

# CREATIVE STEM ACTIVITIES FOR ORANG ASLI STUDENTS AT SK SG. MELUT

Volunteering at a primary school can be a rewarding experience especially when you are able to make a positive impact on the lives of young children. On the 3rd of May 2023, 6 lecturers from the Faculty of Pharmacy namely Dr. Nurwahida Zulkifli, Mdm. Farhana Fakhira Ismail, Mdm. Nik Ateerah Rasheeda Mohd Rocky, Mdm. Nor Elyzatul Akma Hamdan, Mdm. Nursabiha Md. Hussin and Ms. Zakiah Mohd Noordin volunteered in a program called STEM @Melut at Sekolah Kebangsaan Sungai Melut, Sepang. This school caters mainly for Orang Asli children and there are about 65 students.

The aims of this program are to encourage Orang Asli students to expose them with STEM activities and enhance their learning experience. The organiser of this program, Bila Bila Odyssey, developed an activity using STEM components. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. The activities started at 900 am and ended at 1230 pm. Various indoor activities were held, such as drawing, colouring, storytelling, marble maze, ice cream production, play-doh production and paper tower challenge.



The following is a brief overview of each component of STEM:

- Science: encompasses the study of the natural world, including physical, biological, and environmental sciences.
- Technology: refers to the application of scientific knowledge for practical purposes and it involves designing, creating, and utilising tools.
- Engineering: involves the application of scientific and mathematical principles to design, build, and improve structures and it focuses on problem-solving and innovation.
- Mathematics: is the study of numbers, shapes, patterns, and relationships. It provides a framework for logical reasoning, problem-solving, and quantitative analysis.

By integrating these disciplines, STEM education encourages students to develop critical thinking, creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving skills. It also promotes inquiry-based learning, hands-on experiments, and real-world applications to foster a deeper understanding of these subjects.

While encouraging students to participate in the activities, it is also important to respect their culture and perspectives. Such programs could foster a welcoming and supportive environment, which would motivate and encourage students to attend school regularly and promote the dissemination of a quality education.



Dr. Nurwahida Zulkifli, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mahmathi Karuppattan  
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