

Picking up a love for badminton

Orang asli children learn the game, thanks to company's CSR initiative



A J-World Sports coach checking on one of his student's technique.

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AN increasing number of children from orang asli schools and orphanages are picking up badminton, as they join clinics coached by professionals.

These kids are taught the basics like racquet holding techniques, how to serve, proper footwork and coordination.

During a recent clinic at the Champion Arena in Kampung Sungai Kayu Ara, Petaling Jaya, the kids were happy to play badminton in the large indoor courts.

Eleven-year-old Akmal Hazim from Rumah Amal Asnaf Al-Barakh was all smiles upon entering the court, as he clutched his racquet tightly.

"We really like badminton and we love playing against each other in our hostel.

"So coming here to play in the courts and to learn new techniques is fun," said Akmal.

There were around 100 children at the clinic including those from SK Sungai Melut (A), SK Bukit Tampoi (A), SK Bukit Lanjan (A), and Rumah Amal Asnaf Al-Barakh.

The clinic is under the "Sports for All" programme run by I-World Sports as part of **Kumpulan Perangasng Selangor Bhd's** (Perangasng Selangor) corporate social responsibility (CSR) efforts.

A total of nine badminton clinics are run each year, with two set



The children from SK Sungai Melut (A), SK Bukit Tampoi (A), SK Bukit Lanjan (A) and Rumah Amal Asnaf Al-Barakh who were invited to the Sports for All badminton clinic. — Photos: SAMUEL ONG/The Star

aside especially for children from underprivileged communities.

"We want to cultivate the importance of sports for kids from needy families.

"It's tough for these kids because they only get to attend the coaching clinic once or twice a year, but we would like to help them improve their skills at best as we can," said Jason Wong of J-World Sports.

"We are continually trying to find potential talents as well, but the growing number of participants are a huge encouragement already," added Wong.

The "Sports for All" badminton clinics have been carried out since 2014, and has about 800 participants per year, from senior citizens to underprivileged children.

"As a whole, we also run clinics

under the programme for seven other sports like swimming, archery and sepak takraw," said Shahruz Izad Yahya of Perangasng Selangor.

"We want to give back to the community through sports because sports doesn't discriminate. It's for everyone," added Shahruz.

"In the previous years after the kids return from the clinics, they can't stop talking about it for a

couple of months," said Asnaf Al-Barakh welfare organisation vice-president Yusof Noor.

"They continue playing almost every day, until they even forget to return for their meals," said Yusof with a chuckle.

A senior citizen badminton clinic and tips session will also be carried out by Wong and his team this month.