

Headline	Towards creating a just society		
MediaTitle	New Straits Times		
Date	15 Jun 2016	Color	Black/white
Section	Letters	Circulation	74,711
Page No	18	Readership	240,000
Language	English	ArticleSize	166 cm ²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 3,014
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 9,041



MORAL EDUCATION

Towards creating a just society

NEXT year marks an important era in the development of Moral Education in Malaysia. All secondary schools, starting with Form One, will have a new syllabus called Dokumen Standard Kurikulum dan Pentaksiran Pendidikan Moral. What is different here compared with the previous syllabus is that teachers are provided with the guidelines to conduct holistic assessment of the subject. The standard assessment section guides teachers of Moral Education to evaluate students and take follow-up action to ensure students' performance, based on their individual growth and development, is priority.

Dokumen Standard Kurikulum dan Pentaksiran Pendidikan Moral has been planned by experts in Moral Education to ensure that students are able to understand, appreciate and practise universal values sourced from religion, traditions

and the Constitution. They will be taught to make moral judgments and take action based on moral and social responsibility in line with three moral principles — altruism, autonomy and justice.

Skills for the 21st century are included to ensure students have the resilience to face everyday moral dilemmas with confidence and moral responsibility.

There are six main objectives in the teaching of Moral Education:

ENABLE students to know and understand moral concepts and moral issues in their daily lives;

DEVELOP moral reasoning in decision-making and in solving moral dilemmas;

DEVELOP moral emotions towards building a just and empathetic character;

PRACTISE moral action with responsibility and integrity;

REINFORCE elements of unity in self to create a harmonious society; and,

INCULCATE in students ways to appreciate and apply universal values in their daily lives.

With the right teachers, appropriate materials and teaching approaches, we can see a vivid transformation in Moral Education. But do we have subjects complementing Moral Education?

Less than 50 per cent of secondary students study Moral Education. If we want to create a society that is united, just and practises universal values, students must be exposed to such a philosophy. Only then can we proudly realise that transformation in our education system.

DR VISHALACHE BALAKRISHNAN, senior lecturer, Faculty of Education, Universiti Malaya