

CENTRE FOR EDUCATION & LANGUAGE's

CHALK AND TALK (VOLUME 6)



**VOLUME 6 / JANUARY -
MARCH / 2021**

Editorial Board:

Editor: Assoc. Prof. Datin Dr
Cynthia

Designer: Amrit Kaur A/P
Bhajan Singh

Proofread by: Amrit Kaur A/P
Bhajan Singh

Committee Members:

Aimi Farina binti Sariff

Mohamad Badrul Adzhan bin
Baharudin

Muhammad Fitri bin Radzuan

Munees Priya A/P
Venkiteraman

Nik Mazleen binti Nik
Mustapha

Nurul Najwa binti Abu Bakar

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DIALOGUE SESSION WITH THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF ECCE COUNCIL

By: Ms. Aimi Farina

The objectives of the dialogue were to highlight issues in Early Childhood Education in Malaysia. It was the first dialogue ever conducted among the executive members with educators and parents. Throughout the dialogue, some concerns and comments were raised by parents and early childhood educators.

Throughout the dialogue, the KPI of pre-school teachers and nursery were discussed briefly. It was highlighted that the KPI focused on the syllabus by JKM and PERMATA. Another topic that was highlighted was the grant and financial support from the government for nurseries and early childhood education centres. Parliament of Malaysia is currently discussing this matter, as it concerns the education among the young. Previously, ECCE Council worked hand in hand with ministries of the country to get tax exemptions for nurseries. Persatuan Pengasuh Berdaftar Malaysia (PPBM) has brought this matter to the Ministry of Finance to give out 13 million Ringgit Malaysia for in-house nurseries. The discussion highlighted that young children should always be in favour as they are the voice of our nation.

According to Dr. Zainal, an executive member of the ECCE council, the policy makers in Denmark are under one roof and working closely together with non-governmental organisations (NGO) to change or design new policies for the child care and support in the country.

Parents have raised their concerns about MQA's regulations on the SOP during the lockdown throughout the country. The ECCE Council of Malaysia did not receive any new updates regarding the matter except for receiving the advisory note on the 28th of July 2020. Practicum students can do their practicum with the centers that are willing to guide and teach students through the online practicum sessions. One of the main challenges is that even though the students know that they can do online practicum, we don't have enough registered centers to allow them to have their online practicum training. During this pandemic, it is important to seek consultation and follow government rules and regulations. It was highlighted by Ms. Aimi, the Programme Coordinator of Diploma in Early Childhood Education in MAHSA University that following the law is a must but giving more to the public is also important.



The parents were also worried about online learning for children. The ECCE Council stressed the fact that blended learning is challenging for educators and also children. We need to use a wide range of resources, and various platforms to ensure efficient delivery of instructions. In Malaysia, the shift to online learning is still considered as remote learning which may bring about a temporary shift in paradigm. However, it may open up to other unexpected opportunities this new normal from physical classroom to virtual classroom.

Innovative Pedagogical Approach Competition 2021

By: Assoc. Prof. Datin Dr. Cynthia

BE ORIGINAL. BE INNOVATIVE.
FEBRUARY THEMATIC MONTH ACTIVITY

INNOVATIVE PEDAGOGICAL APPROACH
Student Competition

What is Pedagogical Innovation?
It can be defined as an intentional action that aims to introduce something creative and original into a given context either for teaching or learning.

- BRIEFING: 6/02/2021
- SUBMISSION: 19/02/2021
- PARTICIPATION: INDIVIDUAL OR MAXIMUM 3 IN A GROUP
- ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS: 25/02/2021

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

1. Select a topic from your discipline.
2. Using VISUAL AIDS, present a creative and innovative pedagogical approach to teaching and the learning of that topic.
3. Submit entry:
<https://forms.gle/baZBBhfqHn7PVPSJA>

PANEL OF JUDGES
Prof Dr. Rosnah Binti Mohd. Zain
Assoc. Prof. Datin Dr. Cynthia Doss
Dr. Iman Farshchi

PRIZES
1st Prize: RM500 | 2nd Prize: RM300 | 3rd Prize: RM200

CONTACT
CENTRE FOR EDUCATION & LANGUAGE
Amrit Kaur (amritkaur@mahsa.edu.my)
FACULTY OF ENGINEERING
Irina Nursyafina (irinanursyafina@mahsa.edu.my)

The Faculty of Dentistry was put in charge of the thematic month for February and the theme was "Be Original Be Innovative". In keeping with the theme, the Centre for Education and Language organized a competition entitled, Innovative Pedagogical Competition, not only for the students of MAHSA University but also for other Higher Institutions of learning. What was this competition all about?



Let's us begin by defining Pedagogical innovation, it can be defined as an intentional action that aims to introduce something creative and original into a given context, either for teaching or learning. So, the competition required the students to select a topic or theory that they had learned from their discipline, and using visual tools, present the chosen topic or theory for teaching and learning in a very innovative and creative way. The aim of the competition is to see if the students can enhance or exhibit understanding of the topic for teaching and learning, creatively and innovatively. We managed to get a number of entries and a panel of judges was appointed to evaluate and pick the winners. We also managed to secure a sponsor for the prizes.

There was an overwhelming number of entries from the Faculty of Dentistry. The first prize worth RM500 was won by Shu Kin Man from the Faculty of Dentistry, MAHSA University. Her entry was entitled Classical Conditioning. The second prize worth RM300 was won by Ng Yi Xuan, also from the Faculty of Dentistry, MAHSA university. The title of his entry was What does your bite say. While the third prize worth RM200 was won by Lee Shun Tian from the School of Hospitality. The title of her entry was A life Cycle of Schistosoma - A Parasite. The consolation prize was a group entry from the Penang Dental College. The winners were Maryam Azhar, Nahiyatul Suaqira Roslan and Rachael Tiong How Jun and they received RM100. Their entry was entitled, Basic Concept of Cleft lips and Palate.

The competition only served to reinforce the fact that students are creative and innovative if given the opportunity and platform.

CEL TALK SHOW: ARE YOU READY TO BE YOUR OWN SUPERHERO?

By: Ms. Nik Mazleen



For MAHSA's Education Fair for January 2021 session, CEL conducted an interesting talk show to discuss about the determination of English teachers and students in learning language, especially during these trying times. The educators, Ms. Mazleen, Ms. Najwa and Ms Amrit Kaur discussed that not all teachers are born to be tough cookies but throughout this pandemic, they admitted that conducting teaching and learning sessions has led them to label the educators as superheroes.

These three well experienced English language educators shared their thoughts and ideas on how to make online learning more meaningful and attractive. One of the educators shared that flexible teachers wouldn't just stick to the lesson plan, but they are also willing to modify and revise the teaching and learning session if something goes wrong during the online learning (read: poor internet connection or other technical glitches). Teachers also should implement quick thinking strategies to cater to the learner's needs.

To conclude, humorously, Ms. Amrit quoted that virtual teaching is like a walk in a park, but the park is called Jurassic Park.

Dedication and enthusiasm are also important for teachers to practice. Without these, students will easily dishearten from learning and trying. As mentioned by Ms. Najwa, both teachers and students should always keep in mind, a powerful quote by Robert Kiyosaki, "Don't stop trying, learning, fighting, experimenting, doing, until the miracle happens." We should never stop learning from mistakes to achieve our goals. Also, we should always be innovative and creative in striving for new T&L strategies or skills.

If you are eager to watch the talk show, you may go to the following link:
<https://www.facebook.com/99426254891/videos/188216723038018>

Enjoy!

FORUM: THE X-FACTOR OF SUCCESS IN TEACHING AND LEARNING IN LINE WITH THE THEMATIC MONTH (EMPATHY)

By: Mr. Fitri Radzuan

Every month, MAHSA organizes thematic activities to promote the core values of the university. Each faculty will be assigned to conduct various activities, in line with the theme of the month.

For March 2021, CEL was appointed to come up with an event relating to the theme Empathy. Upon discussion, CEL organized a sharing session with guests and MAHSA's staff and students. On the 10th of March 2021, CEL conducted a virtual sharing session using the Zoom platform with two guest speakers to share their experiences and views related to the topic. This sharing session was hosted by the Director of CEL, A.P. Datin Dr. Cynthia.

The first guest, Dato" Dr. Mehander Singh A/L Nahar Singh is a renowned and experienced educationist, who was the former Director of Institut Aminuddin Baki. He was also the Chief Assistant Director of Sports, Ministry of Education before he became the Deputy Director of Teacher Education Institute from 2011 to 2015. He has extensive experience working in diverse roles in the Ministry of Education. Dr Mehander also served as the Assistant Secretary for International Policy and Relations in the Malaysian Ministry of Education for three years.



While the second guest was Datin Dr Mardziah Hayati Abdullah, who is a member of the English Language Standards and Quality Council, Ministry of Education Malaysia and a retired Associate Professor from the Faculty of Modern Languages and Communication, Universiti Putra Malaysia. Through the sharing session, the speakers narrated their experiences providing examples of the application of empathy in teaching and

learning as well as its value. They agreed that empathy is very important to ensure educators and students excel in the future.

In addition, some of the educators and students from MAHSA also shared their thoughts on the topic of EMPATHY. Apparently, this core value is very important and needs to be inculcated in every human being. CEL is very proud and happy with the results from this activity and hopes to conduct more sharing sessions in the future.

CEL Monthly Departmental Meetings

By: Ms. Amrit Kaur

Every first week of the month, our Centre for Education and Language (CEL) organizes a departmental meeting that stretches over to lunch. These meetings are chaired by the Director of CEL, Associate Prof. Datin Dr. Cynthia, and attended by all the members of CEL.

We have had enjoyable sessions together as a team. These meetings have brought all of us closer to one another. Not only that, these meetings also act as team building sessions amongst the lecturers and the director of the centre. On the 22nd of March 2021 and 24th of March 2021, the CEL team allocated two days specially for strategic meetings to plan for the upcoming events. One of the highlights of the meetings was pertaining to the thematic activities and the university governance structure.



The Director of CEL, Datin Cynthia has been generous to sponsor our meals throughout our monthly meet up. A warm thank you to our director for her kindness. What makes our departmental meetings great are the pep talks we get from one another, to continue striving for excellence.

Datin Cynthia is always boosting us to do our best for the betterment of the university. We, the lecturers at CEL, are truly blessed to be able to have her join our team.



Cheers to more great ideas and even more incredible sessions!

SIRI WEBINAR: MEMAHAMI PERADABAN ORANG ASLI DI MALAYSIA

Oleh: Mr. Mohamad Badrul Adzham



Kajian terhadap peradaban serta etnik yang merupakan salah satu cabang dalam disiplin Sains Sosial jarang sekali mendapat liputan yang luas. Kewajaran memahami setiap etnik yang hidup di Malaysia seharusnya diutamakan memandangkan negara Malaysia telah diiktiraf sebagai sebuah negara yang mempunyai komuniti etnik yang pelbagai. Oleh itu, siri webinar yang diadakan pada 5 November 2021 telah mengutarakan topik iaitu untuk “Memahami Peradaban Orang Asli di Malaysia”. Panel jemputan bagi siri webinar kali ini merupakan salah seorang individu yang terlibat secara langsung dalam kajian terhadap masyarakat orang asli di Malaysia iaitu Puan Jamilah Samyula. Siri webinar ini berlangsung selama 50 minit dan dipengerusikan oleh En Mohamad Badrul Adzham yang merupakan pensyarah MPU di Universiti Mahsa.

Istilah orang asal atau lebih dikenali sebagai orang asli merupakan kumpulan etnik atau bangsa yang sudah sekian lama menetap di bumi Malaysia. Malahan etnik ini boleh dikatakan telah berada di semenanjung tanah Melayu lebih awal lagi. Mereka ini merupakan etnik yang unik kerana mempunyai amalan kepercayaan, bahasa serta ilmu pengetahuan yang berbeza daripada apa yang kita amalkan.

Dari aspek kepercayaan, masyarakat orang Asli didapati mempunyai adat resam dan kepercayaan animisme. Sistem kepercayaan mereka adalah peranan dewa - dewa, keramat, roh dan sebagainya. Pandangan hidup (world view) mereka banyak dipengaruhi oleh keadaan fizikal alam sekeliling di persekitaran yang di diami. Dengan itu hutan rimba, gunung, bukit, petir, dan sebagainya dianggap sebagai mempunyai makna tersendiri bagi kosmologi masyarakat ini. Ini telah membawa perlakuan - perlakuan ritual dan pantang larang dalam kehidupan seharian berdasarkan kepercayaan mereka.

Dari aspek organisasi dan struktur sosial, masyarakat ini masih mengekalkan dan mementingkan sikap kerjasama dan mewujudkan puak yang dipimpin oleh seorang ketua yang dipanggil “batin” yang

bertanggungjawab menjaga dan menjamin ketenteraman puak serta menjadi penghubung kepada masyarakat luar. Beliau juga berkuasa menentukan dan menetapkan peraturan berkaitan puak dan menjatuhkan hukuman terhadap kesalahan yang dilakukan oleh ahli - ahli. Di samping itu, komuniti mereka juga berpegang kepada pengantara agama (shaman) atau bomoh yang berperanan dalam menentukan aspek ritual dan penyaluran kepercayaan mereka.

Perubahan yang melanda masyarakat ini ada kaitan dengan kepercayaan mereka terhadap animisme yang semakin berkurangan sejak selepas merdeka pada tahun 1957. Ini kerana gerakan dakwah agama lain termasuk Islam semakin kuat ke atas masyarakat ini. Namun masih banyak lagi mengamalkan unsur-unsur animisme dan proses sinkretisme dengan agama-agama lain. Selain daripada itu, perubahan turut dapat dilihat dalam kehidupan masyarakat orang asli pada masa kini melalui dasar-dasar yang telah diperkenalkan oleh pihak kerajaan. Perkara ini dapat dilihat melalui banyaknya penglibatan masyarakat orang asli di dalam badan-badan kerajaan terutamanya di dalam pasukan beruniform. Walaupun etnik orang asli ini merupakan etnik yang jumlahnya tidaklah begitu ramai di Malaysia, namun mereka ini tetap merupakan salah satu daripada wajah-wajah yang akan mencorakkan ketamadunan dan masa depan negara.

CEL FACULTY BRIEFING:WELCOMING STUDENTS TO THE NEW SEMESTER (APRIL 2021)By: Ms. Amrit Kaur

The Director, Programme Coordinators alongside the lecturers of the programmes, Diploma in Education (TESL) and Diploma in Early Childhood Education organized a briefing session for the students of CEL on the 29th of March 2021 and 31st of March 2021.

The programme was conducted in a hybrid mode, as some students were still going through the quarantine session at MAHSA Residence. On the first day, CEL welcomed a new student into the Diploma in Early Childhood Education programme. Ms. Aimi Farina, the Programme Coordinator of Diploma in Early Childhood Education, gave a short and sweet opening speech. She mentioned the nature of the semester, by providing details on important dates of the semester and, the dates for examination.

Ms. Amrit, the Programme Coordinator for the Diploma in Education (TESL), conducted the ice breaking session with the students. The new student, Ain Ramlan, was able to get to know her other classmates. Not only that, this session was conducted to strengthen the relationship between the lecturers and the students.

The students were also briefed by the Director of CEL, Assoc. Prof. Datin Dr. Cynthia. In her welcoming speech, AP Datin Dr. Cynthia highlighted the importance of being an educator. She mentioned that we are currently living in a world of VUCA (Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity and Ambiguity) and as teachers and caregivers, we should always be one step ahead to ensure that students are well-equipped to embrace such a world. Education is the only weapon that we can use to change the world, as quoted by Nelson Mandela. **The students were amped with the motivational session.** The session lasted for about 1 hour before they were briefed by Dr. Guna.

Next, Dr. Guna, the Head of Department for PRIDE, from MAHSA Academy, briefed the students about their upcoming PRIDE classes. The session included the importance of taking PRIDE certificate classes. Students were also briefed about the classes and the assessments. The session lasted for about 45 minutes. CEL Team would like to thank Dr. Guna for his time and effort.

The students were informed about the new re-enrolment procedure with the Finance department. They were reminded by Ms. Aimi to always keep a copy of their payment and email the necessary documents to their programme coordinators, as proof of payment.

Mr. Fitri, Ms. Aimi and Ms. Amrit conducted the final session for the first day, specially dedicated to the rules and regulations to be followed by the students for the upcoming semester. The students were briefed about their attendance, examination procedures and basic regulations.

On the second day, the students were briefed about coursework and assessment plans for their new subjects for the semesters. The students also discussed about their student club activities. It's compulsory for the students to conduct at least two activities during the semester. The students were given an ultimatum to present their club activities to the programme advisors of the club.

Overall, the sessions we conducted with the students were successful. I am delighted to start the semester strong! Hopefully, the students and lecturers would be able to carry out the activities as planned.



Team Meetings: 5 Do's and Don'ts

By Ms Nurul Najwa

In any organization, team meetings are significantly important for many reasons. People conduct meetings to discuss things, solve problems, reach consensus as well as contributing to the success of a company. Not only that, meetings can also build a stronger relationship between team members since you can listen to their opinions personally. You might be wasting your time if you conduct meetings for the sake of just having it every week, month or year. Therefore, it is important to conduct effective meetings to ensure the quality of performance and smooth work path together.



Consequently, this article will discuss FIVE dos and don'ts of team meetings that everyone needs to practice when they're working in any organisation.

Do's

1. **Invite the right people to the meeting** - We need to determine the list of members who are relevant to the meeting. When we invite wrong people, they might not be able to contribute during the meeting and it will be a waste of time!
2. **Have an agenda and circulate it beforehand** - Agenda will tell them the topics that will be discussed during the meeting. Therefore, participants can brainstorm ideas beforehand and share them with other members in the meeting.
3. **Start and end your meetings on time** - As a chairman, do not drag your meetings and follow the schedule. When you conduct meetings for too long, people will be distracted, lose interests and focus! Your meeting will not be effective anymore.
4. **Keep it lively and warm** - Meetings can be boring sometimes. Instead of just discussing it in a serious manner, you can have small talks in between to maintain the discussion. They will be more open for discussions when we have small talks but don't go overboard!
5. **Be attentive and show empathy** - As a chairman, you need to be aware of the conditions of other participants. They might be sick or not feeling well so you should be helpful and attentive to them to avoid any unwanted things to happen.

Don'ts

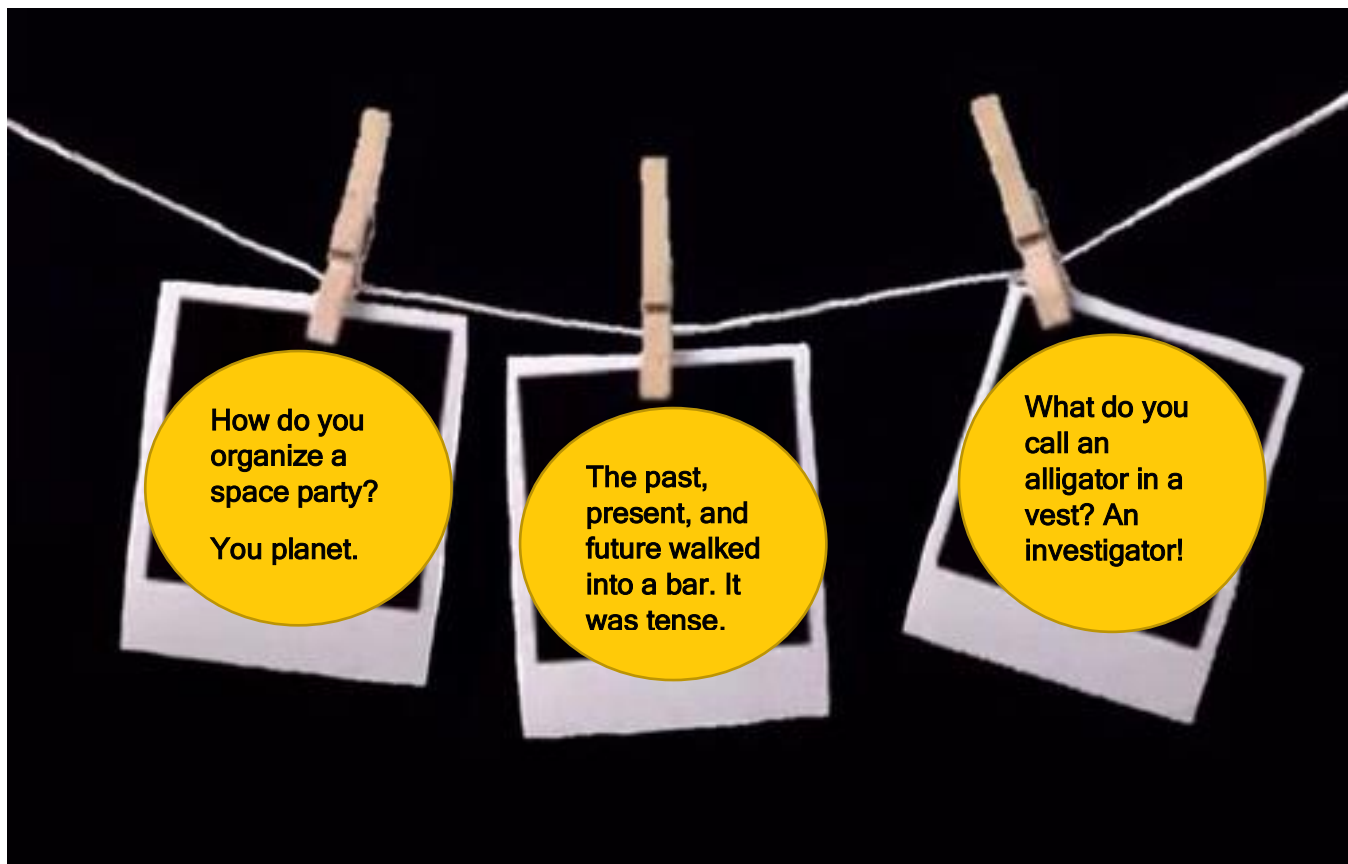
1. **Don't overachieve** - Don't try to cover as many items as you can in a single meeting. When you drag your meeting and discuss too many things, other participants may lose focus and interests. They might not be open to discuss or share ideas anymore because they want it to finish soon.
2. **Don't be a boss, be a LEADER** - as a chairman, don't instruct or give commands to your staff. Instead, you can show how the work can be done and lead them to complete it. Even though you are a chairman, don't be controlling. You should encourage your participants to share their ideas and opinions in the meeting as much as you can.

3. **Don't be negative** - as part of the participants, use constructive words to discuss and avoid being judgmental. By doing so, it will encourage other members to actively share their ideas and show their creativity. It's okay when you don't agree with someone, but express it politely.
4. **Don't check your smartphones when it's not necessary** - whenever you feel like the meeting gets dull, try not to check your phones too many times. Other members might feel like you're not interested to be part of the meeting. It will also show that you're not committed to do your work.
5. **Don't go back to previous items** - when you discuss each item on the agenda, make sure you get make decisions and it's agreed by everyone before you move on to the next one. Going back to the previous items can take up a lot of time and you might need to drag your meeting to cover everything.

Source: Adapted from expressvirtualmeeting.com

PUN CORNER

ARE YOU CLEVER ENOUGH TO DECODE THE PUN?



Comfort Within

By: Dhilllosha Krishnasuresh



Soft music that calms me,
A book in my hand,
Such simple things,
yet it brings out an emotion,
a happiness within me.

Precious little creature,
My bundle of fluffy joy,
He jumps up on the bed and snuggles,
bringing me to eternal happiness,
a saviour towards the dangers
that awaits me outside my door.

I lean against my headboard,
Smiling to myself,
Left with my thoughts,
My music, my likes
And myself.
Nothing could feel more perfect.

A simple break
to slow down,
And appreciate the little things,
That mean most to us,
to remember why we're here

And so here I lay,
Alone, in my happiness
With the warmth of my heart,
Smiling to myself,
Knowing deep down,
life isn't all that bad

for what matters,
we all have our days
where we feel lowest
for what matters,
we remember who we are
and why we exist
for life,
for yourself.



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

MAHSA University, Bandar Saujana Putra is committed to have our monthly thematic activities! Come join us!

For the month of April 2021, CEL will be hosting an array of events.

Check out the posters below to join!

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Unity Building, Level 6, MAHSA University,
Jalan SP 2, Bandar Saujana Putra,
42610 Jenjarom,
Selangor.



+603 5102 2200 (EXT. 2576) // 1800 88 0300



marketing@mahsa.edu.my