

Empowering Youth Leadership Through Entrepreneurship and Community Engagement
(Pemeriksaan Kepimpinan Belia Melalui Keusahawanan dan Penglibatan Komuniti Berbilang Kaum
di Malaysia)

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ABSTRACT

This brief report highlights my leadership development through participation in the BINAR 2025 entrepreneurship programme and involvement in several multicultural community engagement activities in Melaka. Through BINAR, I gained practical experience in communication, leadership, teamwork and problem-solving, especially through pitching sessions, workshops and group-based tasks. My involvement in community events further strengthened empathy, cultural awareness and integrity. A reflective qualitative approach was used to evaluate my leadership growth across these experiences. Findings show improvement in confidence, teamwork, time management and adaptability. Overall, these experiences demonstrate how youth leadership can be shaped effectively through real world exposure and community-based learning. The insights from this experience demonstrate how youth entrepreneurship platforms can strengthen leadership capacity at the international level.

Keywords: Youth Leadership, Binar 2025, Communication Skills, Community Engagement, Teamwork

ABSTRAK

Laporan ringkas ini menonjolkan pembangunan kepimpinan saya melalui penyertaan dalam program keusahawanan BINAR 2025 serta beberapa aktiviti penglibatan komuniti berbilang kaum di Melaka. Melalui BINAR, saya memperoleh pengalaman praktikal dalam komunikasi, kepimpinan, kerja berpasukan dan penyelesaian masalah melalui sesi pitching, bengkel dan tugas berkumpulan. Penglibatan saya dalam aktiviti komuniti turut mengukuhkan empati, kesedaran budaya dan integriti. Pendekatan reflektif kualitatif digunakan untuk menilai perkembangan kepimpinan berdasarkan pengalaman tersebut. Dapatan menunjukkan peningkatan dalam keyakinan, kerja berpasukan, pengurusan masa dan kebolehsuaian. Secara keseluruhan, pengalaman ini membuktikan bahawa kepimpinan belia dapat dibentuk melalui pendedahan dunia sebenar dan pembelajaran berasaskan komuniti. Laporan ini turut menekankan kepentingan program pembangunan belia yang tersusun dalam membentuk pemimpin masa hadapan yang berdaya saing dan bertanggungjawab sosial.

Kata Kunci: Kepimpinan Belia, Binar 2025, Kemahiran Komunikasi, Penglibatan Komuniti, Kerja Berpasukan

INTRODUCTION

Youth leadership is increasingly important in shaping Malaysia's digital and multicultural future. This report reflects my leadership journey through BINAR 2025 and participation in several community events. The objective is to analyze how these experiences contributed to my personal leadership development. As a first-generation university student and active youth participant, I believe leadership is essential for contributing to Malaysia's social and digital progress.

This report is supported by Kolb's Experiential Learning Theory, which explains how learning is strengthened through concrete experience and reflection (Kolb, 2014). However, there is limited documentation on how entrepreneurship-based youth programmes in Malaysia directly influence leadership development among undergraduate students. Elements of transformational leadership also guided this reflection by emphasizing shared vision, motivation and personal growth (Northouse, 2021).

METHODOLOGY

A qualitative reflective methodology was used. Leadership observations were based on the following:

- i. Participation in BINAR 2025 workshops, pitching sessions and team activities

- ii. Volunteer and multicultural community events in Malacca
- iii. Personal reflection using Kolb's experiential cycle
- iv. Feedback received from facilitators and peers

The leadership variables observed include communication confidence, teamwork quality and adaptability under pressure.

MAIN FINDINGS

My leadership growth can be summarized across the following areas:

- i. Improved communication: BINAR pitching sessions strengthened clarity, presentation confidence and public speaking.
- ii. Stronger teamwork: Group tasks improved cooperation, decision-making and respect for diverse viewpoints.
- iii. Better problem-solving: Workshop challenges trained me to think critically and respond quickly.
- iv. Enhanced cultural awareness: Community activities increased my understanding of unity, empathy and inclusiveness.
- v. Greater adaptability: Managing deadlines and unexpected challenges built resilience.



FIGURE1.Presentation during BINAR 2025 workshop session



FIGURE2. Presentation during BINAR 2025 closing ceremony

DISCUSSION

The combination of BINAR training and community engagement supports the principle of experiential and transformational leadership. BINAR enhanced my strategic thinking, communication and collaboration skills, while community involvement strengthened empathy and integrity. Together, these experiences demonstrate that effective leadership requires both competence and character (Kolb, 2014; Northouse, 2021). These findings suggest that leadership capability is not only shaped by structured training but also by real-life social interactions and community exposure. This aligns with the GSLS objective of promoting holistic youth development through intercultural learning and practical engagement.

CONCLUSION

My journey through BINAR 2025 and community involvement has significantly contributed to my leadership identity. The lessons learned, communication, teamwork, resilience and empathy, equip me to contribute positively to international youth platforms such as GSLS 2026 in Japan. These experiences highlight the importance of providing young people with real-world development opportunities. This experience provides

a strong foundation for contributing meaningfully to global youth platforms such as GSLS 2026, where cross-cultural leadership competence is highly valued.

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