

UUM/AA87/STAR/14.7.2026/P:14 (1-5)

When schools teach the mind but forget to touch the heart

THE recent school stabbing incident has once again challenged us to rethink the purpose of education ("Stabbing incident at Kuala Langat secondary school leaves student injured", *The Star*, July 6; online at bit.ly/4faBEiK).

While security measures, disciplinary procedures and preventive policies are essential, we must also ask a deeper question: What kind of human beings are our schools preparing students to become?

A curriculum cannot be meas-

ured only by examination results, academic achievements or future employability.

Education must also shape character, emotional awareness and social responsibility.

Incidents of violence remind us that knowledge without values can create individuals who are academically capable but emotionally unprepared to navigate conflicts and challenges.

Schools must place greater emphasis on values-based education, social and emotional learn-

ing, and peaceful conflict resolution. Students need opportunities to develop empathy, understand different perspectives, manage their emotions and communicate disagreements without aggression. These skills should not be treated as additional programmes but embedded throughout the curriculum and school culture.

Furthermore, students must be encouraged to develop a sense of belonging and responsibility towards their community.

A caring school environment,

where students feel heard and supported, can become a powerful foundation for preventing harmful behaviours.

The recent tragedy should not only lead us to strengthen school security; it should inspire us to strengthen the humanity within education.

A successful curriculum does not merely produce students who can answer questions correctly. It nurtures individuals who understand the value of compassion, respect and responsibility.

Perhaps the most important lesson from this incident is that schools must continue teaching not only what students need to know, but also who they need to become.

**ASSOC PROF DR
MUHAMMAD NOOR
ABDUL AZIZ**
Institute of Excellent
Teachers and Leaders
in Education
School of Education
Universiti Utara Malaysia