

Headline	Varsity students give underprivileged kids reason to laugh		
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Varsity students give underprivileged kids reason to laugh

KUCHING: As early as 8am, childrens' laughter can be heard around Rumah Kanak-Kanak Kuching.

Rightfully so, for some 30 undergraduates from Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) had planned a fun filled activity for them throughout the morning right till lunch time yesterday.

The "Masih Ada Yang Sayang" event was the first charity and get-together programme for the home this year.

There were colouring and drawing contests, sandart, motivational talk, aerobics, and little games in between for all 60 children of the home.

And there was Uncle Jerry the Clown going around spreading a lot of cheer.

The programme was part of UUM's Public Management course project which sought to instil a sense of responsibility for and awareness of children, and how to handle issues pertaining to them.

It was also to get the children to look at the undergraduates as role models and inspire the former to go for further learning and graduates themselves one day.

A part-time student of the course, Vijendra Arunasalam, 28, said he found the interactive programme a worthy one.

He said it was important for everyone to give back to society in one way or another as it would bring people closer as one community.

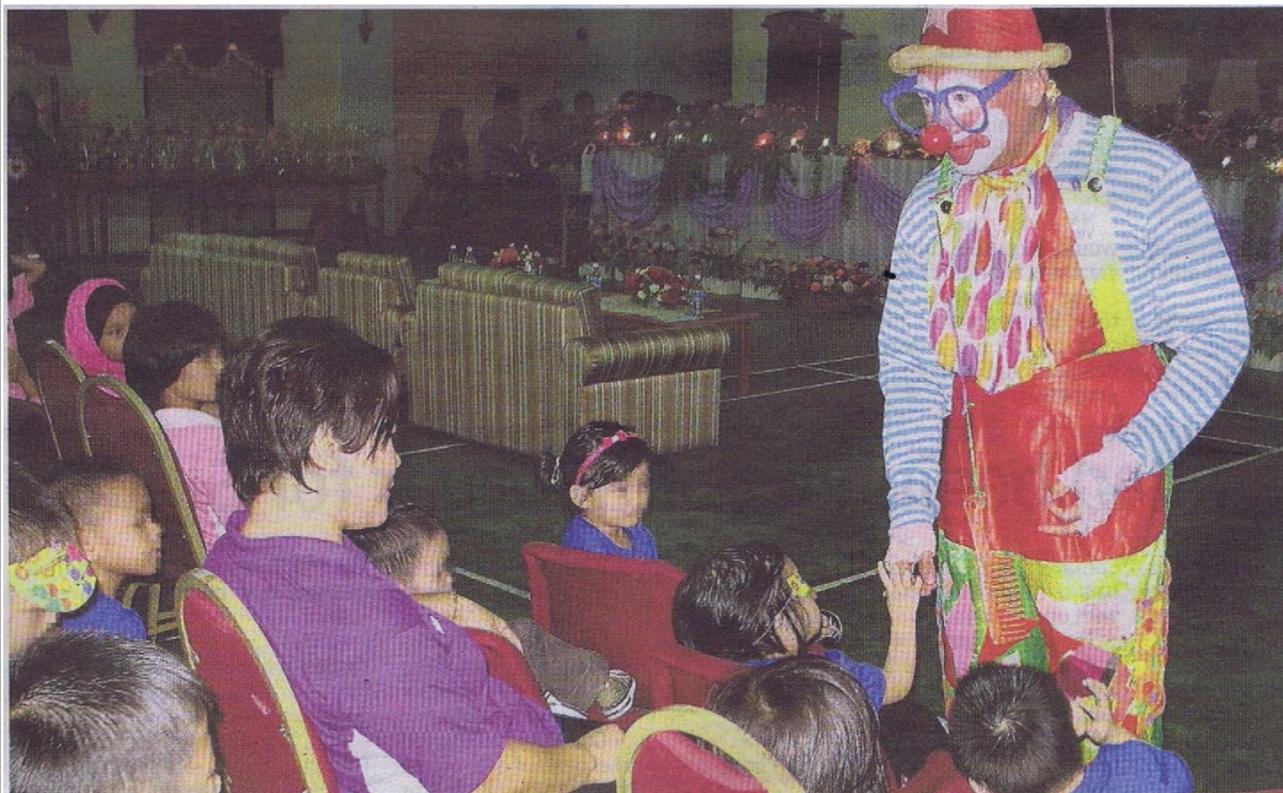
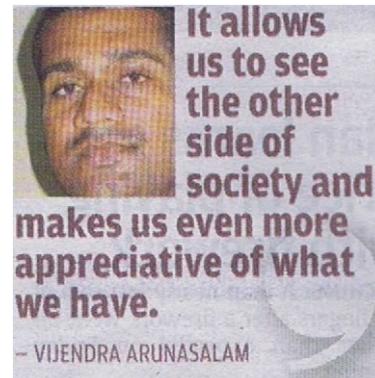
"I feel not only learning institutions but other organisations too should have an annual event where their staff members can interact with the children or residents of other homes.

"It allows us to see the other side of society and makes us even more appreciative of what we have. If everyone gets first-hand experience like this, then that feeling of wanting to help would grow even more within us," he said.

The police personnel from Perak

said such an experience was a vital part of UUM's course for public management as it helped them understand that welfare work was not a "bed of roses".

"There are a lot of things that go into the duties of a welfare officer and each case is unique and needs special attention, so it's a good activity for both sides. The children too get a day of fun-filled activities and hopefully, it would give them confidence and support," he said.



Colour and laughter: Uncle Jerry the Clown entertains the children at the home.