

**CORPORATED
MANAGEMENT / HUMAN RESOURCES**

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EXAMS

Stress kills interest in learning

AS a parent, I can't agree more with the key point raised by your report "When good grades matter too much". Many parents nowadays are pushing their children too hard in their quest for excellence. In doing so, the parents create tremendous mental stress in children and an unhappy atmosphere at home.

We ought to know that this pressure does the children no good in the long term, both emotionally and physically. It also kills their interest and joy in learning. It is sad to note that even our primary school pupils are finding things

tough in school. I have personally witnessed many mothers going to school early to help their children complete unfinished homework in the classroom before classes begin. Some would even openly scold and reprimand these kids in front of others. It is also not uncommon to hear parents comparing their kids' performance and results with their classmates.

Many children, especially those in urban areas, are often pressured into taking up music lessons and attending tuition after school hours.

The purpose of education is not only to impart knowledge to the students but nurture and develop a

human being physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually so that he and she would grow up to be a happy and healthy individual.

We must learn to balance up things for them, otherwise the nation would only end up producing "cool-hearted intellectuals". Parents must not put too much strain on their children and expect too much from them. Overdoing things would also cause many young children to become depressed and even resort to committing suicide or running away from home. As loving and responsible parents and adults, we must set our priorities, or else our kids will suffer and pay a heavy price for our ignorance,

greed and pride.

I feel sad to see the picture of a 12-year-old girl crying despite scoring 4As and 1B in the just concluded Ujian Pencapaian Sekolah Rendah examination and I will not be surprised to find many similar cases throughout the country. I wonder what would happen when these kids reach secondary and tertiary education? It is a major concern all Malaysians must take note of. Teach our young ones to have better living, social and communication skills to help them be better prepared to face life's many challenges.

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