

Leaving No Child Behind

Student Aid

As the bell rings for recess, 8-year old Adam heads to the school playground while the other children head to the school canteen. He actively swings on the monkey bars and from afar his teachers think he just likes to play. With only 5 minutes remaining for the end of recess, Adam runs to the canteen and looks at every plate on the canteen tables – he’s looking for edible scraps to fill his stomach which is grumbling from hunger, rushing before the cleaners throw them out.

The truth is, Adam has no pocket money to spend in the canteen. His family is too poor to pack him any food. If he’s lucky, he may have a meal waiting for him at home. Otherwise, he will have to wait for dinner and eat sparingly with his family of five.

Adam is only one of many children from low-income households, whose families are unable to provide sufficient - let alone nutritious - food for their children.

The 2020 Global Nutrition Report showed that 20.7 percent of children under five suffer from stunting (low height-for-weight) and 11.5 percent suffer from wasting (low weight-for-height) in Malaysia.

A study of urban child poverty and deprivation in low-cost flats in Kuala Lumpur conducted by UNICEF showed more than one in 10 children have less than three meals a day. Tellingly, nearly 97 percent of households living in low-cost flats are unable make healthy meals for children, due to high food costs.

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Students use their smartcards to pay for their meals at the canteen.

MyKasih began its “Love My School” bursary programme in 2012 to help students from low-income families overcome these handicaps. Students are given annual bursaries via a smartcard linked to their MyKad, to pay for meals at the school canteen through MyKasih’s unique cashless aid distribution system. A monthly allowance of RM60 (for primary students) or RM80 (for secondary students) is given for a year. It can also be used to purchase school books and stationery from school bookshops. For younger students, teachers and/or parents help the children budget their expenditure and help with their purchases. Towards year-end, additional sponsorship is provided for back-to-school supplies including uniforms, shoes, bags and stationery.

To date, the “Love My School” programme has disbursed more than RM30 million which has helped over 56,000 students – both primary and secondary – across 112 schools. Several of MyKasih’s corporate donors, such as DIALOG, Linaco, Padini, ConocoPhillips, SC Johnson and Rotary, have adopted schools as part of their long-term CSR initiatives.



The Lanjan Tigers of SK Bukit Lanjan Asli in Selangor have been on a winning streak since their formation in 2015.

Uncovering Hidden Talent

In addition to student bursaries, supplementary support is given to rural schools through sponsorship of extra tuition classes, study camps, sports activities, English literacy and numeracy workshops and computer labs for 21st century learning. Robotics, aquaponic projects and educational workshops are also funded to ensure they are not left out in Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) programmes.

One of the Asli schools supported by MyKasih since 2014 is SK Bukit Lanjan (Asli) in Selangor and they have shown tremendous progress in the field of under-12 rugby since MyKasih began funding its sports development programmes. The Lanjan Tigers are highly competitive and have been on a steady winning streak until the pandemic forced school closures and prohibited contact sports. Once touted as the worst-performing school in the Petaling Utama education district, SK Bukit Lanjan is now doing well both on the academic and extra-curricular front.

Last year, for example, 104 Orang Asli students participated in the 2020 Virtual National Robotics Competition (VNRC). Eight students from a total participation of 1,500 students nationwide, went on to compete in the World Robot Olympiad Robot Virtual Games 2020 and Robot Virtual Games International Championship 2020.

Partnership With ECERDC and NCIA

MyKasih is a partner to the East Coast Economic Region Development Council (ECERDC) and the Northern Corridor Implementation Authority (NCIA) since 2017 and 2019 respectively on the ‘empower@academik’ programme. The programme is dedicated to aid students from underprivileged and low-income households in the northern and eastern regions with cashless bursaries and other educational



Students of SK Sungai Rual in Jeli, Kelantan, in a robotics workshop in preparation for the Virtual National Robotics Competition (VNRC).



Students of SK Batu 14 in Tapah, Perak, getting hands-on learning of vital life skills such as growing their own food.

assistance. A key focus of the programme is to boost STEM education among the rural students, especially in the Orang Asli community. So far, 37 schools – including Asli ones – have benefitted from this partnership.

During the pandemic, support for the schools continued in the form of investments towards online learning (i-Learn ACE modules) and Sasbadi’s virtual robotics toolkit. The latter is to prepare the students for the national robotics competition this year.


MyKasih

All monetary donations are tax-exempt and are channelled in full to targeted beneficiaries.

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