

AKHBAR : THE SUN
MUKA SURAT : 5
RUANGAN : NASTIONAL

THE SUN M/S NATIONAL 6/3/2025 (KHAMIS)

Prevalent school bullying calls for stricter remedies

➤ Failure of school to take action should be escalated to Education Ministry as physical, psychological harassment no longer disciplinary issues but criminal acts: Lawyer

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PETALING JAYA: The rising number of bullying cases in schools calls for immediate action and stricter measures to curb the issue.

According to the Sistem Sahsiah Diri Murid statistics under the Education Ministry, bullying cases surged from 3,887 in 2022 to 5,891 in 2023.

By October 2024, 5,703 cases were recorded, bringing the total number of students involved in bullying incidents to 11,594.

Malaysian Mental Health Association associate counsellor Nurhijjah Mat Zin told *theSun* male students are more likely to engage in physical bullying, while female students tend to bully through emotional and social means, and the victims are often 13-year-old students.

"Bullying takes many forms, both verbal and non-verbal, some of which can have severe or even fatal consequences. The most common types include physical bullying, such as pushing, punching and kicking, as well as coercion to comply with unreasonable demands," said Nurhijjah.

"Verbal bullying involves threats, name-calling, slander and harassment, while social isolation, cyberbullying and body shaming are becoming increasingly common.

She warned that one of the biggest

misconceptions parents have is believing that bullying is a normal part of growing up.

"Some parents assume their children are too resilient to be bullied or believe they would always confide in them if they were harassed.

"Others dismiss bullying, advise children to ignore it, or fear legal complications if they report it, ultimately allowing the issue to escalate," she said, adding that Malaysia has made commendable efforts in addressing bullying, but gaps remain in enforcement.

"Some cases are ignored, mishandled or only taken seriously after being widely shared on social media.

"There should be strict, standardised procedures that apply to all schools, ensuring swift action against bullies," said Nurhijjah.

She stressed that the consequences of bullying can be devastating, leading to mental health struggles, self-harm and even fatalities.

"A fine of just RM100 is not enough to deter perpetrators," she added.

Nurhijjah proposed that every school has at least one trained counsellor rather than relying solely on teacher-counsellors, and implementing a clear, accessible reporting system for students and parents to seek help without fear of repercussions.

"We should adopt global best practices, such as Finland's KiVa programme, which encourages students to intervene and stand

up against bullying," she said.

In 2017, it was reported that navy cadet Zulfarhan Osman Zulkarnain died after being tortured by his peers at a National Defence University hostel, with the Court of Appeal upholding the death sentence on six former students convicted of murdering him.

The six will only serve 18 years in prison, after the Federal Court set aside their death sentences recently.

Lawyer and Anti-Bullying Act Campaign head Wan Azliana Wan Adnan said bullying must be recognised as a serious crime, warranting strict policies and legal consequences.

"Many students remain silent due to threats from bullies, fearing that their reports would not be taken seriously or that they won't be protected.

"To combat this, training teachers and staff in intervention techniques is important. Schools should also monitor high-risk areas such as dormitories, assembly halls and prefect rooms, where bullying is more likely to occur.

"If schools or authorities fail to act, victims and parents should escalate the issue through formal complaints to the Education Ministry. Bullying is no longer just a discipline issue. It is a crime," said Wan Azliana.

She also said with the growing use of digital platforms, cyberbullying has become an even greater concern.

"Unlike conventional bullying, it allows perpetrators to hide behind fake accounts and operate anonymously, making it more damaging and harder to track.

"To counter this, parents must actively monitor the online activities of their children and encourage open communication," she said.

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA

MUKA SURAT : 2

RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI

UTUSAN MALAYSIA M/S 2 D/NEGERI 6/3/2025 (KHAMIS)

Gantung sekolah jika bersalah hisap vape

Dari muka 1

“Pihak sekolah perlu mengadakan sesi konsultasi bersama ibu bapa atau penjaga kepada murid yang terlibat dalam salah laku vape. Murid juga perlu melengkapkan borang akur janji untuk tidak melakukan kesalahan ini lagi.

“Seandainya murid ingkar dan mengulangi salah laku itu, pihak sekolah boleh mengenakan tindakan dengan menggantung persekolahan selama 14 hari persekolahan yang tidak melibatkan peperiksaan awam,” katanya di Dewan Negara, semalam.

Beliau menjawab soalan Senator Datuk Dr. Azhar Ahmad mengenai langkah-langkah yang telah dirangka dalam menangani serta mengawal penggu-

naan rokok elektronik disebabkan peratusan penggunaan yang semakin meningkat.

Fadhlina berkata, usaha paling berkesan bagi mengawal penularan kebejatan sosial itu adalah melalui pendidikan pencegahan seperti program Pendidikan Pencegahan Dadah (PPDa).

Jelasnya, program itu dilaksanakan melalui kurikulum, kokurikulum dan aktiviti pembangunan sahsiah murid.

“Murid didedahkan kepada bahaya rokok elektronik serta dilatih untuk menjadi duta sahsiah yang membantu rakan sebaya menjauhi gejala negatif.

“KPM juga melaksanakan beberapa lagi program dan aktiviti pendidikan pencegahan seperti Program Skim Lencana Antidadah, Program Lima Minit An-

tirokok dan Vape, Skwad Junior Antidadah melalui Kelab PPDa serta Kempen Hidup Sihat Cegah Rokok dan Vape,” katanya.

Beliau berkata, pihak kementerian juga percaya usaha menangani masalah ketagihan rokok elektronik dalam kalangan murid sekolah akan lebih berkesan melalui kerjasama strategik dengan pelbagai pihak.

Sehubungan itu, katanya, KPM sentiasa mengadakan kerjasama erat dengan pihak Polis Diraja Malaysia (PDRM) melalui Pegawai Perhubungan Sekolah (PPS) di setiap sekolah.

“Kerjasama daripada Kementerian Kesihatan, pihak berkuasa tempatan, ibu bapa serta masyarakat bagi memantau pembelian dan penjualan vape kepada murid sekolah amat diharapkan,” katanya.

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 6
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

BH M15 6 NASIONAL 6/3/2025 (KHAMIS)

Pelajar ulang kesalahan hisap vape dibuang sekolah



Fadhlina pada sesi pertanyaan bagi jawab lisan di Dewan Negara, semalam.

(Foto BERNAMA)

Pelajar yang didapati melakukan kesalahan berulang menghisap vape atau rokok elektronik di sekolah, boleh digantung persekolahan selama 14 hari atau dibuang sekolah.

Menteri Pendidikan, Fadhlina Sidek, berkata tindakan disiplin itu adalah bentuk ketegasan diambil Kementerian Pendidikan (KPM) bagi membendung isu penggunaan vape di sekolah seperti ditetapkan menerusi Surat Siaran Bilangan 17 Tahun 2015 yang melarang penggunaan rokok elektronik atau vape di sekolah.

Beliau berkata, tindakan tegas itu diambil selepas amaran diberikan kepada pelajar berkenaan, termasuk memanggil ibu bapa mereka bagi menghadiri sesi konsultasi di sekolah.

"Harus ada amaran dan mereka akan dipanggil, ibu bapanya juga untuk konsultasi. Kemudi-

an dia kena melengkapkan borang aku janji untuk tidak melakukan kesalahan ini lagi.

"Kemudian sekiranya mereka masih ingkar dan mengulangi perbuatan ini, maka dia boleh digantung sekolah selama 14 hari persekolahan yang tidak membabitkan peperiksaan awam dan ketegasan kita adalah sehingga tahap mereka juga boleh dibuang sekolah.

"Kita menganggap tindakan membabitkan diri dengan gejala vape ini adalah satu yang sangat serius," katanya menjawab soalan Senator Datuk Dr Azhar Ahmad pada sesi soal jawab lisan di Dewan Negara, semalam.

Pendidikan pencegahan

Mengulas lanjut, Fadhlina percaya, usaha paling berkesan bagi mengawal penularan kejahatan sosial ini adalah melalui pendidikan pencegahan seperti

program Pendidikan Pencegahan Dadah (PPDa).

Katanya, program ini dilaksanakan melalui kurikulum, kokurikulum dan aktiviti pembangunan sahsiah murid, di mana murid didedahkan kepada bahaya rokok elektronik dan vape serta dilatih untuk menjadi duta sahsiah yang membantu rakan sebaya menjauhi gejala negatif.

"Selain PPDa, KPM juga melaksanakan beberapa lagi program dan aktiviti pendidikan pencegahan seperti Program Skim Lencana Antidadah, Program Lima Minit Antirokok dan Vape, Skuad Junior Antidadah melalui Kelab PPDa serta Kempen Hidup Sihat Cegah Rokok dan Vape.

"Semua program dan aktiviti ini bermatlamat menerapkan nilai kesedaran serta kefahaman murid mengenai bahaya rokok elektronik serta membentuk jati diri yang unggul," katanya.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NATION

NST M/s 4 NEWS/NATION 6/3/2025 (KHAMIS).

SCHOOL RULES

Habitual vapers face suspension, expulsion

STUDENTS who are repeatedly caught vaping or using electronic cigarettes in school may face a 14-day suspension or even expulsion.

Education Minister Fadhlina Sidek said this disciplinary action reflected the Education Ministry's firm stance on curbing vaping in schools, as stipulated in Circular Letter Number 17 of 2015, which prohibited the use of electronic cigarettes or vapes in schools.

She said strict action would only be taken after a warning had been issued to students, including summoning their parents for consultation.



Fadhlina Sidek

"There must be a warning and they will be called in, along with their parents, for a consultation.

The student will then have to complete an *aku janji* (pledge) to not repeat the offence.

"If they continue to defy the rules and repeat the act, they may be suspended from school for 14 school days, excluding public examinations. Our firm stance extends to the point where they could face

expulsion.

"We consider involvement in vaping to be a very serious matter," she said in response to Senator Datuk Dr Azhar Ahmad dur-

ing the oral question-and-answer session in the Dewan Negara.

Elaborating, Fadhlina said that the most effective way to control the spread of this social issue was through preventive education, such as the Drug Prevention Education programme.

She said this programme was implemented through the curriculum, co-curricular activities and character development initiatives, where students were educated on the dangers of electronic cigarettes and vaping.

"All these programmes and activities aim to instil awareness and understanding among students about the dangers of electronic cigarettes while shaping strong personal values," she added.

