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FAKULTI  
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UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA  
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# THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF PARENTS, TEACHERS, AND SOCIAL MEDIA IN ENCOURAGING SCHOOL LEAVERS TO PURSUE FURTHER STUDIES

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Education is the cornerstone of personal and societal development, and it is essential for individuals to pursue further studies beyond school. In this digital age, the responsibility of influencing school leavers to continue their education falls upon the triumvirate of parents, teachers, and social media. However, it was reported by the media recently that almost half of the SPM 2021 leavers chose not to further their studies due to multiple reasons.

The statistic was revealed by the Minister of Education, Fadhlina Sidek in response to a question by a member of Parliament during one of the Parliament sessions held recently. Hence, the Minister of Education has reportedly coming out with its plan to increase the awareness among the students on the importance of having a proper education and its bearing on their future career development. In addition, there are also three vital stakeholders that should actively play their roles in shaping the aspirations of young minds and instilling the importance of higher education.

## **Parents: The Foundation of Support.**

Parents form the primary support system for students, and their influence on their children's educational decisions is significant. Parents who value education and actively participate in their children's academic journey tend to have a profound impact on encouraging further studies. By fostering a positive attitude towards learning, discussing

career prospects, and providing emotional and financial support, parents play a crucial role in shaping their children's educational choices.

When parents express genuine interest in their child's aspirations, provide guidance, and share personal experiences, it can inspire a desire for higher education. Moreover, parents who themselves have pursued advanced degrees become role models, showcasing the benefits and opportunities that come with further studies. By emphasizing the long-term advantages of education, such as increased employability and personal growth, parents can motivate their children to continue learning beyond school.

## **Teachers: Nurturing Curiosity and Passion**

Teachers are not only providers of knowledge but also mentors who help students explore their interests and discover their passions. Effective teachers create an engaging learning environment that stimulates curiosity and encourages critical thinking. By promoting a growth mind set and fostering a love for learning,

teachers inspire students to consider further studies as a means of expanding their knowledge and realizing their potential.

Teachers also play a pivotal role in exposing students to a wide range of educational and career opportunities. Through career guidance, counselling sessions, and sharing real-world experiences, teachers can help students make informed decisions about their academic paths. By highlighting success stories of individuals who pursued higher education and achieved their goals, teachers can instil a sense of purpose and motivation in students to strive for academic excellence.



*Picture credit to: <https://www.ajc.com/pulse/why-making-a-decision-is-harder-than-making-a-choice/4OFH4IQYTBBQTHAXNIBLCWMV5I/>*

### **Social Media: Amplifying Awareness and Possibilities**

In today's interconnected world, social media platforms have become powerful influencers in shaping attitudes and behaviours. When used strategically, social media can serve as a valuable tool in encouraging school leavers to further their studies. Platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn can provide a wealth of information about educational institutions, scholarship opportunities, and career prospects.

Social media allows students to connect with alumni, industry professionals, and peers pursuing higher education, enabling them to gain insights into various fields and make informed choices. Online communities, webinars, and educational channels create a sense of belonging and support, helping students navigate the challenges of further studies. By leveraging the power of social media, educators, and institutions can disseminate information, inspire ambition, and celebrate the achievements of students pursuing advanced education.

Hence, the role of parents, teachers, and social media in influencing school leavers to continue their studies cannot be overstated. Parents provide unwavering support and guidance, teachers nurture curiosity and passion, while social media amplifies awareness and possibilities. Together, these three stakeholders create an ecosystem that inspires, motivates, and equips students to embark on a lifelong journey of learning. By recognizing and harnessing the influence of parents, teachers, and social media, we can empower future generations to embrace the transformative power of education and shape a brighter future for themselves and society as a whole.