

# Look into Moral Education

**W**HY is Moral Education not offered for intake at teacher education institutes? Since 1983, Moral Education has been offered as a core subject in primary and subsequently in secondary schools.

In the earlier era, the subject was treated without much priority and teachers who taught Moral Education did not have formal training or the skills to teach the subject.

Unfortunately, until today, almost 90% of teachers who teach Moral Education in primary schools do not have proper formal training to teach the subject.

What is more frustrating is that even with the implementation of the Standard Curriculum for Primary Schools (KSSR) and the transformation programme, Malaysia Education Blueprint 2013-2025 imi-



Let's Hear It, c/o Education Editor,  
Menara Star, No. 15 Jalan 16/11,  
Section 16, 46350 Petaling Jaya.  
e-mail: educate@thestar.com.my

Letters must carry the sender's full name, address, telephone number and signature. A pseudonym may be included.

ated through the Education Ministry, Moral Education is still not given the proper recognition.

In the latest advertisement for intake at local teacher education institutes, all KSSR

> **TURN TO PAGE 5**

## > FROM PAGE 4

subjects have been offered except for Moral Education.

In the 1979 Cabinet Report, it was stated clearly that Moral Education would be taught to non-Muslim students to complement Islamic Studies which is taught to Muslim students.

Thus, I strongly urge the authorities involved to ensure that primary school Moral Education teachers are properly trained to teach the subject.

At the moment, several Moral Education courses are offered in teacher education institutes for teachers to attend as in-house training.

This should be changed to a full fledged course as what is provided for other KSSR subjects.

Candidates chosen to teach Moral Education should also be individuals who are passionate about the subject and those who have undergone several years of learning Moral Education.

The trainers in teacher education institutes should also be qualified to teach the different Moral Education components such as philosophy and psychology in Moral Education, Moral and Religion, curriculum in

Moral Education, pedagogy and approaches as well as micro teaching for the Moral Education subject.

Parents and society should be concerned with the training of Moral Education teachers and not just comment when they realise that the Moral Education paper in the SPM examination has been focusing on higher order thinking skills (HOTS).

How can students have HOTS when they undergo primary education without proper and qualified teachers teaching them?

Many nations around the world are already reflecting on the future of Asia, the world and humanity after development and growth.

We have prepared ourselves with subjects like Moral Education to ensure the balance of holistic growth among our students.

However, without proper planning, training and implementation, it is going to be properly documented on paper and educational philosophy but not executed in reality.

I hope the Education Ministry looks into the training of Moral Education teachers in primary schools.

**DR VISHALACHE BALAKRISHNAN**  
Kuala Lumpur