

**Government Looking Into Ways To Narrow Gap Between Rural And Urban Schools**  
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PAGOH, April 7 (Bernama) -- The Education Ministry is carrying out a study to find ways to narrow the gap between rural and urban schools, Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said.

The study would, among other things, identify issues and problems faced by rural schools which often show inferior performance compared to urban schools, he added.

"We want to see what are the problems; is it lack of infrastructure, equipment, teacher's quality, lack of teachers, unfavourable learning environment or the attitude of parents which causes students to lose focus on their studies," he told reporters after attending a get-together with educationists here and opening 17 multipurpose halls for the smart schools in Pagoh parliamentary area, here Saturday.

Muhyiddin, who is Education Minister and Pagoh member of parliament, said the gap between rural and urban students could be seen each time examination results were announced.

He acknowledged that there would also be a gap between rural and urban schools but "we hope that it won't be too wide to the point of becoming unrealistic."

"We will announce the finding and draw up a roadmap to tackle this," he said.

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