



dignity

transforming the poor
through education
Annual Report Excerpt 2017



Chairman's Message

Rev. Elisha Satvinder



"I have walked that long road to freedom. I have tried not to falter; I have made missteps along the way. But I have discovered the secret that after climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb. I have taken a moment here to rest, to steal a view of the glorious vista that surrounds me, to look back on the distance I have come. But I can only rest for a moment, for with freedom come responsibilities, and I dare not linger, for my long walk is not ended."

- Nelson Mandela

Dear friends, I am going to speak to you through the quote above by Mandela, one of the people who truly inspires me.

I am very clear and conscious of two critical foundations to our journey: (1) It is the amazing grace and love of God that has guided us all these years. (2) Amazing friends and donors like you who have walked this long road with us. Thank you!

Your support has been crucial to help us get to where we are at now, because truth be told, we have faltered many times along the way. But we have experienced God's grace and the amazing compassion of friends and supporters like you, who have given us space to pick ourselves up and continue on this journey.

We are about to reach the peak of our first hill as we celebrate our 20th anniversary in September 2018.

And even as we commemorate this hill, we have a view of the next hill ahead of us. But before we continue our walk up that next hill, won't you take a few moments to join me to admire the glorious vista that surrounds us:

Over the years we have seen more than 7000 children walk through our doors, 58 students have sat for their examinations under the Upper Secondary IGCSE Programme and 22 students are now Malaysian colleges.

2017 has led to 20 students sitting for IGCSE, for which they gained a 100% passing rate for Accounts, Biology and Chemistry and 14 students are now university ready.

And remember, many of these students came to us not being able to read or write well. Many were browbeaten into believing that they could not achieve their dreams.

They too are sitting next to us at this hilltop, admiring the vista of their achievements. They too have the next hill in view!

This year we launched two new Transformational Enterprises: Cut X Dignity and Sew X Dignity, along with the Enterprise and Internship Program (EIP) and have had the highest annual record of enrolled students thus far.

The EIP has seen 9 students complete their internships at various work placements, in addition to four students being granted scholarships for their tertiary education.

Even though we are tired from the journey, we cannot rest here. Petrina and I must carry on. So many other children have yet to start on their road to freedom and many have yet to climb to their mountain top.

The next hills, although higher, will be possible with friends like you. Therefore, **I implore you to continue to walk with us** as we climb towards our 'Urban Youth Education Village.'

All of which will only be possible when we walk down this hill and to the next mountaintop together.

Let's begin our journey to the next mountaintop.

Blessings.



“Because of Dignity’s intervention and care, I have now graduated secondary school with straight A’s.”

Muhammad Ishak

Alumnus Testimony

When I first started primary school, I attended a small community learning centre. After a year my mother realised that I was not receiving a good education. Being Rohingyas, we faced many difficulties as a family. However, my mother understood the importance of education and enrolled me into Dignity.

Soon, I was improving in my studies and was fluent in both English and Malay within a year. Moreover, Dignity helped me discover my passion for football.

I was even privileged to be given the chance to train under a professional coach and was able to be a part of the Faisal Cup football tournament.

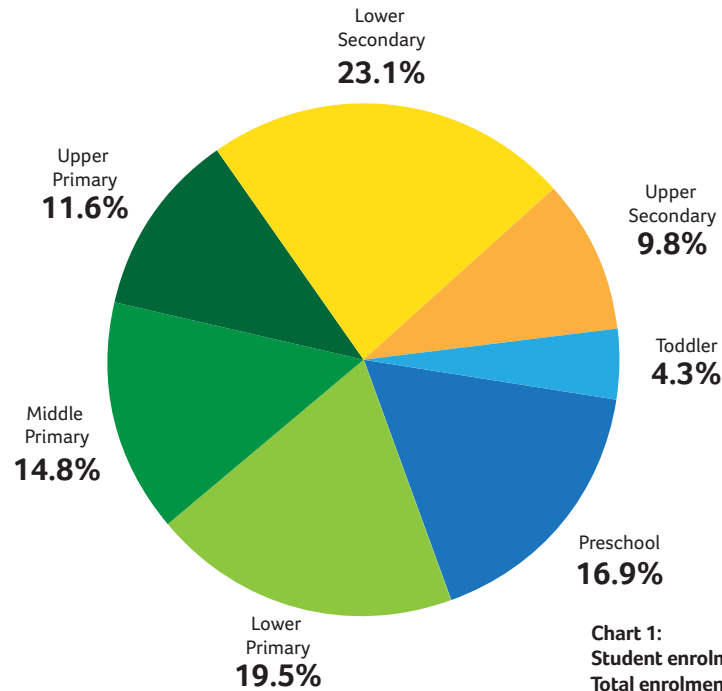
Unfortunately, when I was 12, my family ran out of money and I had to drop out of school. I was incredibly sad as I loved school, my friends and teachers.

My teachers noticed that I was not in school and contacted my mother. Because of Dignity’s intervention and care, I have now graduated secondary school with straight A’s in my IGCSE examinations.

All of this would have not been possible if Dignity did not intervene.

Before pursuing higher education, I want to give back to Dignity as an assistant teacher.

Our Programmes



Early Childhood Programme

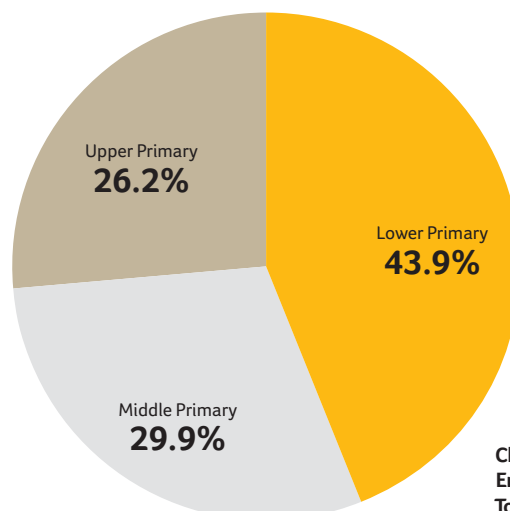
The Preschool is the first formal education programme established in Dignity and it has grown over the years. In 2017, we had 160 students enrol with us and it is also the first year where we have 3 full classrooms for preschool.

The Toddler Stimulation Programme, designed for children aged 1-2, focuses on helping them develop the fundamental skills of physical coordination, social awareness, independence, initiative, self-confidence and self-discipline. Whereas in the Preschool Programme, children aged 3-6 continue developing their senses and independence while focusing on their linguistic skills.

Primary Programme

The primary programme also observes the Montessori methodology. The children are therefore able to learn at their own pace and interest. All classrooms are equipped with hands on materials to aid the children in taking on new challenges, concepts and skills.

In 2017, Middle Primary was introduced so that we are better able to cater to the vast difference in the children's level. In the previous years, students were grouped together in age groups of 7-9 and 10-12 year olds.



Secondary Programme

The Secondary Programme merges the traditional Cambridge IGCSE curriculum with employability and entrepreneurial trainings.

Our community-based approach for youth provides an inspiring space which allows them to tinker and engage with materials. It also spurs their imagination, creativity, talents and redefines schooling success.

Dignity's model places the classroom within the setting of a shop lot which houses our 'transformational enterprises'.

The Upper Secondary graduation was held in April after the confirmed IGCSE results were released.

In 2016, we recorded a 58% passing rate out of a total of 62 papers registered for. This year, we saw an increase of 20 percentage points in the number of students passing (78% passes). Grades C and above are considered 'pass'.

23 students enrolled for the IGCSE examinations this year, compared to 17 in 2016.

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| eat × dignity | cut × dignity | sew × dignity |
| 52 students | 44 students | 60 students |

Table 1: Number of students trained in each transformational enterprise. Total: 156 students. (eat x dignity was previously Project B)

Transformational Enterprise

Started in 2015 with a handful of classes, today there are 8 skills classes including a coding class pilot project in collaboration with StreetCode, a coding platform, in America.

In 2017, we have taken bigger strides towards fulfilling the vision of the Youth Village: where youth can engage in whole-person learning and develop the soft skills and a variety of life skills needed to succeed in life. Over 100 students enrolled in the various classes.

Students train in our various enterprises, of which we had 3 by December 2017. Since inception in June 2015, our three enterprises have formally trained 156 students.

Employability Programme

The need for a practical and employability-oriented education has become increasingly clear. With the still-high rate of youth unemployment in Malaysia coupled with the clear call for better communication and soft skills in the workplace, Dignity developed the Employability and Internship Program (EIP) – a 1 year program focused on honing key skills that are vital to secure a job and do it excellently.

The course focused on developing conversational English and Mathematics, key business concepts, and core values such as

good team work, proactivity, accountability, consistency and punctuality. Classes were project-based, with the focus on giving presentations to enhance communication competencies and other employability workshops like writing resumes, taking interviews, and good grooming. Outside the classroom, camping opportunities and outdoors activities provided a platform for bonding and teamwork.

After 8 months at Dignity, the pioneer batch of 10 students was sent for internships in related businesses.



First cohort of Employability and Internship students with their class teacher.



One of our employability students on her first day of internship at a manicure and pedicure parlour in Petaling Jaya, Selangor.



Three of our woodworking students with their skills trainer, James, on their first day of internship at Kian Furniture, a well known premium furniture brand. 2 students worked at their headquarters, doing administrative and financial work. Another student interned at the factory in Sungai Buloh.

2017 Highlights

January

Staff orientation.
Parents & student orientation.
Faisal Cup training begins!

February

Form 4 UYE one-month
trip to Bentong Happy Farm.

March

Form 4 and 5 STEP students
8-day trip to Bentong.
First parent-teacher meeting.
First teachers' training of 2017.

April

Toddler children deworming.
Lower Secondary first talk show.
Children were invited to watch
"Thunderbird" at KLPAC.

May

3 days of Faisal Cup tournament
commences!
15 children watches
"Salam Konichiwa" at KLPAC.

June

South-East Asia training goes
on for one week. Participants
from six locations came
together for training in the
Montessori methodology.
Lower Primary children
visits Kidzania.

July

IMU age estimation programme.
LEAD League games begin.

August

2nd parent-teacher meeting.
Third teachers' training
programme of 2017 during the
school holidays.

September

Upper Secondary Youth
Conference: Steve Chow
addressed a crowd of
60 students.

October

Form 5 sits for IGCSE
examinations. 23 students
registered for the examinations.

November

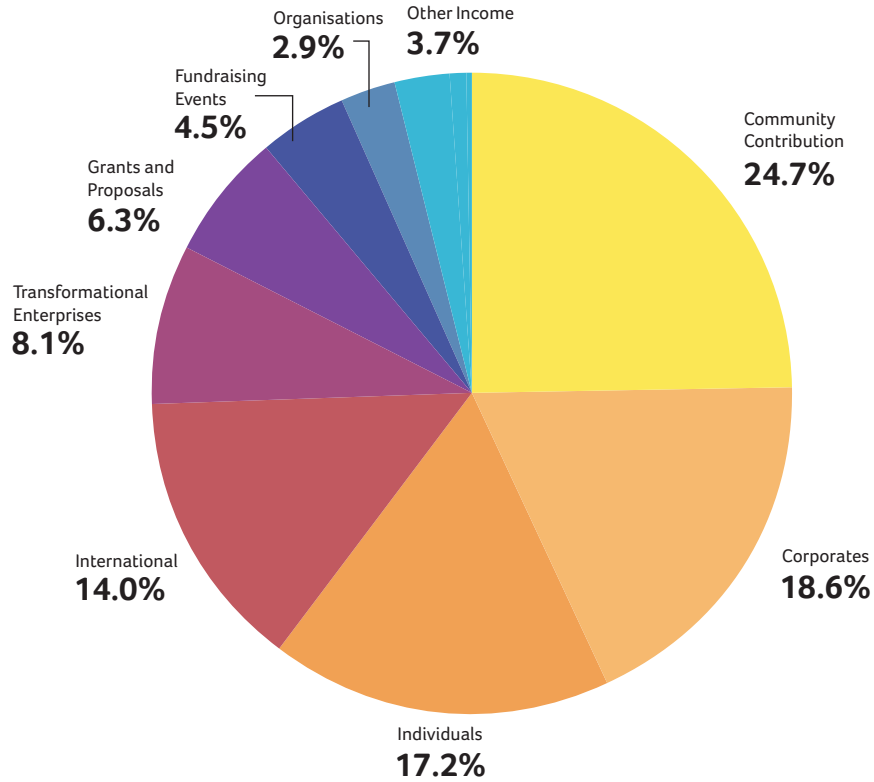
ISKL counselors conducted a
workshop for early childhood
and primary teachers.
Student year-end celebrations.
Upper Secondary teachers
learning visits to schools in
Bangalore, India.

December

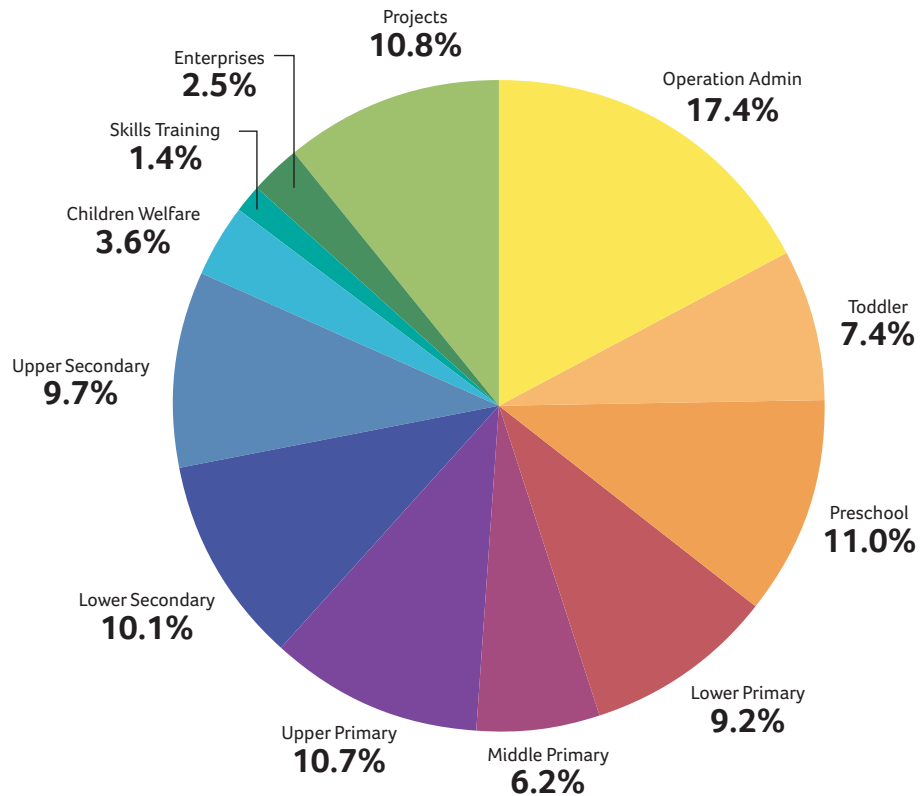
Students and teachers
participate in a series of
fundraising choir performances
at Publika Shopping Mall.

Our Finances

Donations received - RM 6,860,823



Expenses incurred - RM 6,833,911



dignity

at 9, Jenny was abandoned
by her mother.

at 12, Soon was raped!

at 14, Azam dropped out of school.

at 15, Wang was into drug

at 16, Aaron is
still illiterate.

at 17, Ken was
released from prison.

You can help to stop this list
from getting longer.

empower-a-child!

your prompt action today can save lives

Empower a child today and give him hope for a purposeful future. When you empower a child at Dignity for Children Foundation, you enable us to provide underprivileged children with long term quality education and care in a secure environment and meet their fundamental needs. Together, we can stop evil, reverse injustice and help redeem their future.

Return childhood, restore hope and redeem the poor!

**one child, one action,
ends poverty forever!**

"He who opens a school door,
closes a prison." VICTOR HUGO

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