

## CLASSROOM DEBATE ON “COUPLES WITH THALASSEMIA GENES SHOULD HAVE OWN CHILDREN AND NOT OPT FOR ADOPTION “BY ROTATION 1 FINAL UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL STUDENTS IN MUAR, MALAYSIA

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### ABSTRACT

Thalassemia is a public health problem in Malaysia and about 4.5% of the Malays and Chinese are  $\beta$ -thalassemia carriers. (George E 1998). A classroom Debate on “Couples with Thalassemia genes should have own children and not opt for adoption” has been conducted as a Teaching learning activity. The activity has been organized by the 10 students of the rotation 1 Year 5 students during the Pediatric posting of 8 weeks’ duration. The aim of this activity is to foster learning with a unique learning strategy; to enable students to develop constructive arguments to support opposing views of the given topic; to encourage critical thinking; to raise students’ awareness that most issues are not straightforward and that students should learn to form opinions about their position that they can explain or defend with factual evidence. The students have been briefed on day 1 of the posting and the topic given by the Course Coordinator. The rules and regulations has been presented at start of the Debate session held in 4<sup>th</sup> week of posting, by the Chairperson Veeramorgan.K.. The speakers are allocated a total of 30 minutes per group strictly managed by the timer Salleh.H.. The 3 speakers each from the proposition and the opposition groups spoke, in alternate turns, to put across the message for or against the motion. A panel of 4 adjudicators scored the performances according to marking scheme template. The other two students did the photography and video documentation. The Best speaker and the Best group are awarded prizes. ALL others are also given participatory prizes; all prizes being sponsored by principal author. Conclusion is according to the winning team message that Couples who have the Thalassemia genes should have own children and not opt for adoption giving sound and concrete reasons.

**Keywords:** Classroom debate; Thalassemia trait; own children and adoption