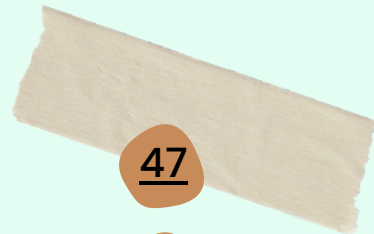


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Rediscovering Students' Leadership and Creativity in a Post-Pandemic Era

By Muhammad Aiman bin Abdul Halim

I know what you are thinking; enough with the COVID-19 and post-pandemic talk, right? Our academic landscape had returned almost completely back to normal, with face-to-face classes and normal execution of activities without social distancing measures. Yes, you are right.

However, there are more to consider. In the wake of the post-COVID-19 era, the generation of students that started their first and second semesters in university via online classes are now advancing into their third and fourth semesters. These students are slowly taking leadership positions within various student organisations and societies. Have you ever wondered what kind of leaders will emerge from the ashes of COVID-19?

Through my experience as a lecturer and student club advisor, I had the opportunity to engage with students not just in classroom teachings but also in various programmes inside and outside the campus. Having been a former UiTM student myself, I used to be actively involved in student associations back in my student years. However, now I have observed a subtle but notable change. I am concerned to notice that for many students, leadership potential and innovative ideas appear to be lacking.

Could these be the impact from the repeated waves of pandemic, leaving mark on these students' creativity and leadership as they spent their early university years studying from home? The once spirited projects, venturesome programmes and spirited initiatives now seem veiled in lack of initiatives. Maybe it is just my perception, but today's students seem to be needing an extra nudge to get them moving and initiating actions.

As educators, we can help reignite the passion for leadership and innovation among our students. It is time for us to create a nurturing environment in our classroom that fosters risk-taking and encourages creative approaches. By rekindling students' confidence in their creative ideas and supporting their bold initiatives, perhaps we can reignite the sparks of leadership and creativity. By allowing them to express their ideas and realising their innate potential, we pave the way for a future generation that could fearlessly navigate challenges of the future world. While we might not be around for that long, at least they will be there to carry on our legacy and teachings.

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“A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.”

- Henry Brooks Adams -

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