

Cawangan Negeri Sembilan Kampus Seremban





## **Teachers**

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Since I understood the term 'ambition,' I have wanted to be a doctor. Science has fascinated me since I was young, particularly studying living things. As I grew older, my interest in medicine deepened, and I set a firm goal to become a doctor. I was captivated by the idea of healing and making a tangible difference in people's lives. However, when I didn't secure a place in the science matriculation program, my aspirations came to a sudden halt. This setback left me feeling lost and uncertain about my future.

Amidst this uncertainty, I found myself pursuing studies in accounting, a field far removed from my initial dream. Eventually, I became a teacher, a path I had never anticipated. Teaching, however, turned out to be an honourable and fulfilling profession. In many ways, we are all teachers, whether by profession or not, as we constantly share knowledge and experiences with those around us. Embracing this new role allowed me to impart knowledge and inspire others, fulfilling a different ambition. Through teaching, I discovered that there are many ways to make a meaningful impact, demonstrating that our paths in life can be diverse and equally rewarding. Teachers are professionals responsible for educating students in various subjects and skills across diverse educational settings, including primary and secondary schools, colleges, universities, and vocational institutions. Our primary role is to facilitate learning by providing instruction, guidance, and assessment to help students understand and apply knowledge. However, we teachers face significant pressures that impact their professional and personal lives, stemming from multiple sources that affect our performance and well-being.



One major challenge is the many responsibilities teachers must manage, including lesson planning, grading, administrative tasks, and extracurricular activities. These lead to long working hours and limited personal time. The emphasis on student performance, particularly in standardized testing, adds to this pressure, often resulting in teaching to the test rather than focusing on a holistic education. Additionally, managing classroom behaviour and maintaining discipline, especially in large or diverse classrooms, creates further stress as teachers strive to ensure an effective learning environment.

Resource limitations also pose significant challenges, as limited access to teaching materials, technology, and funding can hinder the ability to provide a quality education. Teachers often need to be resourceful, sometimes using personal funds to supplement classroom needs. Engaging with parents and meeting their expectations requires significant effort in effective communication and managing differing perspectives on their child's education. Staying current with educational trends, methods, and technologies demands ongoing professional development, which can take time to fit into an already-packed schedule.

The emotional demands of teaching, such as supporting students' personal issues and dealing with stress, can impact teachers' mental health, leading to burnout and job-related stress. Addressing the diverse needs of students, including those with special educational needs, language barriers, and different cultural backgrounds, requires additional effort and tailored strategies. Teachers are frequently evaluated based on student performance and other metrics, which adds pressure to perform at high levels consistently. In some regions, job security and adequate compensation remain concerns, contributing to financial stress and uncertainty. Adapting to the constantly evolving educational landscape while maintaining effective teaching practices is daunting, and public scrutiny can affect teachers' morale and professional pride. The need for systemic support, including better funding for education, professional development opportunities, mental health resources, and a supportive community that values teachers' contributions, is urgent and crucial to address these pressures. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that teachers are adequately supported in their noble mission of educating future generations.

Overcoming these obstacles will significantly enhance the commitment and quality of teaching, paving the way for the success of future generations. Addressing challenges in education is crucial to fostering an environment where teachers and students can thrive. By removing barriers, we create a more supportive and effective educational system, which in turn cultivates dedicated educators and empowered learners. It is never too late to acknowledge teachers' vital role in shaping our future. On this Teacher's Day, let us extend our heartfelt wishes and gratitude to all educators for their unwavering dedication and hard work. Their contributions are invaluable, and their impact on society is profound. Thank you for your commitment to education. Happy Teacher's Day!

