

29/01/1997

#### Fostering love for nature in garden visit

Izatun Hanim Shari

AN outing to the orchid and hibiscus garden near Tasik Perdana, Kuala Lumpur, proved to be educational trip for children of the Red Triangle Club of YMCA KL.

The children learned about flowers and plants.

The outing, themed Flowers, was aimed at inculcating a love for nature and the environment among the children. It was also an opportunity for them to develop self-confidence.

Led by two YMCA programme staff, Mohamad Mazlan Ishak and Wong Peck Lin, the 14 children aged six to 12 were taught the general characteristics of flowers and plants in the garden.

Mohamad Mazlan also gave a simple outline to each child as a guide.

The members also had to answer simple questions about the garden, flowers and plants.

Paulynn Pook Wei Ling, 10, enjoyed herself as she learnt about different types of orchids.

She also found out that some were named after Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali.

Premen Daven, 11, learned about how flowers and plants grew.

Kassri Harlili Ahmad Tarmizi, 12, was happy about the trip as he was able to mix with other children.

Wong said the Red Triangle Club members go on trips to tourist spots once a month.

She said the club has educational and recreational activities to encourage group participation.

"Through the trip, the children get to know that there are different types of orchids and other plants."

Wong said to be a member of the Red Triangle Club, children have to become a junior member of YMCA.

She said YWCA was planning to stage a drama to give children some acting skills and to develop their creativity and self-confidence.

"The association also has a Day Camp for children aged five to 13 during school holidays.

"The children are divided into three groups - five to seven years, eight to 10, and 11 to 13," she said. The programme is open to all.

Wong said the Day Camp helped to uncover children's talent in music, song, drama, poetry and dance. It has been held in Alang Sedayu in Gombak, Taman Pertanian in Shah Alam, Ulu Yam and FRIM in Kepong.

"YMCA also has a programme for youths aged 18 to 40 called Youth Recreational Activities and runs a senior citizens club for those aged 55 and above."

The annual membership fee for a junior YMCA member is RM50 while membership fee for the Red Triangle Club is RM14. Those interested can contact Wong or Lim Jit Kit at 03-2741439 ext 114.

(END)