

Critical Incidents in the School Counselling

The School of Psychology and Social Work (SPSW), University Malaysia Sabah (UMS) has organized a two-day workshop on Critical incidents in the school setting on 20-21 July 2000. The workshop was conducted by Professor. Paul Pedersen, a well-known speaker in cross- cultural counselling. The event was held as part of his visit as external examiner of SPSW. The workshop has successfully gathered 80 school counselors, educators, government officers, researchers, counselling students from Sabah and other parts of Malaysia.

The workshop is part of UMS's effort to promote the development of cross-cultural counselling especially in the Malaysian school setting.

It also aims to expose the participants an approach to psychological and social problems in a comprehensive framework guided by counselling skills utilizing valid data and information sources. Cultural- sensitivity in Malaysian school setting is also the focus of the workshop. The workshop generated 25 school critical incidents cases. The Dean of the SPSW, Professor Dato' Abdul Halim Othman hopes that the workshop will be the first of a series where its members can discuss issues on school counselling and play important roles in understanding problems emanating from the complexity of living in this era of globalization.

It is hoped that the workshop will lead to a publication of a book which will be useful to Malaysian counsellors. More advanced workshops will be followed later in other settings.

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