

NEWS CLIPPING

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Learning English as easy as GAB

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SELAYANG: Guinness Anchor Bhd (GAB) Smiles Foundation has allocated another RM250,000 to less fortunate students by starting even more reading corners and implementing the English Enrichment Programmes in schools.

It started three years ago when the foundation sponsored 280 Year Six students from various Tamil schools for a 21-day intensive "Immersion Camp".

"We wanted an intensive camp where the students had to speak and use English daily. They will learn much quicker this way," said GAB Smiles Foundation management committee director Renuka Indrarajah.

Following its success, the foundation started an English Enrichment Programme for three hours every Saturday for students in primary schools.

The foundation started the programme last year among Year 2 students from five different primary schools with of 200 students.

Phase 1 of the programme is to teach students from Year 1 to 3, while Phase 2, which is still in its development stage, will help students from Year 4 to 6.

The success of the programme was due to volunteers who spent time working with the students, said Renuka.

One of them, who only wanted to be known as Moganah, 23, a computer engineering student in University Kuala Lumpur, said: "Children are interesting and inquisitive. When I heard about this programme, I volunteered straight away because I could make a change, particularly amongst the Tamil students."

Another volunteer, Gloria Nancy, 26, said: "When I first started with them, they couldn't speak much English. But now, they are able to give a short presentation in front of the class. It is so rewarding."

GAB Smiles Foundation has spent a total of RM360,000 to set up reading corners in the schools' libraries that are filled with new and interesting books. The reading corners are in 36 centres and schools throughout Malaysia.

The GAB Smiles Foundation has three key objectives. They are environment conservation, education and community.