

TRANSFORMING LIVES TWENTY YEARS OF
dignity
20

Annual Report Excerpt 2018

dignity for children foundation
506188W

21-4 Jalan 15/48A,
Sentul Boulevard 51000
Kuala Lumpur

P O Box 196, Gombak
53700 Kuala Lumpur
dignity@dignityforchildren.org

tel 603 4044 1397
fax 603 4044 1395
www.dignityforchildren.org

Chairman's Message



Never would we have dared dream in 1998 that the small seed which we planted then would grow into Dignity for Children Foundation as it is today!

As I reflect over the past 2 decades, this image born of an Eastern expression comes to mind: a palm facing upwards gives freely and invites potential yet that same palm facing downwards covers negativity. This image aptly describes Dignity. Having just our hands, we offered them freely to a loving God seeking, with humble hearts, His grace and blessing as we reached out to whoever we could take hold of to give them a new sense of purpose in life and an opportunity to realise their full potential. With those same hands, empowered by a Mighty God, we swept away past defeats and disappointments and instilled the courage for taking the steps towards a brand new day!

To nurture and empower underprivileged children to be world changers through transformative education: this is who we are!

Allow me to walk you through some of our memorable highlights. Since 1998, over 7300 children have walked through our doors, 88 students have completed secondary school with 36% of them pursuing tertiary education and we have partnered with various people to help set up 12 schools in East Malaysia. As the pages to follow and stories on our website show, lives have been restored and we truly have much to celebrate and be thankful for, not least of all, for the host of wonderful partners, generous friends and amazing fellow workers who joined us on this journey.

Even when we faced difficult times, faithful partners and friends spurred us on even as we kept our focus on the positive impact our work was having on the community and our beloved children. After 2 decades of helming Dignity, it is now my greatest privilege to introduce you to James Ling Wan Chye, our new Chairman. James and his wife, Sue Ann have been outstanding friends.

There is much work yet to be done and so many more children to impact. As we continue our journey, James together with an exceptional team of Trustees, will take the lead and our dedicated heads of departments and passionate staff will continue to provide vital support. I will be running alongside all of them and invite all of you all to join us as we look forward to the next 20 years.

May God bless all of you and His mighty hand rest upon Dignity for Children Foundation!

Rev Elisha Satvinder
Co-founder

“To nurture and empower underprivileged children to be world changers through transformative education: this is who we are!”

2018 Highlights



Field Trip to Farm in the City

A total of 18 Lower Primary children participated in a field trip to Farm in the City. This trip was made possible with the sponsorship of Yayasan Kosan Bhd. The children, accompanied by teachers and parents had a great time exploring the flora and fauna available in the farm.



Visit to KidZania

160 Lower Primary students had the opportunity to visit KidZania to experience various occupations and also learn about financial literacy.

Field Trip to Sekinchan Paddy Fields

As part of an annual class project, two classes managed to raise funds for a trip to Sekinchan! Students and teachers contributed ingredients such as eggs, rice, sambal and participated in food preparation. Their aim was to sell breakfast to senior students and staff. Through

this, they were exposed to teamwork, communication, Mathematics and cooking. Everybody was thrilled when the trip came by! During the trip, they not only learnt about rice planting but also about the different types of rice. Also, the picturesque paddy field was a welcome bonus!



Taman Tugu Nursery Visit

25 Middle Primary students participated in a field trip to gain exposure to mother nature and the importance of growing trees. Each child had the opportunity to participate in tree planting, courtesy of Taman Tugu.



National Science Centre Visit

Lower Primary students from the morning and afternoon sessions visited the National Science Centre on 29th and 30th August separately. Many 'Ooohs' and 'Aaahs' were heard as they learnt about concepts such as gravity and the periodic table. Some were simply delighted to discover animals camouflaged among branches in some of the exhibits!





Science & Art Exhibition

This was a pilot project started this year for Upper Primary students. It is inspired by alternative schools such as High-Tech-High and the Bali Green School. It is a platform for students to conduct research on topics they have mastered to showcase their learning to others.

There were many project weeks spread throughout the year to prepare students for this exhibition. Throughout the year, they gained exposure on research, communication, presentation and reporting skills.

Students from the Lower Primary, Middle Primary and Lower Secondary Education Programmes came to visit the exhibition booths. The second day of the exhibition coincided with the final Parent-Teacher meeting of the year. Hence, parents also had a chance to visit and observe the fruits of their children's learning.



Sungai Chiling Girls Camping Trip

This was a 2D1N camping trip organised for girls. A similar trip were initially organised for the boys. The night before the trip, the girls stayed overnight on school premises with their teachers where they shopped for groceries, planned the menu and played games together. The following day they learnt to set up camp and experienced cooking with limited tools. For many, it was a first-time experience which will last a lifetime!



Month-long Travel and Learn

The objective of the 1 month Travel and Learn component of the Upper Secondary Education Programme is rooted in Montessori's idea of what an ideal learning environment for adolescence could be like. She envisioned a farm school where teenagers would be have hands-on roles in ensuring the sustainability of life on the farm while growing in their academic knowledge through lessons on site.

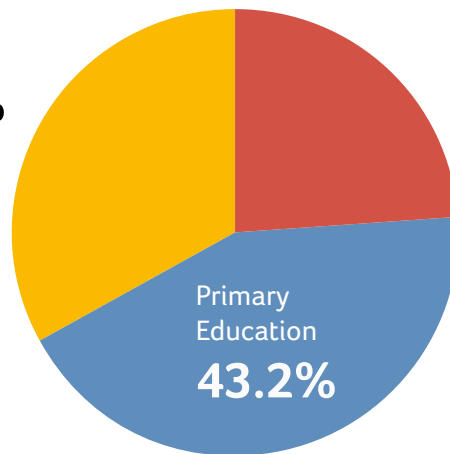
Weekly, various teachers dropped by to conduct supplementary workshops and lessons to support the programme while the class teacher took a quick breather from the class! 27 students participated in this year's programme.

Our Team: Class of 2018



Our Programmes

Secondary Education
32.8%



Early Childhood Education
24.0%

Breakdown of students per programme
Total enrolment: 1176 students

Early Childhood Education

This programme comprises of two sub-programmes: Montessori Toddler Stimulation Programme and Montessori Preschool Programme.

The Montessori Toddler Stimulation Programme is catered to toddlers aged 1 & 2 years old. Using the Montessori method, this programme develop toddlers to become independent. Children are exposed to a play environment equipped with manipulative toys and materials that encourage sensory exploration for developing gross and fine motor skills, independence and cognitive skills.

For children aged 3 to 6, the Montessori Preschool Programme helps children learn to read, write and develop arithmetic skills through the Montessori educational approach.

In 2018, we enrolled a total of 282 children into the Early Childhood Education Programme, a 43.3% increase from 2017.

25 toddlers and 223 preschoolers completed a year of education from the Montessori Toddler Stimulation and Preschool Programmes respectively in 2018.

Primary Education

The Montessori Primary Education Programmes focus on providing quality education as a continuous support to the on-going literacy and holistic development for children in the fundamental years.

There are 3 sub-programmes under Primary Education: Lower Primary (7 to 8 years old), Middle Primary (9 to 10 years old) and Upper Primary (11 to 12 years old).

This programme implements mixed-age groups in every classroom. Children learn best in a mixed-age community as this contributes to better social development in them and allows for academic flexibility. Weekly sports sessions take place on Fridays.

Various sections and learning corners in the classroom are set up according to the needs of the children. This includes Sensorial and Practical Life, Reading, Visual Arts and the four core academic subjects: English, Bahasa Malaysia, Science and Mathematics.

In 2018, we saw an increase in enrolment across the Middle and Upper Primary programmes (18.7% and 25.8% respectively) with a slight dip (8.2%) in the Lower Primary programme.

Secondary Education



Quality education in Secondary Education is not just limited to academic success but must also be holistic in nature. For youth aged 13-18 years old, that means preparing them for a future career, stable employment and success in the workplace.

The Secondary Education Programme is divided into the Lower Secondary, Middle Secondary and Upper Secondary programmes.

The Lower and Middle Secondary Programmes continue to develop confidence and communication skills in our youth. They are also mentored by teachers as they navigate their transition into adolescence.

The Upper Secondary Programme takes a dual-pronged approach to youth education: vocational exposure is made mandatory alongside academics (Cambridge IGCSE) to prepare our youth for a future of stable lifelong employment.

In 2018, we saw an increase in overall enrolment across the programme (17.0%). We also observed a dip in student numbers in the Lower Secondary programme. This was because the new Middle Secondary programme was carved out of the Lower Secondary in 2018 to better cater to the needs of our students.

Faisal Cup Tournament



2018 marked the 13th year of the Faisal Cup Football Tournament which showed a healthy participation of 704 players from 88 teams and 16 learning centre around the Klang Valley.

Since its inception in 2006, over 4700 players had participated collectively in this annual event. The Faisal Cup is the first and only football tournament of its kind in Malaysia. It is more than just a football tournament: it is a platform for underprivileged children to participate in organised sports and acts as a voice of freedom and opportunity.

This year we streamlined resources to focus on the development of football for girls, thus dropping netball from the tournament altogether.

Through the Faisal Cup, we continue to provide children with systematic football training by trained coaches, facilitate children to play with each other to promote good sportsmanship and instill good character through our annual Peace Camp programme.

Teachers' Training Programme



Two sets of teachers' trainings were conducted in 2018. The first was a series of trainings for teachers in Dignity. Trainings were conducted in March, May and June by our senior teachers.

The second training involved participants from South East Asia countries such as Cambodia, Thailand and Myanmar as well as teachers from community learning centres around Malaysia. A total of 57 teachers attended this training

which was conducted in August. 35 teachers attended the Early Childhood training while 22 took part in the Lower Primary training.

The training curriculum included training on how to use the Montessori materials, Montessori philosophy, basic first aid training, social-emotional learning and classroom management among others. It was conducted over the school holidays and culminates in a written and practical assessment.

Our Enterprises

Students gain exposure to vocational training through real-life environments while completing their academics in IGCSE.

eat X dignity



Established 2015 in partnership with Berjaya Cares Foundation and the B.I.G. Group

eat X dignity is a café and creative space which gives back to the community it serves. Customers are served by youth who brew the coffee, man the till, and serve them delicious meals that are fresh, affordable and made from locally sourced produce. This provides a real-life environment for them to gain vocational exposure for 1-2 days a week.

In 2018, we recorded a 29.8% growth in total revenue (RM690,559) year-on-year. However, this was

offset by a 34.8% increase in total expenses (RM659,734).

Nevertheless, eat X dignity closed its financial year with a net profit of RM30,825 which will be reinvested into improving operations and replacing old and faulty equipment.

The growth in revenue was largely due to various catering orders for functions by corporates and individuals.

cut X dignity



Established 2017 in partnership with Seksan Design and Lex Low from Othrs Barbers

In cut X dignity, Upper Secondary students have the opportunity to pick up basic hairdressing skills such as washing, blowdrying, styling and cutting hair under the tutelage of external and in-house trainers.

Students who are serious about making this a career choice in the future have the option of going through our Level 2 training where they will be further developed in skill of hair dressing.

cut X dignity also provides haircolouring, hair treatment services and haircut workshops for the public, conducted by our stylists.

In 2018, we recorded a 25.1% growth in total revenue (RM64,507) year-on-year with total expenses of RM86,225. We also recorded a 85.9% drop in expenses due to a high initial capital expenditure in 2017, being the year cut X dignity was established.

sew X dignity



Established 2017 with the help of EPIC Homes volunteers

Sew X dignity started off as a sewing class run by our co-founder, Petrina. As the programme grew, we saw the business potential for this and in December 2017 launched it as a Transformational Enterprise.

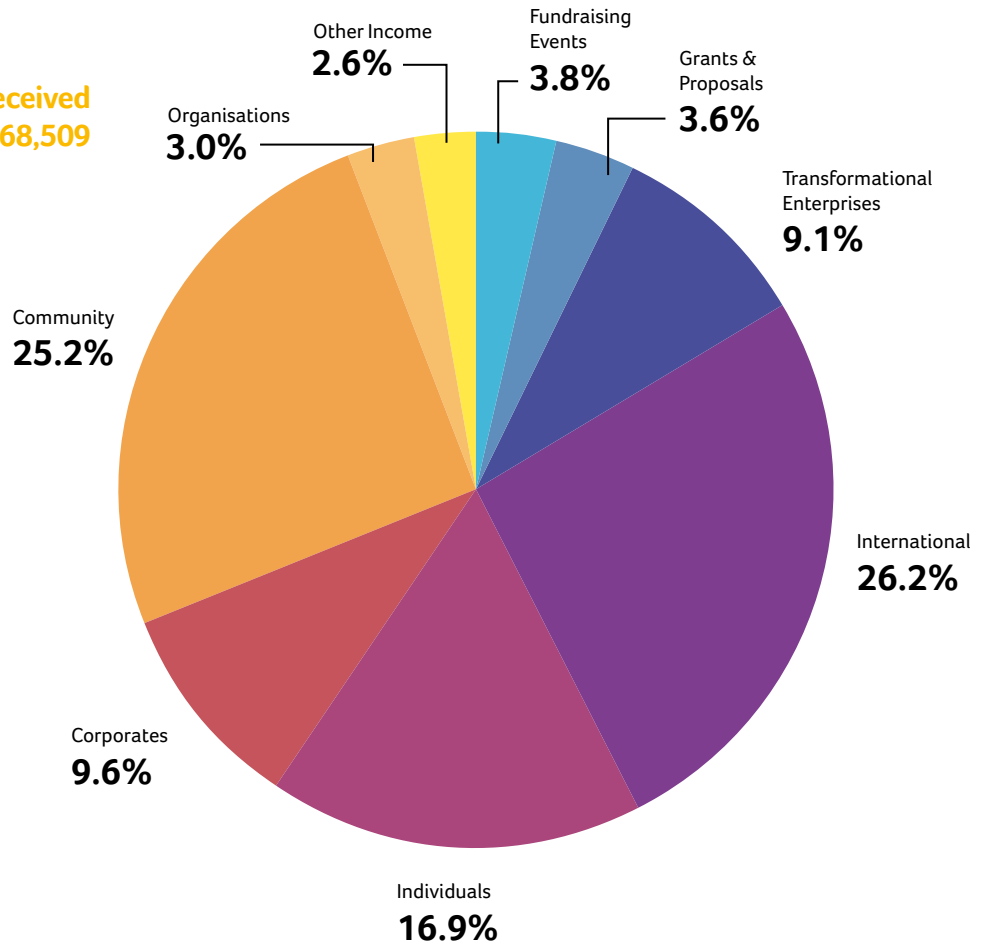
As part of the Urban Youth Education Village, sew X dignity functions as a training space to expose students to various skills in sewing and understanding textiles.

Under the mentorship of two full-time seamstresses, student were guided through various orders for corporate gifts and events.

In 2018, we recorded a total revenue of RM40,783. This, however, was offset by a total expenses of RM52,454. sew X dignity recorded a net loss of RM11,671 in 2018 in its first year operating as an enterprise.

Our Finances

Donations received
RM8,968,509



Expenses incurred
RM8,920,104

