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# Treasure in Things

**AFNI ANIDA ADNAN, MOHD IKRAM MOHD NOR RIZAN  
& ANGELINE RANJETHAMONEY VIJAYARAJOO (AP, DR.)**  
UiTM KAMPUS SEREMBAN

In an increasingly materialistic world, the adage 'Shop till you drop' or 'Retail Therapy' seems to be commonplace. The act of shopping, be it real or just to pass the time window shopping, is oftentimes an act conducted by the fairer sex- the ladies. However, due to the Internet of Things, online shopping platforms have begun to catch on, and men now make up a considerable portion of shoppers as well. The pandemic may have 'forced' us to abandon the brick and mortar shops for a while, but with the world going back to normal, even more shopping is taking place. The result of all this shopping is that we oftentimes buy more than what is required or necessary. As a result, we may find ourselves surrounded by things which we have no need or use for. Oftentimes, we have no recollection of the time and reason behind their purchase.

There are various ways one can get rid of the accumulated stuff that has been bought without much thought. The first step to getting rid of these stuffs is to put them into separate groups that will determine their final destination. What you can do is come up with three or more distinct piles according to what you'd like to do with your stuff. These piles can be labelled 'Keep' (for stuff you'd like to keep), 'donate' (for stuff you'd like to give to charity), 'sell' (for stuff that you are convinced will bring in the money) and 'discard' (for stuff that you no longer want/ need and are equally useless if it were to be sold).

The category that says 'sell' is indeed an interesting one, for we often overlook the fact that 'one man's junk is another man's treasure'. Sometimes, we forget that there is actually money to be made in what we have gathered. There are actually many things that might be needed by someone else. Shops such as 'Cash Converters' and 'Jalan-Jalan Japan" are examples of merchants who actually buy unwanted stuff in bulk and resell them. The things range from stationery up to even furniture.



APB Sales Booth at the Sales Expo in Conjunction with Arabic Language Week Festival, 15th – 18th May.

On a smaller scale, there are many car boot sales organised in various neighbourhoods for you to make some quick cash from your accumulated things. Some of us have run and participated in quite a few of these sales, but they were all held on campus. A member of the department has an aunty who loves to shop but, thank goodness, equally loves spring cleaning. Way back in 2019, The Academy of Language Studies of the Seremban Campus held a jumble sale, and we made about RM2000.00 from that particular sale alone. A few of us were primarily in charge of that sale, and needless to say, from then on, we were hooked. Subsequent sales followed, raking in anywhere between RM200- RM550-the latest being for a Sales Expo in conjunction with 'Festival Minggu Bahasa Arab' (Arabic Language Week Festival) which was held from 15th-18th May 2023. The money the department makes is used for its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Programmes - the best part of this all is that little to no capital is needed.

So, what are you waiting for? If you fear that you are slowly transforming into a hoarder and, at the same time, are in need of a little cash, have a quick look around your house. Treasures do not only lie in shipwrecks, there might be some right where you live!