicine Student Affairs Division, the Faculty of Dentistry Student Secretariat, and Masjid Al-Abrar, Batu 2 Sepintas.

BAKSIS serves as a flagship community engagement initiative aimed at nurturing socially accountable future healthcare professionals. Community-based learning has long been recognised as an essential component

of medical education, enabling students to understand social determinants of health and the realities of underserved populations¹. Through direct immersion in rural settings, students develop empathy, communication skills, and adaptability—qualities that cannot be fully acquired within lecture halls or hospital wards.

A central component of the programme was the *Anak Angkat* initiative, where students resided



SENAMROBIK Rakyat MADANI.

with host families for two nights. This immersive approach facilitated meaningful cultural exchange and strengthened students' appreciation of local socio-economic contexts. Experiential exposure to patients' living environments has been shown to enhance reflective practice and professionalism among medical trainees². By sharing daily routines with host families, students gained insights into lifestyle factors, health beliefs, and barriers to accessing care.

The programme also featured a variety of community-centred activities,



STUDENTS involved in communal cooking (*merewang*) with local community.



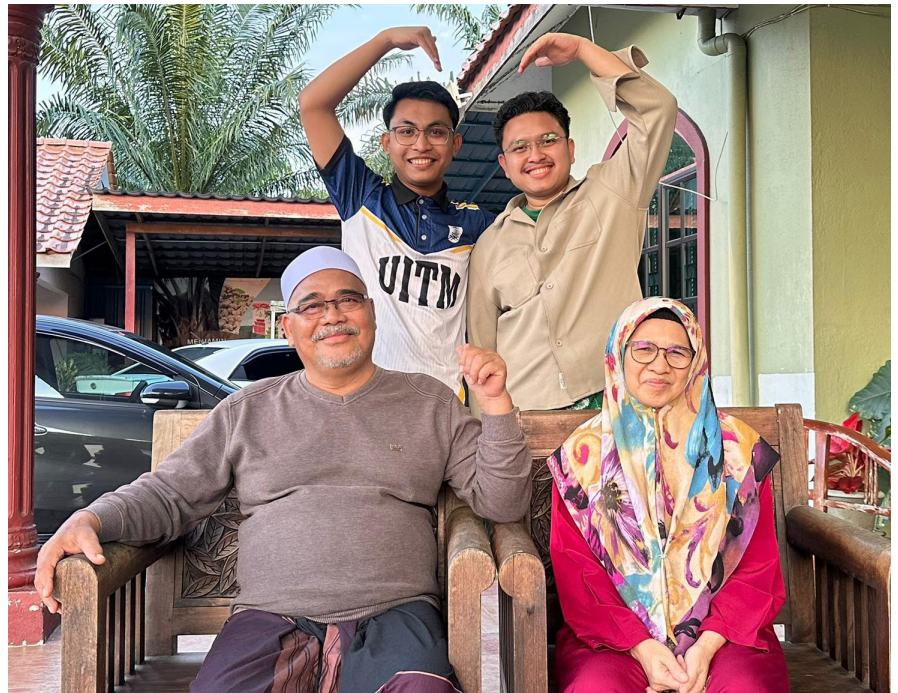
STUDENTS performing basic health screenings to the local community.

including *Senamrobik* Rakyat MADANI, traditional games such as futsal with *kain pelikat*, coconut bowling, and communal cooking (*merewang*). These engagements fostered rapport between UiTM and the local residents while promoting physical activity and social cohesion. Such initiatives align with the World Health Organization's call for socially accountable medical schools that respond directly to

community health needs³.

Importantly, health-focused interventions were integrated into the programme. Students conducted basic health screenings and dental examinations at the mosque compound, reinforcing preventive healthcare awareness. Evidence suggests that early exposure to community health promotion improves students' confidence in patient education and preventive counselling⁴. The "MESTACare" initiative further demonstrated compassion in action by distributing essential food supplies to selected families, reflecting MESTA's four core thrusts: Education, Social, Welfare, and Health. Beyond academic achievement, programmes like Bakti Siswa cultivate leadership, teamwork, and social responsibility—attributes increasingly emphasised in competency-based medical curricula worldwide.

Bakti Siswa 2025: Memori Emas exemplifies UiTM's dedication to producing well-rounded medical graduates. By connecting classroom



STUDENTS with their host family.

learning with community engagement, the programme shows that medicine involves not just treatment, but advocacy, compassion, and partnership.

Sustaining such initiatives will continue to shape doctors who are clinically competent, ethically grounded, and deeply attuned to the communities they serve.

References:

1. Ramesh A, Brown KY, Juarez PD, Tabatabai M, Matthews-Juarez P. Curricular interventions in medical schools: maximizing community engagement through communities of practice. *Ann Fam Med*. 2023;21(Suppl 2):S61-S67. doi:10.1370/afm.2925
2. Baruah A, Choudhari SG. Perceptions of stakeholders and the way forward to implementing the Family Adoption Programme in medical education: a study from Assam, India. *Cureus*. 2024;16(7):e63586. doi:10.7759/cureus.63586
3. World Health Organization. Transforming and scaling up health professionals' education and training: WHO guidelines 2013. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2013. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK298953/>
4. Ali S, Ahmad S, Iqbal S, Issrani R. Impact of early preclinical exposure on academic performance, clinical skills, and confidence among BDS students at private dental college. *Scientifica*. 2025; 5178600. doi:10.1155/sci5/5178600