

# CE-SIR GRANT

## MEDIKIDS: EMPOWERING YOUNG MINDS FOR QUALITY USE OF MEDICINE

MediKids for primary school children was held on June 17th, 2023, at the Faculty of Pharmacy, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Puncak Alam. Eighty school children from Sekolah Kebangsaan Puncak Alam 2 were involved in this program. MediKids aims to instill in the younger generation the knowledge to make informed decisions about their health. The "Pharmatopia" programme, under the banner of MediKids, was designed with the objective of simplifying complex medical information and presenting it in an engaging and age-appropriate manner.



This programme involved talks given by Faculty of Pharmacy, UiTM Puncak Alam lecturers on the topic of quality use of medicines, antibiotics, and medicine-related health concerns. In addition, thirteen kiosks addressed the rational use of medicine, with an emphasis on antibiotic resistance, the 5-rights of medicine, medication adherence, and medication use in children. As part of the programme, primary school children were given the opportunity to visit each booth and participate in interactive activities that were designed to reinforce the information and content delivered. These activities included crossword puzzles, hidden pictures, fill-in-the-blanks activities, and quizzes that were related to the programme's objectives. Furthermore, the children's level of knowledge on the rational use of medicine was assessed both before and after the programme to measure the effectiveness of the educational activities.

MediKids emphasises the importance of responsible drug use for children through a variety of educational methods, including interactive workshops, informative presentations, and hands-on activities. These educational activities aim to teach children about the significance of following medical professionals' advice, adhering to prescribed dosages, and never sharing medicines with others. MediKids is not solely focused on imparting knowledge to individuals, but rather on cultivating a generation of healthcare advocates. By promoting an understanding of rational medicine use, the programme empowers young participants to become agents of change within their families and communities, sharing their knowledge and promoting healthier habits. Additionally, teachers accompanying their students have noted that participation in MediKids encourages a culture of inquiry, providing a safe space for children to ask questions about medicines, health, and their own bodies. This helps to demystify medical concepts and build critical thinking skills. The objectives of MediKids through Pharmatopia have been successfully achieved. Educating children about medicine creates a positive ripple effect that extends beyond their own lives. It contributes to building a more informed and health-conscious society where individuals are empowered to take charge of their well-being and make informed decisions about their health. The impact of this educational programme is not only immediate but also long-lasting, shaping the way these young minds approach health and medicine throughout their lives.

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