

PERMATA PRIHATIN PROGRAMME: AL-IKHLAS OLD FOLKS' CARE AND TREATMENT CENTRE, PULAU MERANTI, PUCHONG

Kicked off on the 13th of June, 2015 with Al-Ikhlas Old Folks' Care and Treatment Centre, there were 28 students from Program ASASIpintar, The National University of Malaysia (UKM) participating in PERMATA Prihatin Programme. This community service work programme with the concept of '*give back*' to Malaysia citizens that needed care is meant to create awareness and chances for PERMATA children to willingly contribute to the society besides understanding the plight of those living in the midst of hardships.

The participants of this programme from ASASIpintar were asked to gather at 7.45 a.m. at the cafeteria of Keris Mas College (KKM). Accompanied by Madam Siti Noor Diana Mohd Kamaruddin, the Students' Affair Coordinator of ASASIpintar, we boarded the bus to our destination – Al-Ikhlas Old Folks' Care and Treatment Centre at 8.15 a.m. We were given briefing about the programme that would be running at the centre by Madam Siti Noor Diana on the bus too. Prof. Datuk Dr. Noriah Mohd Ishak, the Director of PERMATApintar Negara, Dr. Azizah Mohd Zahidi, the Head of Unit of ASASIpintar, Madam Rozlina Tan Abdullah, ASASIpintar lecturer and Dr. Rorlinda Yusof, Senior Assisstant of Students'Affair of PERMATApintar Negara would joined us later at the centre for this event.



Participants of PERMATA Prihatin Programme ASASipintar

It took us around 45 minutes to reach the centre. We had our breakfast after arriving at the centre. The programme was launched by Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, who is also the patron of PERMATA program. There were other participants from other PERMATA programmes such as PERMATA Seni, PERMATA Insan, PERKASA Remaja and PERMATA Kurnia taking part in it. We were called to gather again after breakfast to distribute the work. Mainly for the day, we were in charge of cleaning up the internal area of the centre.



Arrival of the student at Al-Ikhlas centre.

Our tasks included sweeping and mopping the floor, cleaning the toilets, cleaning the fans, wiping the windows, putting up the curtains, wiping the furniture and cleaning the store room. Most of the male students were given the task to clean up the store room which involved carrying loads, moving them from place to place, climbing up the stairs that required a lot of physical strength. As soon as we got the cleaning equipment and tools, we started to work for the day.



Student's mopping the floor.



Students re-arranging stuff in the store room.



Students arranging the things in the store room.



Student's wiping the table.



Students in the store room.

Some of us who managed to get their work done earlier spent their time interacting with the senior citizens. Throughout the conversations, we heard stories of irresponsible children who left the parents at the centre; we felt the sorrow of the senior citizens suffering from diseases; we learnt the advices from them urging us to work hard for our future and be filial to our parents. Soon it was lunch time and we served them food. Some suffered from stroke before had problem while eating so we fed them. We also helped to massage those who could even get off the bed as they were partially paralyzed.



Student's taking picture with the senior citizens.



Student's feeding the senior citizen.



Mdm Siti Noor Diana's interacting with a senior citizen.



Dr Rorlinda's massaging the senior citizen's foot.

This programme was later joined by Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor with a few local artists. She took her time to interact with the senior citizens besides distributing the donations while the artists were cheering them up. The donations included goodie bag with *baju Melayu* or *baju kurung* inside as the outfit for the coming Hari Raya Aidilfitri. A birthday celebration was also done for those born in May and June.



Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor's consoling the senior citizen.



Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor's distributing goodie bag.



Prof Datuk Dr Noriah's with the local artist in the event.

After lunch, some of us gathered and got our hands on the final work of the day – mural painting. We drew the logo of PERMATA Negara as prove that we were there and decorated the wall with a tree, simple buildings, and birds. When the masterpiece was done, we cleared up the mess and called it a day.



Students are painting the mural.



50% done.



Our MASTERPIECE!!!

We went back at around 3.30 p.m. Everyone was extremely tired after working hard the whole day yet satisfied as to contribute to the senior citizens. We had learnt so much throughout the event. Never forget your responsibility as a child to your parents. You are nothing without them. They have brought you up, been through all the ups and downs for you, yet they never ask anything back from you. Showing a little bit care or love to them is already such a big grace for them. How simple it is! Let's show more care and love to not just our parents and so the senior citizens in the world as a token of appreciation towards what they have done for the generations after them and the world now.

Prepared by,
Nguang Siew Hung
ASASIpintar UKM Student's Representative