

# JOURNAL WRITING

## WEEK 1

(8 FEBRUARY 2010 – 12 FEBRUARY 2010)



### 1.0 PROBLEM

The long most awaited week has finally come. The practicum week has at long last commenced. This is the first week of my practicum at my school, Sekolah Agama Menengah Bandar Baru Salak Tinggi (SAMBBST). My supervising lecturer, Dr. Sharmini Ghanaguru, had kindly come by for a social visit on Monday this week to meet up with me and my cooperating teacher, Pn. Wan Rose Azian, and to discuss important matters that need to be done during the practicum weeks. Even though Dr. Sharmini has been very motivating and reassuring, I cannot stop but feeling a strong apprehension in my mind whenever I come to think about my duty during practicum and the observation that will be done by my lecturer and my cooperating teacher. Will I be able to meet their expectations? Will I be able to carry out what I have planned successfully? How will the students react to my teaching and learning activity? I was so worried and keep thinking whether or not I could balance my time to carry out the never-ending school workload that I am shouldering, to execute my practicum duty and also to give an unconditional attention to my family especially to my two year-old daughter. Having a good rest can no longer fits into my tight schedule. Honestly, it is hard. The pressure is intensifying.

### 2.0 ANALYSIS

The problem may arise due to the lack of mental and physical preparation in facing all the obstacles to meet my vision of becoming a great teacher with exceptional personality. With little experience that I have, I knew that I need to make a lot of effort to uncover the myriad of knowledge in this wide world. I could learn from the dedicated and enthusiastic lecturers of IPBA, or from the senior English

teachers in SAMBBST who are always ready to lend their hands, or just from anybody or any sources that could assist me in strengthening my journey towards building my career as a teacher. In my opinion, the 14-month duration of KDC (*Kursus Dalam Cuti*) in IPBA is not enough for me to face all these challenges as a teacher. Nevertheless, I have to admit that my lecturers in IPBA have been a great mind opener by working diligently to relay and to share their knowledge in making a skillful teacher out of their students including me. They have also been a remarkable source of motivation. Hence, it is up to us to never giving up our effort by applying what have been learnt using our own creativity to uphold the teaching and learning method devised the Ministry of Education. What is more, sincerity is the number one essence in carrying out my duty as a teacher.

### **3.0 SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT**

There are several ways that could be done to overcome the problem mentioned earlier:

- (a) I must make a proper mental and physical preparation by reading a lot of materials related to motivation and pedagogical approaches in education.
- (b) I need to seek help and support from my supervising lecturer, my cooperating teacher, the senior teachers or those who are more experienced, to discuss on the best way to overcome my problems and anxieties. I need to have faith in myself.
- (c) I have to learn to cope with the new “atmosphere” by taking it positively to ensure that I can manage my core business successfully even though I undergo loads of obstacles and have too many commitments to meet. I will not let any of these problems bog me down. I have to be strong and persevere despite of having tonnes of school workload and time constraint due to the lack of opportunity to focus on my practicum duty.
- (d) I need to re-schedule my time management in order to carry out my responsibilities efficiently. If I cannot do my work during the day, then I will do it in the middle of the night. Even if I will not get enough sleep and rest. I will put aside the less urgent school workload as to give more room for my practicum.

#### **4.0 DURATION**

I will try to overcome my problems soonest possible; that is prior to week two of practicum. I realize that if I am unable to manage the major problems that I am facing this week, it could jeopardize my capability of performing my practicum duty and delivering the teaching and learning activity effectively. The problems can also interrupt other crucial tasks that I need to carry out in school.

#### **5.0 ASSESSMENT OF SUCCESS**

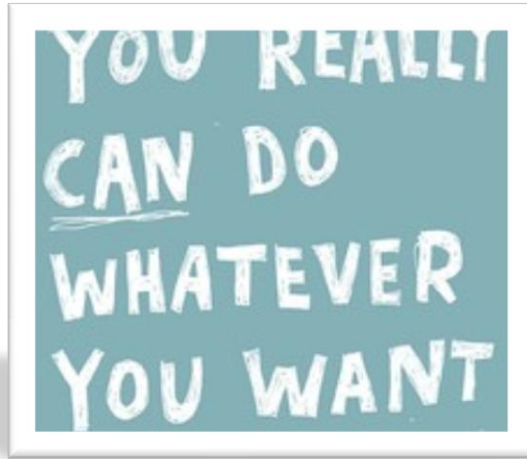
I will need the assistance from my cooperating teacher and colleagues to assess the effectiveness and success of my handling the problems. I will also need to do some self- assessment to solve these matters.

#### **6.0 FURTHER ACTION**

I will think of ways to deal with my problems from time to time. I will always seek guidance and help from my supervising lecturer and cooperating teacher who have been wonderful assistance so far. I will also ask for advice and support from other teachers, and not forgetting my beloved family; to make sure that my problems can be overcome.

#### **7.0 CONCLUSION / REFLECTION**

Every cloud has a silver lining. It means that every difficult situation has a bright side. This idiom is closely referred to my current situation. Even though my problems make me somewhat apprehensive, it is actually a gift from God. This situation has really put my capability and potential to the test. I just want to take them positively and I will endure all difficulties with God's help. I will grab every opportunity that permits me to give more focus on the teaching and learning activity. After all, that is the core business of a teacher. According to Joshua J. Marine, *Challenges are what make life interesting; overcoming them is what makes life meaningful.*"



*“Better to do something imperfectly than to do nothing flawlessly.”*

*Robert Schuller*

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