

Diversify teaching history methods to grab students' interest, schools advised
Malaysian Insider
July 2 , 2013

Schools should diversify the techniques of teaching and learning history at primary and secondary levels to get students interested in the subject.

National Parent-Teacher Associations Collaborative Council president Associate Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Ali Hassan said it could be done with interactive methods which emphasised student creative and critical thinking.

"Vary the teaching methods in schools, through drama, narration, forum, pidato, and so on.

"Nonetheless, it does not mean primary and secondary text books will be put aside. It is just varying the teaching and learning methods," he said, Bernama reported yesterday.

He was responding to national historian, Prof Emeritus Tan Sri Dr Khoo Kay Kim's comment last Tuesday that many students today were less knowledgeable on national history, despite scoring grade 'A' in the examination.

Mohd Ali believed the subject should not be limited to only learning about dates of certain events but expanded to understand its context. "Students should question why a certain incident took place, and the lessons learnt," he said, adding that a review of the subject syllabus should be completed as soon as possible.

He said a deep appreciation of the subject was important in building one's identity, and could help add value to one's career path.

National Union of the Teaching Profession president Hashim Adnan agreed, adding that employer feedback indicated weakness of university students in historical knowledge.

"The culture of scoring 'A' in the examination led students to memorising without learning the subject matter," he said, adding that textbooks should also be modified to suit current needs. - July 2, 2013.

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