



09 JUN, 2024

## Female students opt for TVET

Daily Express (KK), Malaysia

# Female students opt for TVET

**Crystal E Hermenegildus**  
KOTA KINABALU: Striving in a male-dominated field, female students pursuing Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) at Institut Latihan Perindustrian Kota Kinabalu (ILPKK) can determine success and break barriers.

Nurul Ariqah Syakirah Abas, 20, said her passion for Automotive Technology course led her to leave academic studies.

"I am a tough person, and my family is aware of it. I could have continued studying in Form Six, but I am more interested in learning skills, especially in the automotive field," Ariqah told Daily Express.

Following her dream of opening an automotive business, Ariqah admitted her journey had not been without its challenges.

In a field where male dominance is the norm, she faced scepticism and bias from her peers.

"At first, my male classmates perceived me as a soft girl. However, I gained their trust and proved them wrong by showing my abilities. However, they usually forbid me from doing heavy work, such as lifting tyres or engines.

"Although I was challenged, I understood their intentions; they only wanted to take care of me. As a woman, my physical limitations can be an obstacle, but over time, I proved that women can be tough too," Ariqah said.

For Erra Fazira Lombo, 20, studying in the Mechatronic Technology course is seen as both an opportunity and a challenge to try something new and discover abilities she never knew she had.

"Initially, my dream was to be an architect, but two of my sisters are architects. So I decided to venture into another course to challenge myself to learn about electricity, programming, welding, and



Female students in other schools visiting booths and showing interest in ILPKK in conjunction with Hari TVET Negara 2024.

much more," she said.

Erra claimed that in her field, which is mostly dominated by men, women have to work twice as hard as they tend to excel in theory but struggle with practical work.

"When it comes to handling tools related to fire and electricity, we have to be brave while keeping safe. We need to balance excelling in both theory and practical work. We don't want to always ask our male classmates for help," she said.

Two other female students at ILP, Nurulaini Ruslan and Nuriasykeen Yuri, studying Computer Network Technology and Computer Aided Design and Drafting (CADD) Technology-Architecture, respectively, said their passion led them to gain confidence to step out of their comfort zones.

"For any female student who wants to pursue TVET and has passion in it, go for it, grab any opportunity, and never limit yourself to the opinions of others," Nurulaini said, expressing her desire to become a computer software engineer.

"Not only do we learn practical skills,

but we also study general subjects such as Physics, Mathematics and English. So, there is a wide range of opportunities and the future is clearer.

"I have gained a lot of confidence and unlocked potential I never knew I had, such as being able to work well under pressure, being meticulous and teamwork," Nuriasykeen said.

At ILP, male students are also advocating for women to pursue TVET studies.

Akmal Ruzaini and Muhammad Jeffrey, studying Manufacturing Machine Technology and PW4 Power Electrical Technology Course respectively, learned that many jobs traditionally done by men have been successfully undertaken by woman, specifically their female classmates.

"We all have our strengths and weaknesses. I've seen women who are stronger and can learn faster than men. People often perceive women continuing studying in TVET as those who failed in academics, which is not true. Most of them are great in academics and in TVET," Jeffrey said.

"We should be encouraging women to join and giving them the opportunity to unlock their potential. Some of my



ILPKK male students from left: Jeffrey, Akmal and Awang.

female classmates have proven that; we just help them a bit," Akmal said.

However, For Awang Hamizan, studying in Mechanical Maintenance Technology, said women can try although his course wouldn't encourage it.

"For my course, it's very rare for women to pursue it as it's really tough and dangerous. Only one per cent of them would pursue it. However, if they're passionate about it, maybe they can exceed it," he said.

In conjunction with National TVET Day 2024, celebrated from May 29 to June 7, 2024, ILPKK did not miss out on participating in the festivities as one of the skills training institutions.

ILPKK Director Tan Sri Sudirman Hammade said the goal of this celebration was to stimulate the creativity and innovation of the community, attract more youth to TVET, and promote the importance of TVET in realising Malaysia Madani and hala tuju Sabah Maju Jaya.

"Hopefully, with the success of National TVET Day 2024 at ILPKK, more young people will choose TVET as a career option," he said.



09 JUN, 2024

## Female students opt for TVET

Daily Express (KK), Malaysia

### SUMMARIES

Crystal E Hermenegildus KOTA KINABALU: Striving in a maledominated field, female students pursuing Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) at Institut Latihan Perindustrian Kota Kinabalu (ILPKK) can determine success and break barriers. Nurul Ariqah Syakirah Abas, 20, said her passion for Automotive Technology course led her to leave academic studies.