MALAYSIAN DYNAMIC: OVERALL REFLECTION

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KURSUS: DINAMIKA MALAYSIA

SEKSYEN: 20

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It has been roughly 3 months since the first semester of my first-year degree began. Through these few months, I was able to learn many new things and make many new amazing friends. One of the courses that was able to educate me well and greatly improve my knowledge this semester was the Malaysian Dynamic course, or “Dinamika Malaysia” in the Malay language, taught by Mr Hassan.

In the first few lessons, Mr Hassan gave some lectures about some of the chapters from the Malaysian Dynamics reference book. Mr Hassan always carried out his lectures in a professional manner, always making sure that the learning objectives of each chapter is properly conveyed. Apart from that, another reason why this Malaysian Dynamics course had been effective in increasing my knowledge is because Mr Hassan left out some of the chapters for the students to discuss with each other and give presentations on their chosen chapters. Personally, this was a very effective way to educate the students because it gives us an opportunity to learn and understand from each other. By discussing with each other, we were able to take different understandings of the chapters from each person and combine them into one big concept of understanding of the chapter to be presented to the class. For my group, which consisted of me, Jared, Manfred, Yi Lin, Chiaw Torng, Kai Jie and Jing Xuan, we have planned and carried out multiple meetings in order to prepare for the presentation of our chapter; Chapter 8: Pembangunan Sosial Dalam Dinamika Masyarakat Malaysia. After many thorough discussions, we have successfully presented about all the learning objectives of our chapter which included explaining the concept of social development in general and specifically in context of Malaysia. Apart from that, we also presented about the importance of social development and how it is carried out in Malaysia. Lastly, we talked about the relationship between social development and the cultural development in Malaysia. Presenting about these things allowed my group members and I to learn more in depth about what is social development and how it affects our country, which is undoubtedly apart of Malaysian dynamics.

Moving on, the next major activity that happened in the Malaysian Dynamic class is that we organised and carried out a visit to an orphanage on the 28th of November. The orphanage that we visited was called “Raudhatul Maryam”, which was located a driving distance of 10 minutes from the university campus. During the visit, we were able to learn many different lessons. In the morning of the visit, everybody gathered at block M01 before heading towards the orphanage together. The visit started at around 8am with an opening speech given by the person in charge at the orphanage. My first thought when I saw the orphans was that they look just like any other normal children, with smiles on their faces. And I wondered to myself how could they be so happy even without their parents. I was finally able to answer my own question by the end of the visit.

Many activities were carried out during the visit, with a simple goal in mind; that is to educate the orphans about some life lessons that they might not have been able to learn from their parents. Some of the objectives for the activities include: teaching the orphans about the importance of honesty, critical thinking, problem solving, and also responsibility. Watching the orphans enjoy playing the games we organised made me realise that the reason they are still able to put out a bright smile even without their parents is because they have wonderful friends that support each other. The orphans would not hesitate for even a moment when it comes to helping their friends in need. I feel like this is a great example for me to follow, because in this realistic society, many people would not even bother to lend a hand to a person in need if they do not get any benefits from it, however these children were able to instantly help their friends even if it meant that they will lose the game themselves.

In short, the visit to the orphanage was without a doubt an eye-opening experience for all of us from group 3, in which members include Cheong Chien Li, Jared Ryan, Manfred John, Chan Yi Lin, Tan Chiaw Torng, Chong Kai Jie, and also Yong Jing Xuan. After an effective discussion, all of us from group 3 have agreed that these orphans are no different from us “non-orphans”. Even without their parents, all of them still managed to make plenty of friends, communicate with others fluently, and are also very well behaved. Most importantly, they were all able to still have an amazing childhood even without their parents in their life. Hence, all of us from group 3 feel that it is important for us to treat them not as orphans but as equals, just because their parents are not there for them, they should not be labelled as an “orphan” for their whole lives. Moreover, we should not visit these orphanages expecting to feel pity for them. Instead, we should treat them just like any other people and make friends with them just like how we made all our friends since young. Furthermore, we tried to observe the orphans carefully to try and figure out what they might have been hiding behind their smile, because after all, who would be happy to show their scars to the public? But we finally figured out that they were not actually hiding anything behind their smiles, instead they were genuinely happy living together with their friends, and figuring that out made all of us from group 3 happy as well. In short, we were very glad to be able to partake in this amazing visit to the orphanage, it was really an eye-opening and life-changing experience for us all. The orphans do not need sympathy from anybody, all they need is love and support, and we truly hope that they will always be happy and healthy, and be able to grow into amazing adults in the near future.

Lastly, I would like to thank Mr Hassan for giving us his best efforts in trying to lecture us. Mr Hassan is a wonderful and helpful person and is very knowledgeable about what he is teaching. If given a chance, I would like to have Mr Hassan as my lecturer again next semester because I was able to learn many things that I never knew before due to his helpful lectures. The Malaysian Dynamic course has undoubtedly contributed greatly to increasing my knowledge.