



UTM
UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MALAYSIA

Project Number: PH19097

Name of Project: Engineers Back to School

Name of University: Universiti Teknologi Malaysia Johor Bahru

Project Leader Name: Muhammad Ridhwan bin Zayn Al-Abideen

Project implementation date: 28th October – 20th November

Location of project held: Johor Bahru

Beneficiary: School Students

Number of beneficiary: 350

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1.0 SECTION I

1.1 Project Summary

From the 28th of October till the 20th of November, 3rd year students of Chemical Engineering from School of Chemical and Energy Engineering conducted a service learning named Engineers Back to School, to a few schools in Johor Bahru, namely Sekolah Tun Fatimah, SM Teknik, SM Islam Hidayah and SMK Senai. The objective of this project was to introduce what Chemical Engineering is all about and to abolish the stereotype of the fact that this course is for students who love chemistry.

1.2 Fund Raising

We did a small fund-raiser for our project amongst the lecturers in our faculty. From this fund-raiser, we managed to raise RM800 which contributes directly to our project, specifically funding for the journey to USCI for the exhibition.

1.3 How the Project Works

There are a total of 131 Chemical Engineering students taking Separation Process and is divided into 4 sections. We took advantage of this by appointing a director for each section amongst the students under the supervision of their respective lecturers to organize a committee to conduct the service learning. Then, each section carried out their service learning at separate schools at different dates according to the availability and convenience of their respective schools. By this way, we were able to reach out to more students.

1.3.1 Difficulties and Budget Constraints

A number of unexpected difficulties emerged before the event was carried out. SM Teknik changed their date at the last minute from 18th of November to the 20th of November. This became a problem for the section that was dealing with the school in terms of ordering food and refreshments but in the end it was resolved after negotiating with the caterer. Another school cancelled the whole event due technical issues, which resulted a section to resort to finding a different school, that being SM Islam Hidayah. Other than that, each section managed to carry out the service learning smoothly without any major difficulties and budget constraints.

1.3.2 Language and Cultural Barriers

There were no language barriers as all school students and committees were able to speak and understand conversational English. There were also no cultural barriers. However, there were a number of international students, mostly originating from Africa and the Middle East. It was a pleasure to see these international students discovering and learning the culture and interactions between the

school students and themselves. They took the opportunity to tell about their own respective countries to the school students, which was a big bonus for the school students.

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1.3.3 Flow of Program

During all of the programs, a majority of all aspects of the program went well. From the preparation of the programs, to the fun games and exhibitions conducted to understand Chemical Engineering and its impact to the world and society, and overall satisfactory of the school students, teachers and the committee. What can be improved for all sections is the general execution of the program, especially regarding the fun games and protocols during the closing ceremony. A lot of our students are inexperienced in handling programs with school students and closing ceremonies with schools. Some protocols during the closing ceremony were not cleanly executed. Nonetheless, at the end of the day, the teachers and lecturers were all happy and really wished this program will continue in the future.

1.3.4 Benefits, Impact and Sustainability

The total participants were around 350 Form 4 school students. The original plan was to carry out the program with the SPM students, but since the time frame to conduct the program was close to SPM, we settled with Form 4 students instead. From the response forms from the school students and feedback from the teachers, we concluded that our project was a success in giving them a complete understanding of what Chemical Engineering is all about. This course is a popular choice amongst students who wish to pursue the field of engineering. Therefore, we see that in the future, students who will pursue Chemical Engineering will have a clear understanding and motivation in this course. All school have agreed that this project should definitely be continued annually.

2.0 SECTION II

2.1 Contribution to Happiness

There are a lot of stereotypes and stigmas for every degree offered. It is safe to say that are all difficult in their own way. What makes it more difficult is if the student takes the course unwillingly without interest or specific intellectual capabilities. Their motivation will be significantly lower compared to others who take the course with interest. This will then heavily affect either their academic performance, mental health or both. It is well known to society that this is one of the reasons why a university student is unhappy during their studies. As chemical engineering students, we want to prevent that from happening with this course at the very least.

From our perspective, being affected mentally is especially critical for this course and the engineering field. Engineering related jobs usually take up a lot of time and energy. Anyone who

works these jobs unwillingly without interest lives a miserable life and it all starts from what job one can get

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from the degree one pursues. Therefore, we want to prevent this from happening by giving the society a clear understanding on what criteria and interest suits a student to pursue chemical engineering. By this way, it is possible that the number of students who will pursue chemical engineering increase or decrease. Either way, we benefit from both outcomes. We will either get more and better chemical engineering students, or less but even more committed students.

2.2 Self-reflection

This project made us realize how oblivious we were about the working world during our school years. The amount of exposure that we could have had to the working world would have helped us a lot to realize and decide our further education. Although not all of the school students showed interest, it was very satisfying to see the clarity they obtained from our explanations regarding the course. It just proves the lack of information and exposure these school students get for higher education. Thus, we strongly believe more efforts need to be put forth in giving more exposure about higher education to school students, not just chemical engineering but all fields of study.

Despite there being lack of efforts to give full exposure regarding higher education to school students, it is simply impossible to give exposure of all fields of study that might be the most suitable for a school student. Every student is different in some way, and some struggle to discover their interest and talent, some later than others, some more unique than others. It made us realize that we cannot prepare or plan for everything. Some things will come to us unexpectedly, challenges and goodness to our lives. Therefore, it is important to remember that life has its ups and downs, and we must always be ready with an open mind and heart.

3.0 CONCLUSION

This kind of project gives an important impact on the future of higher education for the youth. It is vital that they know exactly the parameters of the field of study that they will be dealing with in order to succeed happily in their education. – Muhammad Ridhwan bin Zayn Al-Abideen

4.0 SECTION III

No.	Particular	Quantity	Price each (RM)	Amount (RM)	Notes
MULTIMEDIA					
1	Banner	4	32.00	128.00	
Amount (RM)				128.00	
PROTOCOL					
2	Certificates	1.3	100.00	400.00	
	Frame certificates+placemat		13.90	55.60	
Amount (RM)				455.60	
ACTIVITY					
3	Printing for exhibition booths + game booths		66.70	266.80	
	Partition board	24	70.00	1680.00	
	Stationeries		50.30	201.20	
	Decoration items for booths		37.10	148.40	
Amount (RM)				2296.40	
Total Expenses				2880.00	
Total Expenses(after round off)				3000.00	
Surplus/Deficit				120	