

CLASSROOM DEBATE ON “SOCIAL MEDIAS ARE HAZARDOUS TO TODAY’ S WORLD’S CHILDREN & ADOLESCENTS “BY UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL STUDENTS IN MUAR, MALAYSIA

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ABSTRACT

While social media sites like Facebook, Twitter and YouTube bring benefits to children and teenagers, they can also expose them to danger and risk. Thus a classroom Debate on “Social Medias are hazardous to today’s world’s children & Adolescents” has been conducted as a Teaching learning activity. The activity has been organized by the 11 students of the rotation 1 Year 3 students (Batch 2017/09) 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 4th week of posting. The speakers are allocated a total of 30 minutes per group strictly managed by the Timer. 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, Faculty members in four clinical disciplines, scored the performances according to the given 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 Social Medias can be not hazardous to children and adolescents, giving sound and concrete reasons.

Keywords: Classroom debate; Social Media, Children & Adolescents.