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Mesra Kasih Bersama Komuniti OKU

AZILA AYOB, NORAZLIN ABD AZIZ & NOR SYAMALIAH NGAH
UiTM KAMPUS SEREMBAN

We can easily understand that disabled people can best be described as people who have physical or mental impairment that substantially limits their major life activities. Nevertheless, they are also part of the community members who have feelings, abilities, skills, talents and intelligence in various fields like other normal human beings. The United Nations approved the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) on 13 December 2006, and Malaysia signed it on 8 April 2008. This convention aspires to serve as a human rights instrument in order to guarantee that people with disabilities (OKU) have equal rights in society and to safeguard them from damage, violence, and abuse. This convention also underlines the importance of providing disabled individuals with unrestricted access so they can fully participate in society.

However, community awareness of the disabled is still at a low level (Din et al., 2023). The intended awareness is in terms of the care of the disabled, the nature of the disabled, the problems of the disabled, facilities for the disabled, education and career, and so on. It starts from the level at home and continues to the level of schools and higher education institutions and to higher levels. Various campaigns and awareness programs have been organised, but community awareness is still low (Berita Harian, 2020). Based on the principle of "leaving no one behind," Agenda 2030 emphasises a holistic approach to achieve Sustainable or Sustainable Development for all. The principle is also in line with the 11th Malaysia Plan (RMK-11); even the Shared Prosperity Vision 2030 also gives emphasis on disabled people (OKU) as a target group. The disabled are also among the groups that need to be emphasised in guaranteeing their rights, which is appropriate under Malaysian law and in line with the principles outlined in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Therefore, to bring awareness to the community, the program "*Mesra Kasih Bersama Komuniti OKU*", organised by UiTM students, was held on 25 May 2023 at the Center for Community Organizations (PPDK), Ministry of Defense Kuala Lumpur. "*Mesra Kasih Bersama Komuniti OKU*" is a project participated by 17 students from the Faculty of Administrative Sciences and Policy Studies (FSPPP), UiTM Seremban, with an accompanying lecturer, Puan Azila Binti Ayob. This program aims to raise awareness about the challenges faced by people with disabilities (OKU) and fight for their rights and involvement in society. This program involves lecturers, students, and residents of PPDK ATM to create a more inclusive society and promote positive social change. Every individual has the right to live freely from discrimination and oppression. Therefore, this program strives to reduce the challenges faced by these disabled people and foster a more welcoming and inclusive environment for them. The program is intended to foster good social change in society by raising awareness of and respect for those who have impairments.

Among the activities organised was "*Pundi Kacang Hijau*", which involves the cerebral palsy class. This activity required students to place beanbags on their heads while walking and balancing their bodies so as not to fall. The second activity was "*Coconut Bowling*", which involves skilled-level classes. The students had to throw the ball towards the water bottles that have been placed and have to drop as many bottles as possible. Next activity was "*Jalan Kepit Belon*", which involves level one class. This activity required the student to place a ball between their knees while walking and must make sure the ball does not fall. In addition, the activity of "*Throwing Ball in the Basket*" involves the Hyper class. The students have to throw the ball into the basket that has been prepared until they enter, and each student was given two chances only. Last but not least was the sport "*Take Items in Flour*", which involves level two classes. Students have to blow flour to find items on a plate filled with flour. The purpose of this sport is to cheer up the students at the PPDK centre with the involvement of students.

As Malaysian citizens, the people are required to appreciate and practice the principles of Rukun Negara to foster a spirit of unity regardless of race, religion or physical disability. Rukun Negara was introduced to unite Malaysians so that they respect, help, understand and cooperate with each other. With this, a loving society can be created. However, a loving society cannot be created if an individualistic and materialistic society still exists in their souls. Therefore, it is necessary to increase student participation so that the community can learn more about the disabled. Universities can encourage more participation from students by implementing more programs involving disabled people.

Reference

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