Is the Malaysian Education System in Crisis?

Wan Saiful Wan Jan,
CEO Institute of Democracy and Economic Affairs
MAIN POINTS

- IDEAS Nationwide Education Survey of the Bottom 40 percent
- Revised Trust School model as potential solution
IDEAS SURVEY OF THE BOTTOM 40 PERCENT
WHO DID WE TALK TO?

- 1300 parents in the bottom 40%
- Monthly household income: RM 919
- Average number of children: 2-3
SOME KEY FINDINGS
90% are not aware of the Malaysian Education Blueprint 2013-2025
Parents are satisfied with school administration, facilities and pedagogical aspects. They readily trust the school and teachers in educating their children. As if we don’t need a new blueprint!

What do they think about the current schools?

Strongly Agree/Agree

- The school has effective administration/management 92%
- The teachers ensure that their students succeed in their studies 89%
- The teachers know their subjects very well 89%
- The school has good quality facilities/infrastructure 89%
- The school is a safe place for my child (including protection from bullying and gangsterism) 86%
- Classes take place as scheduled (there is no period with no teacher in class) 86%
- The school has a good track record of academic achievement among the students 84%

They don’t seem to know what a ‘better’ school could be like
97% of parents say that current school is their “preferred choice”. But in reality, they choose that school because they don’t have a choice.

It seems they don’t have an option
HOW DOES THE POOR VIEW PRIVATE SCHOOLS?

Private school is an aspiration as majority rated it well with regards to:
- teacher quality,
- extra-curricular activities,
- diversity
- English proficiency

Strongly Agree/Agree

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefit</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Enable kids to speak English better</td>
<td>78%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Have better teachers</td>
<td>75%</td>
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<td>Have more extra-curricular activities</td>
<td>71%</td>
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<td>Are more diverse in terms of ethnicity</td>
<td>62%</td>
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<td>Do not offer government curriculum</td>
<td>16%</td>
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<td>Are not recognized by the Ministry of Education</td>
<td>17%</td>
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They like it, but clearly can’t afford it
55% of the parents would not pay to go to a fee-paying school due to concerns about other education-related expenditures. But 74% will send their children to a private school if the government pays the fees for them.

Affordability is a major issue.
- There is a real gap between perception and reality, especially among the poor

- They think they are getting a good deal

- Even if they aspire to a better system (e.g., private schools), they can’t afford it

- They don’t even know what a ‘better’ system could look like.

- The poor is the hardest hit by the problem.
HOW CAN WE IMPROVE IT?
THE GOVERNMENT ALREADY HAS ONE ANSWER

SHIFT 9: PARTNER WITH PARENTS, COMMUNITY, AND PRIVATE SECTOR AT SCALE

Expand *Trust School* model to 500 schools by 2025 by including alumni groups and NGOs as potential sponsors.
THE CURRENT TRUST SCHOOL MODEL

- **Education policy maker**
- **Regulator**
- **Public schools owner**

Public/Private Sector Operation & Management Agreement (“PPSOMA”)

- **Non-profit organisation**
  - Sets overall vision and strategic direction of the TSP
  - Procures sponsors for the financial sustainability of the TSP

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**MoE**

- Normal government funding for capex and opex

**Yayasan AMIR**

- Wholly-owned subsidiary of KhazanahNasionalBerhad (Education service provider)

**LeapEd Services**

- Wholly-owned subsidiary of KhazanahNasionalBerhad (Education service provider)

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**Trust Schools Network**

- Up to 50 schools

A specialist team is deployed to each school

Sponsors
A MORE SCALABLE (AND SIMPLE) TRUST SCHOOL MODEL

Ministry of Education

Government Funding

Public-Private Sector Operating & Management Agreement (PPSOMA)

Education Services Provider (Yayasan / NGO / Company / Community Group / etc)

Trust School 1

Trust School 2

Trust School n

Lowers the barrier to entry, gives more choice, creates competition
CONCLUSION

• Yes we have crisis at hand, and the poor suffers the most
• The government already has some answers
• Must be bold and revise the model
• Give the poor a choice
THANK YOU

Wan Saiful Wan Jan
wansaiful@ideas.org.my
www.ideas.org.my
013-278 6334
Majority of the parents agreed that vocational / technical schools are useful, high quality and is a gateway for a good job.

- Provide useful life skills: 84%
- Provide high quality education: 82%
- Provide a gateway for a good job and income: 77%
- Is a good choice for my child: 54%
- Is too far away from my home: 41%
- Is an option for weak children only: 26%
- Prefer not to send children to vocational / technical schools: 13%

→ Vocational and technical education could provide another education choice for parents and students if readily available.