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Musa: Poor performance due to lack of curiosity

BANGI, Thurs. - Lack of inquisitiveness is one reason why Malaysian students may not be performing as well as their counterparts in developed countries, Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad said here today.

He said the prevalence of a passive attitude among students was largely due to their upbringing.

"Parents do not encourage their children to ask questions. They do not consider inquisitiveness and being talkative as culturally acceptable," he said.

They also think it rude when youngsters ask questions.

Speaking at a Press conference after launching a series of symposiums organised by the Institute of Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's Thoughts, Musa said children should be encouraged to be extroverted but not in an offensive manner.

In developed nations, he said, parents responded to children's questions. This helped to inculcate an open-minded attitude towards things.

Asked about teachers' role in encouraging students to be more vocal, he said, it was difficult in the classroom because of time but that it was possible to do this during co-curricular activities.

The one-day symposium today covered Dr Mahathir's thoughts on education. The other series will delve into his ideas on security, economy and social issues to be held at later dates.