

Tinggalkan kerjaya guru demi teroka cara bantu warga emas Melayu melalui terapi muzik

Bakti Khair antara lulusan kohort pertama kursus Sarjana Terapi Muzik di Lasalle

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Jauh di lubuk hati Encik Bakti Mohd Khair, tersemat cita-cita untuk memanfaatkan muzik secara lebih bermakna demi menyantuni golongan yang memerlukan.

Sebagai sebahagian projek tesis tahun akhirnya bagi program Sarjana Terapi Muzik di Maktab Seni Lasalle, Encik Bakti meneliti tanggapan warga emas Melayu/Islam di Singapura terhadap muzik, dengan tujuan membantu ahli terapi muzik lebih memahami cara menyokong pesakit warga emas daripada masyarakat tersebut.

“Saya mahu gunakan muzik untuk membantu masyarakat secara langsung. Mengajar muzik memang bermakna, tetapi saya rasa saya mahukan sesuatu yang lebih mampu memberi kesan kepada mereka yang memerlukan,” kata mantan guru di bawah Kementerian Pendidikan (MOE) itu.

Meneliti kajian tersebut, beliau berharap dapatan yang diperoleh dapat memperkayakan kefahaman ahli terapi muzik, khususnya yang bukan Melayu/Islam terhadap kepekaan budaya dan agama dalam kalangan pesakit warga emas Melayu/Islam.

Bagi menayakan kajian itu, Encik Bakti, 34 tahun, menemu bual lebih 102 responden Melayu/Islam berusia 60 tahun dan ke atas.

Beliau mendapati ramai di antara mereka berpandangan penerimaan terhadap muzik banyak bergantung pada tujuan penggunaannya, jenis lagu serta alat muzik yang digunakan.

“Mereka melihat terapi muzik bukan sekadar hiburan, tetapi sesuatu yang boleh digunakan untuk membantu emosi, pemulihan pertuturan, pergerakan dan juga penjagaan paliatif.

“Saya harap kajian ini dapat memberi sedikit konteks dan perspektif kepada ahli terapi muzik, khususnya yang bukan Melayu/Islam apabila mereka bekerja dengan warga emas dari masyarakat kita,” tambah beliau.

Encik Bakti menyifatkan kajian tersebut sebagai satu tanggungjawab



Encik Bakti Mohd Khair meninggalkan kerjaya tetap sebagai guru muzik demi meneruskan pengajian dalam bidang terapi muzik serta mengkaji takrifan warga emas Melayu/Islam terhadap muzik di Singapura. – Foto ihsan BAKTI MOHD KHAIR

peribadi untuk mengangkat isu yang dekat dengan nadi masyarakat Melayu/Islam, lebih-lebih lagi kerana beliau merupakan satu-satunya pelajar Melayu/Islam dalam kohort pengajian peringkat sarjana ini.

Usaha beliau bakal diketengahkan dalam pameran siswa Lasalle – *The LASALLE Show Exhibition 2026* – yang berlangsung dari 22 Mei hingga 3 Jun ini di Kampus McNally maktab tersebut.

Pameran itu akan menghimpunkan pelbagai karya asli pelajar merangkumi bidang reka bentuk, seni halus, filem, animasi, pengurusan seni, terapi seni, terapi muzik dan penulisan kreatif.

Tahun ini juga menandakan kemunculan kohort lulusan pertama bagi program perintis Sarjana Muda Reka Bentuk bagi Masa Depan Sosial dan Sarjana Terapi Muzik, yang diperkenalkan pada 2024.

Bagi Encik Bakti, peluang memaparkan hasil penyelidikannya di platform tersebut menjadi antara detik paling bermakna dalam perjalanan yang menuntut pelbagai pengorbanan demi merealisasikan impiannya.

Sebelum ini, Encik Bakti berkhidmat selama enam tahun sebagai pendidik muzik di bawah Kementerian Pendidikan (MOE).

Namun, keputusan meninggalkan kerjaya tetap itu bukan sesuatu yang

mudah, lebih-lebih lagi beliau merupakan pencari nafkah utama keluarga dengan seorang isteri dan dua anak kecil.

Menurut beliau, yang pada masa ini sedang bekerja sambil pada hujung minggu selain mengambil projek menghasilkan lagu pada waktu renggang pengajiannya, berkata ada pihak yang mempersoalkan tindakannya meninggalkan pekerjaan tetap untuk menceburi bidang yang masih asing dalam konteks Singapura.

Namun, beliau bersyukur kerana keluarganya yang dekat dengan dunia seni memahami aspirasi dan perjuangan yang ingin dibawanya.

Antara individu yang banyak mencorakkan perjalanan seninya ialah bapanya sendiri, penggubah lagu dan penulis lirik setempat, Encik Mohd Khair Mohd Yasin, yang juga menganggotai kumpulan terkenal dengan irama puitis pada 1990-an, Rausyanfikir.

“Keluarga saya, termasuk kedua-dua ibu bapa saya sangat memberi galakan. Mereka sentiasa menghargai hasil muzik yang saya cuba hasilkan sejak kecil walaupun ketika itu saya belum mempunyai pendidikan muzik secara formal.

“Mereka amat memahami niat saya dan mendorong melalui sokongan emosi, dan kadangkala juga bantuan kewangan sepanjang saya melanjutkan pengajian ini,” katanya.

Left a teaching career to explore ways to help Malay seniors through music therapy

Deep in Mr Bakti Mohd Khair's heart lies the ambition to utilise music in a more meaningful way to help those in need.

As part of his final year thesis project for the MA Music Therapy programme at LASALLE College of the Arts, Mr Bakti researched the perceptions of Malay/Muslim seniors in Singapore towards music, with the aim of helping music therapists better understand how to support senior patients from that community.

"I want to use music to help the community directly. Teaching music is meaningful, but I feel I want something that can make a greater impact on those in need," said the former teacher with the Ministry of Education (MOE).

He hopes that the findings obtained through his research can enrich the understanding of music therapists, especially non-Malay/Muslims, towards the cultural and religious sensitivities of elderly Malay/Muslim patients.

To conduct his research, Mr Bakti, 34, interviewed more than 102 Malay/Muslim respondents aged 60 years and above.

He found that many of them believed that the acceptance of music depended on the purpose of its use, the type of song and the musical instrument played.

"They see music therapy not just as entertainment but as something that can be used to help with emotions, speech and movement recovery, and even palliative care.

"I hope this research can provide some context and perspective to music therapists, especially non-Malay/Muslims, when they work with senior citizens from our community," he added.

Mr Bakti describes the research as a personal responsibility to raise issues that are close to the heart of the Malay/Muslim community, especially since he is the only Malay/Muslim student in his cohort.

His efforts will be highlighted in the LASALLE student exhibition—The LASALLE Show Exhibition 2026—which will take place from 22 May to 3 June at the College's McNally Campus.

The exhibition will bring together a variety of original works by students spanning the fields of design, fine arts, film, animation, arts management, art therapy, music therapy and creative writing.

This year also marks the emergence of the first cohort of graduates from the pioneering BA (Hons) Design for Social Futures and MA Music Therapy programmes, which were introduced in 2024.

For Mr Bakti, the opportunity to showcase his research results on that platform was one of the most meaningful moments in a journey that has required many sacrifices to realise his dream.

Previously, Mr. Bakti served for six years as a music educator with the Ministry of Education (MOE).

However, the decision to leave a permanent career was not easy, especially since he is the main breadwinner of the family with a wife and two small children.

According to Mr Bakti, who is currently working part-time on weekends in addition to taking on projects producing songs during his studies, some people have questioned his decision to leave his permanent job to venture into a field that is still unfamiliar in the Singaporean context. However, he is grateful that his family, who are close to the world of art, share the inspiration and struggle he wants to undertake.

Among the individuals who greatly shaped his artistic journey was his own father, local songwriter and lyricist, Mr Mohd Khair Mohd Yasin, who had led a band famed for its poetic lyrics in the 1990s, Rausyanfikir.

“My family, including both my parents, have been very encouraging. They have always appreciated the musical creations I have tried to produce since I was a child, even though I did not have any formal musical education at that time.

“They really understood my intentions and encouraged me through emotional support and sometimes even financial assistance throughout my studies,” he said.