

**MALAYSIAN DYNAMICS**

**A Brief Reflection of This Course**

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Malaysian Dynamics is a subject that all first-year Malaysian students are required to attend as part of their general education subjects in their degree program. In my case, this subject was taught by Mr. Hassan bin Hushin, a senior lecturer from Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, UTM.

At first, I didn’t think much of this subject as I thought I already knew everything that was going to be covered in this course, especially since we had already been through so many similarly-titled subjects throughout our younger years in both primary and secondary school. But to my surprise, this subject ended up covering quite a vast number of topics and themes and it invited us to not just learn and understand about these topics, but to also give our own input and opinions on them; something that we were rarely asked to do in school with these kind of subjects.

The topics and themes covered ranged from politics to religion to social movements and history among others. I think this subject was introduced to help fresh university students to be more open minded in the way that they think and also to encourage us to seek more knowledge about ourselves as well as the world around us. This subject has made it abundantly clear to me that there is still plenty of things that I don’t know about my country and the people who live in it.

Apart from the academic and general knowledge I was fortunate enough to acquire from this course, I was also able to contribute to society, albeit in a small and simple way. As part of our class project, we visited an orphanage (Raudhatul Maryam) in Taman Universiti. I think at the start of the trip, many of the students just thought of it as a mandatory task which would enable us to pass the subject, but by the end, it was clear that they saw this trip in a different light.

I, for one, realised how privileged I have been in my life to have a home, parents, education and everything else that I needed when I was growing up. However, many of the children at the orphanage were not as fortunate as me and my classmates. Some of them came from broken families, poverty and some had even been abandoned. It was a bittersweet time we had at the orphanage; we enjoyed spending time with the kids and playing games with them but it was also heart-breaking to hear what some of them went through.

I guess the silver lining in this whole visit was that there were people out there who cared for these young kids and were willing to take them in and look after them. It showed me that even though it may seem like the world today is very cruel and heartless, there are still those who are willing to help others selflessly and do their best to give these kids who have been dealt a bad hand, a decent chance at succeeding in life. It also made me realise the important role that all of us play in society. We all have a responsibility towards the less fortunate and under-privileged.

I am grateful that I got to experience this subject because in a way, this subject helped to remind me about the importance in helping our fellow Malaysians regardless of who they are or where they come from, to not see each other for our race or religion or backgrounds, but to treat each other as the same; because we are the same, we are all Malaysians and we must remember that it’s our unity which makes us unique, our unity is what makes us strong, our unity is what makes us, us.