

dignity25

25 YEARS OF TRANSFORMING LIVES

25 YEARS
IMPACT
REPORT





our vision

to nurture and empower world changers through transformative education.

our mission

education

To establish world-class community-based education programmes and transformational training enterprises.

educator

To build generations of passionate, skilled and ambitious teams of educators and support staff.

community

To inspire and rally the community to create and experience the transformative journey.

training

To be a leading hub for transformational education, community work and research in the ASEAN region.

ON THE COVER:
"Transformation through Education" is painted by Umirahman, 19 years old.

The rusty lock symbolizes the closed mindset of girls without education. But with education, girls find new confidence, strength, and hope for a brighter and purposeful future represented by the young and unexpected shoot growing out of the lock.

Umirahman has studied for 3 years at Dignity and is currently interning as an assistant at art X dignity.



transformation

diversity



hope

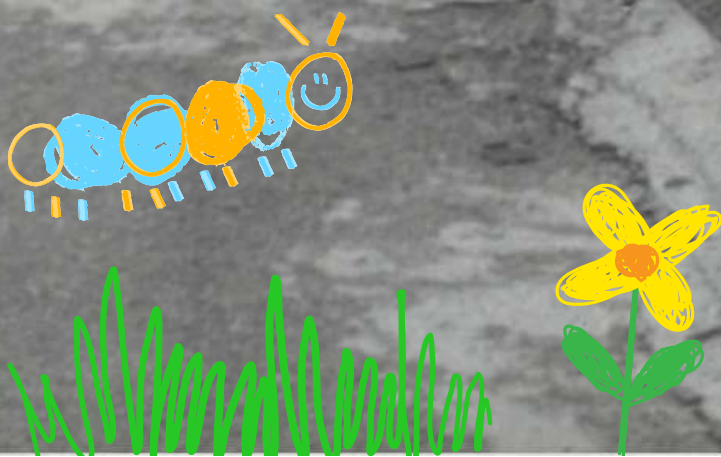
dignity25

25 YEARS OF TRANSFORMING LIVES

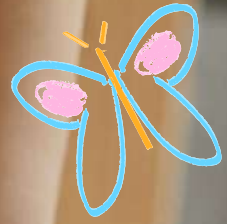
without intervention



No child wants to be born poor



with intervention



A transformed life:
Lavaniya's story



Co-Founders Message

Dear friends,

We never intended to establish a school. However, our lives took an unexpected turn when we encountered the underprivileged residents of the community flats and those residing in squatter homes in Sentul, Kuala Lumpur. This encounter profoundly impacted us, igniting the beginning of the work of Dignity - a belief that every child, created in the image of God, possesses immense value and worth. Our aspiration was simple: to provide these children with our very best, preparing them for a brighter future that they rightfully deserve.

Poverty is a harsh and unrelenting cycle, encompassing more than just financial scarcity and limited access to basic necessities. It involves social exclusion, increased health risks, and psychological and emotional consequences that can continue across generations.

Achieving measurable and meaningful transformation requires more than just academic education; it requires cultivating trusting relationships over time, inspiring and touching hearts, nurturing and shaping character, and empowering hands with practical skills.

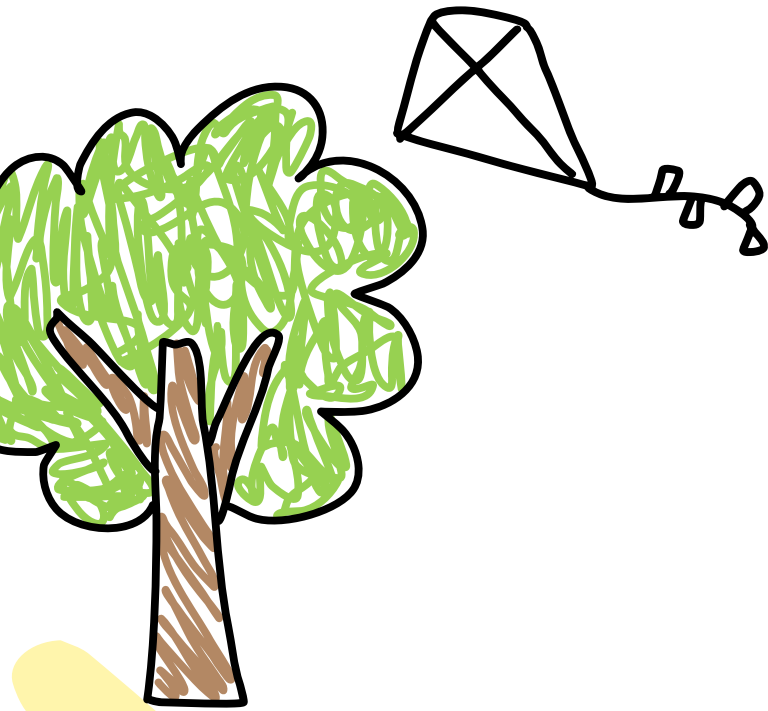
Through careful observation, trial, and error, we developed the Montessori-inspired holistic program that we proudly practise today.



Reflecting upon our journey, we are deeply humbled by our accomplishments. Beginning with 20 children in a single shop lot, we have evolved into a comprehensive, all-encompassing learning centre that annually serves 2,200 children from 30 nationalities, ages 3 to 19.



"Ingatan Kecil Saya" painting by Zuraida, 17 years old from the Iban tribe.



However, our work is far from complete, so we persevere. The pressing needs within our society persist. Many Malaysian youth are not in school, and the gap between the rich and the poor continues to widen. As a global community, we confront the challenges of entrenched inequality driven by capitalism, a growing refugee crisis, and an increasingly urgent environmental crisis. Yet, we hold onto hope, believing that we can make a difference, one child and one family at a time.

Over the years, we've

- welcomed 10,000 children through our doors,
- established 7 Transformational Enterprises,
- introduced a Skills Training and Education Program benefiting over 200 youth annually and
- initiated 20 grassroots and community learning centers across Malaysia and the ASEAN region.

In 2021, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, we piloted our Farm School in Bentong, Pahang, a venture to instill sustainable farming practices and environmental education in our children, who are the future stewards of our planet.

Thank you!

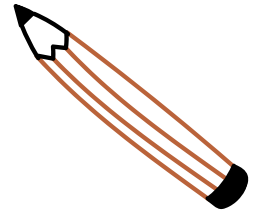


A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Elisha and Petrina Satvinder".

With heartfelt gratitude,
Rev. Elisha and Petrina Satvinder
Founders



Chairman's Message



"The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education."

- Martin Luther King Jr.

Dear valued supporters and friends,

Since our work began in 1998, Dignity has embarked on a transformative journey alongside the communities we serve, guided by the principles of trust and inclusivity. Through deep engagement and careful listening to the voices and needs of families, we have developed educational programs that are child-centered and foster a sense of belonging.

Central to our philosophy is the belief in a child's innate ability to learn and grow through self-directed exploration. Coupled with our belief that every human is worthy of love and dignity and has vast amounts of creative potential, we committed to building a school that celebrates and uplifts the marginalized. A school that caters to the whole person, empowers them through transformative education and helps them unleash their potential.

Our aspiration is to continue building a model of educational excellence that fearlessly pushes boundaries, embracing creative experimentation to provide the best care and education for our children. Simultaneously, we strive to contribute to the national and global discourse on poverty and education, driving positive change and fostering a more inclusive society.

We are immensely grateful for the support and trust that you have placed in us that has allowed us to impact more lives and communities. It has been inspiring and impactful to see so many individuals, corporations and organisations coming alongside to partner and participate in the journey of the past 25 years.

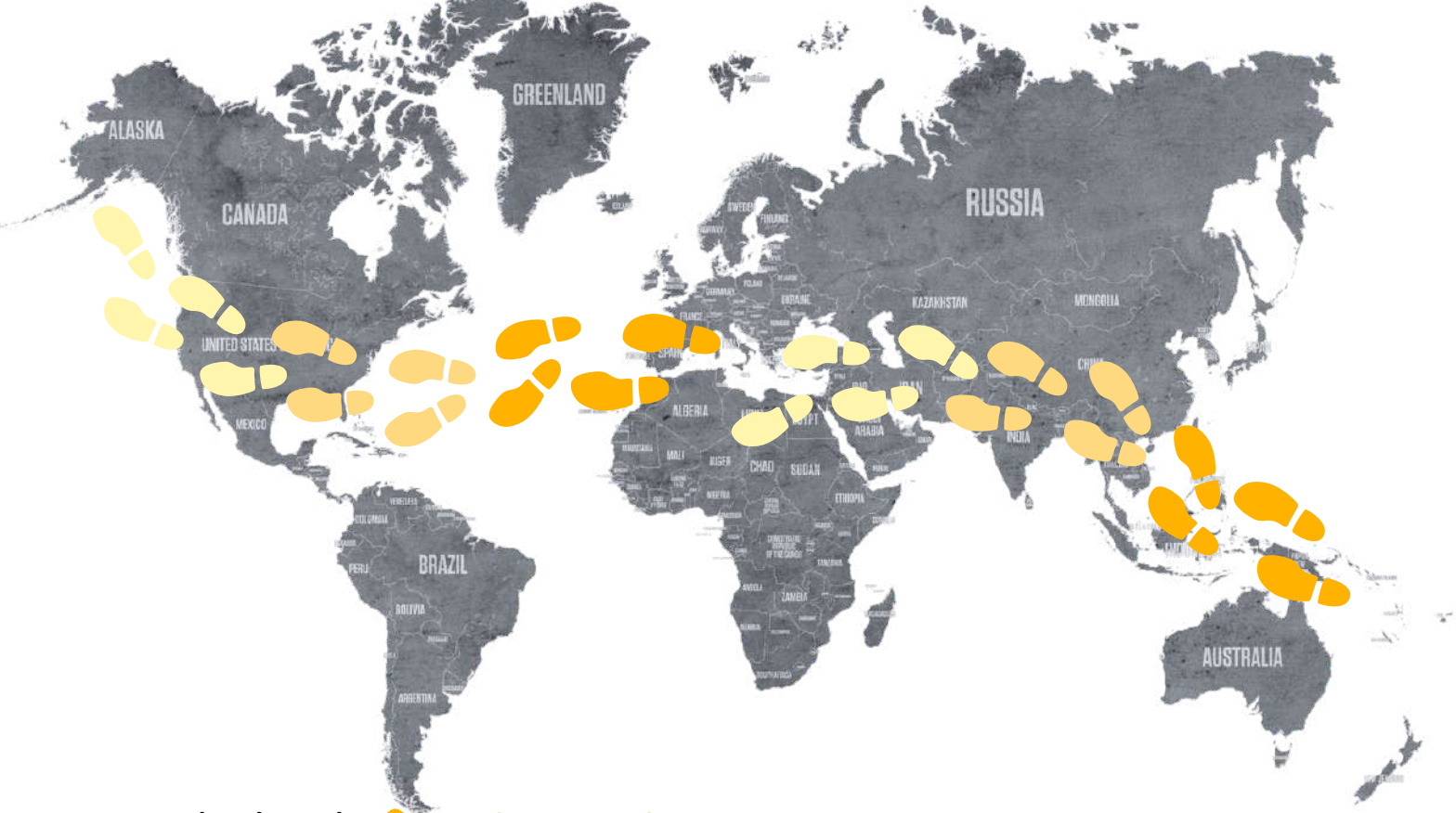
Together, let us continue to work towards a future where every child can access quality education and where the conversation on poverty and education takes center stage in our collective pursuit of a more equitable world.

Thank you and may God bless you.



James Ling Wan Chye
Chairman





global footprint

We have a diverse community of learners from around the world. Dignity's student population includes children from over 30 nationalities and all kinds of backgrounds. We welcome children from urban poor, migrant, stateless, and refugee communities - because every child deserves the right to learn.

We serve students from:

South East Asia: Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Philippines, Cambodia, Vietnam

Asia: Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Tajikistan, China, Nepal, Japan

Africa: Sudan, Somalia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Kenya, Eritrea, Egypt

Middle East: Iran, Iraq, Yemen, Palestine, Syria, Afghanistan

Currently, many alumni and graduates are resettled or working in:

China, Singapore, Azerbaijan, Taiwan, United States of America, New Zealand, Canada, Australia, Finland, Japan, South Korea, and more.





In the beginning...

there were just 2 streets (jalan)...with

2 teachers

10 preschool children

1 classroom

1 donated second-hand van

1 slide

2 DIY benches

1 stove

Every weekend we had a meal

together with all the children.

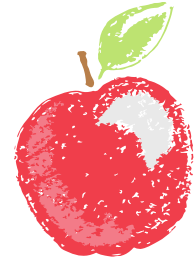
That was how we started in 1998.



Our Work

Education

- Early Years Montessori Education (2 to 6 years old)
- Primary Education (7 to 12 years old)
- Secondary Education (13 to 18 years old)

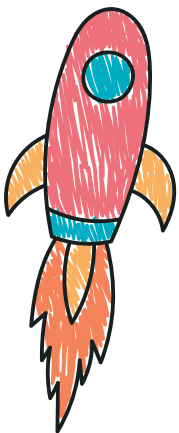


Transformational Enterprises

- eat X dignity
- sew X dignity
- cut X dignity
- bake X dignity
- make X dignity
- grow X dignity
- art X dignity

Holistic Intervention

- Wellness - Counseling, Mental Health
- Vocational Skills Training
- Faisal Cup Fo
- Social-Emotional-Learning (SEL)
- Farm Academy
- Medical Health Check-up
- Learning Field Trips
- Leadership Development
- Digital Education
- Employment & Internship Placements
- Child Protection & Intervention



Community Outreach

- Welfare - Food Distribution, Medical Aid, Rental Assistance
- Community Classrooms
- Teachers Training Programme
- Single Parent Support Group

+10,000

children received education since inception

208,000

daily meals provided to students each year

1,504

youths trained in vocational skill classes

280+

students completed IGCSE



Early days Montessori classroom

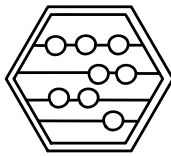


Champions of first Faisal Cup - Chin Students Association (CSO)

how your support built Dignity



Started after-school program with 50 children [2000]



Launched Montessori Preschool Program (first in ASEAN!) [2003]



Started Faisal Cup - a football tournament for marginalised children [2006]



Began the Community Teacher Training Program [2008]



Cambridge Assessment International Education

Pioneered IGCSE Secondary programme for urban poor youth [2014]



Welcomed President Barack Obama, the 44th President of the United States [2015]



First teachers training conducted by Petrina in 2008



President Barack Obama visited Dignity's Primary Classrooms

make X dignity

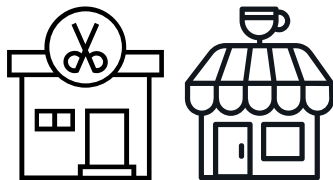


Woodwork skill students at make X dignity



Dignity founders receiving the award from His Highness Sheikh Dr Sultan bin Muhammed Al-Qasimi (left)

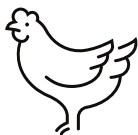
from 1998 to today..



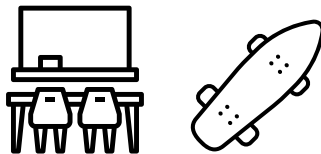
Launched the Urban Youth Education Village concept, combining skills training & entrepreneurship to foster holistic learning and employability [2017]



Received The Sharjah International Award for Refugee Advocacy and Support 2018 by The Big Heart Foundation [2018]



Established the Dignity Farm Academy in Bentong, Pahang [2021]



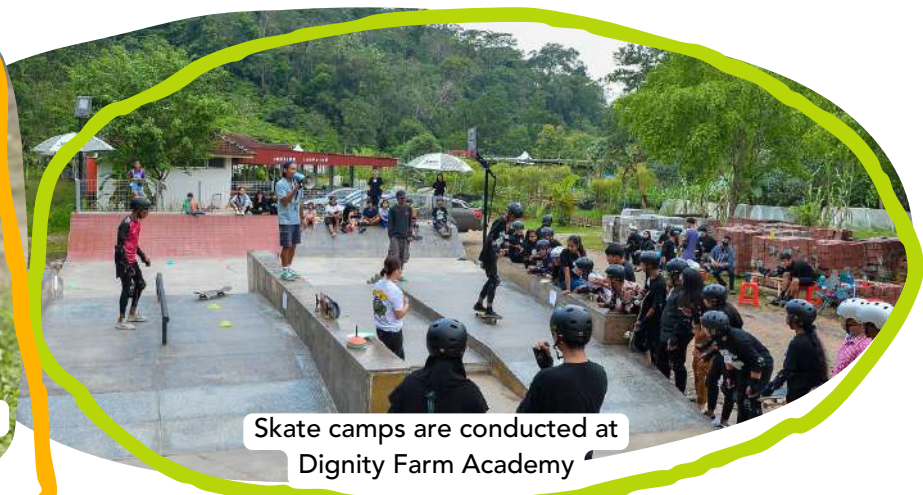
Started up 15 Community Classrooms | Built the first granite skatepark in partnership with Vans [2022]



Celebrating 25 years of transforming lives through education and care! [2023]



Students learn sustainable agriculture & poultry farming during their Travel & Learn programme



Skate camps are conducted at Dignity Farm Academy

education programmes



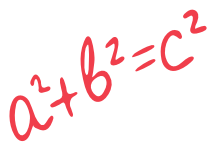
20 years of operating
Early Childhood Education



19 years of operating
Primary Education



14 years of operating
Secondary Education



10 years of IGCSE



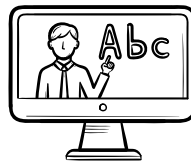
7 years of Travel & Learn
Programme



6 years of
Dignity College



Producing Preschool
workbooks since 2010

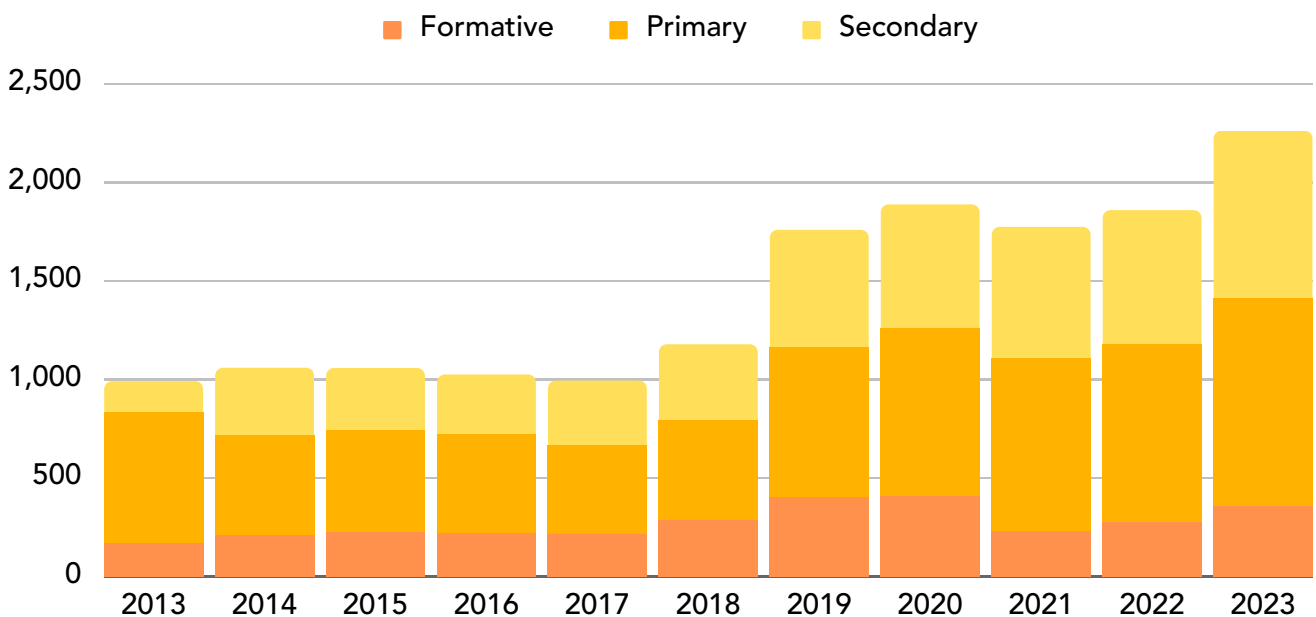


Creating Education Content
since 2020



Pioneered A levels Boarding
& Internship Programme

Enrolment of Students by Programme from 2013 to 2023



transformational enterprises



By integrating vocational training, entrepreneurship, empowerment, and livelihood creation, Dignity's Transformational Enterprises strive to create a sustainable cycle of opportunities that uplift individuals and communities.

Our goal is to provide students with practical experience in soft skills, customer engagement, and problem-solving within a real work environment.

We offer students exposure to various future career paths, allowing them to develop a diverse skill set while still in school. Ultimately, we prepare them for internships to ensure they are job-ready.

The enterprises also contribute to job creation, with 100% of profits reinvested into the skills program.

eat X dignity
since 2015

sew X dignity
since 2017

cut X dignity
since 2017

grow X dignity
since 2017

make X dignity
since 2018

bake X dignity
since 2019

art X dignity
since 2019

805

students underwent skills training since 2016

7

transformational enterprises pioneered and launched

SHOP & EMPOWER!

shopxdignity.org



other programmes



Sports and Faisal Cup

At Dignity, we recognize the transformative power of sport. Starting from the age of 6, children enthusiastically engage in football, netball, or other outdoor games. The weekly sessions see over 800 children riding the bus to nearby fields or utilizing our multipurpose court.

The highly anticipated Faisal Cup Tournament stands as a pinnacle event each year, bringing together over 1,500 children from Dignity and other community learning centers across Klang Valley, Penang, and Johor for several weeks of exhilarating matches.



Welfare and wellness X dignity

Other than education scholarships, Dignity also provide financial assistance for families facing eviction notices, medical support and more. We prioritize child protection, addressing cases of abuse, and work diligently to ensure the safety and well-being of all children. Additionally, we provide groceries and collaborate with key partners to facilitate medical checkups, eye check-ups, and dental care, promoting overall health and well-being.

Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) are integrated into all education programmes, fostering emotional intelligence and resilience among our students – particularly important for vulnerable children from backgrounds where trauma or abuse is common.



8,674

children trained and competed in Faisal Cup

800+

children participates in weekly sports session

224

SEL workshops conducted in 2022

131

educators trained in SEL

Farm Academy

Started in 2021, the Dignity Farm School serves as a valuable training space for students, showcasing sustainable farming practices and promoting low-consumption lifestyles.

Our Sustainable Farming Practices include finding an efficient energy usage, as well as rethinking and finding solution for chickens, ducks, quails, and geese rearing. We emphasize composting and organic farming methods; the farmer academy able the students to take the first step to combat climate change.



Grassroots Teachers Training

Dignity believes in each community can take charge of their own transformative journey.

That's why Dignity conducts an annual ASEAN teacher training program for grassroots educators to equip them with the skills needed to run quality programs for underprivileged students. This includes Montessori training, classroom management, sharing resources and experiences and more.

This ensures that children who are predominantly familiar with their own dialects, benefit from bilingual teachers proficient in both their language and English. Currently we have a partner school established in Cambodia, Philippines, Sabah and Sarawak.



469

students participated in Travel and Learn Program in 2022

450

community classroom students

15

facilitators and community classrooms across Klang Valley and Penang

2,000+

grassroot educators trained

other programmes



Community Classrooms

This initiative was launched in 2021 in partnership with UNHCR Malaysia as a response to the pandemic. Facilitators from refugee communities set up learning centers in their own homes and reach children in their respective areas. We provide necessary materials and resources for teachers, ensuring they have the tools they need to deliver effective education. Weekly touch-base and group support sessions are provided.



$$1+1=2$$

Digital Education

As a result of Covid 19 Pandemic, digital education become critical to our students continuous learning. Dignity created many relevant digital materials which include audio books, teaching videos, workbooks, teacher guides and more. Making digital resources easily accessible to teachers and students alike.

As of 2023, additional 400 children from Klang Valley, Penang and East Malaysia access our digital content. Through the Digital Equity Accelerator, an initiative of the Aspen Institute in collaboration with HP Inc, Dignity has set up a digital classroom and is rolling out digital learning for Primary and Secondary students.

Through these initiatives, we strive to bridge educational gaps, close the digital divide and ensure that no child is left behind.



student story | zeroberto & ella

I'm from a rural Perak village, from the Semai tribe. I joined Dignity in 2018. It was my first time leaving my village, and living in a city - a big city like Kuala Lumpur. I only spoke Bahasa, no English.

My ultimate dream is to become a professional footballer. Little did I know that Dignity nominated me for the Cityzens Giving Programme and I was chosen to train at Manchester City Football Club! It was my first time ever on an aeroplane. I'm also the first in my village to fly overseas. It was an opportunity of a lifetime.

Studying in Dignity has taught me so much. I learned and embraced new cultures, improved my communication skills, and also made new friends.

Currently I am working as a Lower Primary assistant teacher in Digniy. I also get to train the students in football - putting my football passion and learned skills to good use.

Dignity is a place where I can do things I'd never imagined or dreamed I would be doing.



I'm from Kachin State, near the China-Myanmar border.

When I was 6, the Burmese military bombed my village and we fled to China. I remember hiding out in an abandoned house with many people. Even when we returned to our village, we would wear white to school to blend in with the walls, so jet fighters could not spot us from the sky.

I came in Dec 2019 to Malaysia, travelling by foot and by bus through Thailand. It was too hard to stay in Myanmar. Our village was over-run by military and it was obliterated. During my journey to Malaysia, I was arrested and put in a detention camp for 1 month. That was a traumatic memory I have been trying to erase.

I found out about Dignity and enrolled to study at age 11. At first, I didn't speak any English, not a word. I didn't know much about the world - except for military and war. But at Dignity, I am continuously introduced to so many amazing things! I'm glad that I can learn all these new things.

When I think of Dignity, I think of lifelong friends, a safe place, and a caring heart.

Today, Ella is studying in Form 3 (Upper Secondary Programme), ready to start the Cambridge O'Levels program next year.



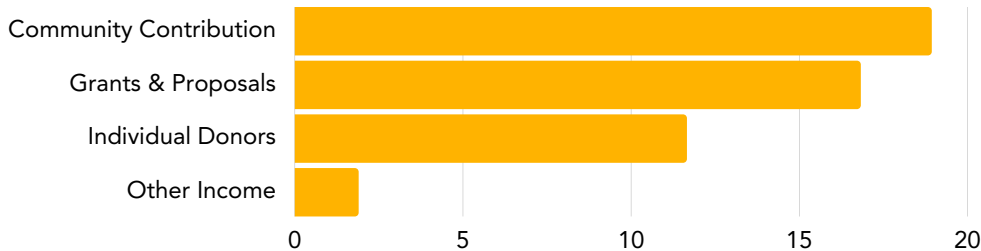
income and expenditure

Looking back at our 25 years of history, we are grateful for the generosity shown by our donors who have journeyed with us in this cause.

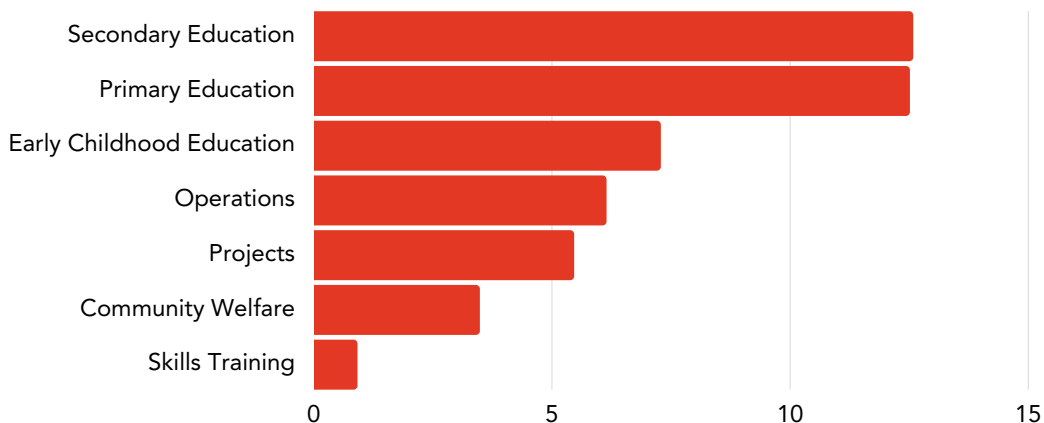
Dignity is committed to responsible usage of and accountability for the contributions received from partners and supporters. Our financial statements are audited annually and financial information is made public in the annual reports published on the website. Dignity's Board of Trustees and staff strictly adhere to principles of good governance and transparency in financial stewardship.

Financial sources and utilisation

Sources of income (RM mil)



Utilisation of funds (RM mil)



- These figures show Dignity's financial performance from Jan 2018 to Dec 2022
- The total figure excludes a one off award for building acquisition in 2019
- 100% of all donations received were directly used for the purpose of education and welfare of students

how you can support

The life-changing work of Dignity for Children Foundation is only made possible through the chain of giving from people like you!

Empower-a-Child

Empower-A-Child is Dignity for Children Foundation's Child Sponsorship Program.

Donation goes towards supporting a child's education fees, support programs (welfare, transport, meals).

Dignity does not engage any third-party agencies for fundraising, and all donations are made directly to our organization. This ensures that every contribution goes towards our mission and the causes we champion, without any intermediary fees or commissions.

Bank details

- Bank Name : Public Bank Berhad
- Account Name : Dignity for Children Foundation
- Account No. : 3-9804775-36
- Bank Branch : Sentul Branch
- Bank Address: No. 36, 38 & 40, Jalan 14/48A, Sentulraya Boulevard, 51000 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Swift Code : PBBEMYKL

Please make all cheque payable to Dignity for Children Foundation



Make a difference:



dignityforchildren.org/donate



our ongoing needs

1,039

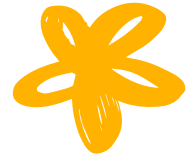
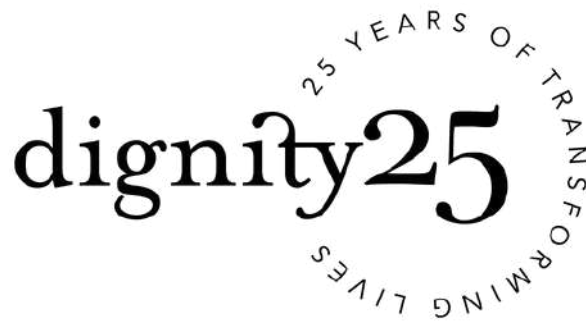
students' daily meals provided

800+

students take the daily busses arranged

200+

students on sponsorship waiting list



we couldn't have done it without your generous support and love!

thank you

to all our staff, partners, donors, volunteers, parents, and friends!



dignity@dignityforchildren.org



www.dignityforchildren.org



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