Better to instill values before age 12

Mary Chin

KOTA KINABALU: Parents are still the prime educators in shaping the morals and character of their children. Rector of UiTM Sabah Branch, Dr Hj Abdul Kadir Rosline emphasised this aspect in his address at the closing of the one-day Seminar on Growing Love, Million Hopes – Developing Happy Families, recently.

"Based on a study, it is easy for parents to coach children aged between seven and 12 years and inculcate them with positive values. When they approach the teenage years from 13 to 17, they are likely to be more exposed to their environment and peer influence.

"As the Malay saying goes Nasi Menjadi Bubur (Before it’s too late), all parties concerned, particularly parents, play a significant role in producing a young generation that have integrity, high morals and competitiveness.

"This move is in line with the Government’s efforts to make Malaysia a progressive and visionary nation by the Year 2020," he said.

The text of his speech was read by his Deputy (Research, Industrial Linkages, Community & Alumni Division), Dr Rozita @ Uji Mohammed

Dr Hj Abdul Kadir said parental role does not end at the end of their children’s primary education.

"On the contrary, child upbringing must be continued as long as they are in school, the college or university. This is to ensure that they (children) do not stray from the right path of life and get involved in undesirable activities.

"At this stage, they are supposed to pursue knowledge while being moulded to become useful citizens in the future," he pointed out.

However, the Rector maintained that although parents play a key role in raising their children, it cannot be denied that youth themselves must also be responsible for their lives.

"From the outset, parents must instil in their children a sense of responsibility. If they (children) are well-equipped with the right knowledge and skills to face challenges, they should be able to be self-reliant and manage their own lives well," he advised.

Among the qualities that youth should embrace are self-dignity, respectfulness, thirst for knowledge, creativity, thrift, safety consciousness and being information technology (IT) savvy.