

School for homeless city kids

ACCESS TO EDUCATION: Ministry plans to build special school in the city for 500 kids who don't receive proper education

A SPECIAL school is being proposed for street and homeless kids in the city who have no access to proper education.

Education Ministry's educational planning and research division director Dr Faridah Abu Hassan said Pusat Bimbingan Jalinan Qaseh was aimed at bringing free education nearer to the children in the city.

"We are preparing a proposal to be presented to the cabinet as soon as possible.

"We are proposing that the old office of the Federal Territories Education Department in Jalan Raja Muda here to be converted into a school to cater to more than 500 children."

Faridah said this after opening the Education for All Week 2012, jointly organised by the ministry, National Anti-Drugs Agency (AADK) and Yayasan Salam at Lorong Haji Taib here yesterday.

The programme runs concurrently with Chill and Cheer @ Lorong.

With the assistance of Welfare Department and non-governmental organisations, Faridah said the ministry had identified more than 500 children around Klang Valley who did not receive proper education.

"Some of these kids are registered in schools, but don't have consistent attendance, while others are homeless and do not have the opportunity to go to schools.

"We believe there are more such children around the Klang Valley."

The ministry, she said, would also propose hostels to be included in the new school.

The project is estimated to cost between RM3 and 5 million.

Faridah added that with the establishment of such schools, the government would be able to give basic education to homeless children.

"At this stage, we are proposing the basic 3Rs of reading, writing and arithmetic.

"However, we will consider including the curriculum in normal schools and vocational programmes in the future."

She said the ministry would consider extending the project to other states if the first school is successful.

According to statistics by AADK's Geographical Information System, up to April, there were 493,787 children aged between 7 and 17 identified in Klang Valley.

AADK deputy director-general Suhaimi Abdullah, said a few hundred children in Chow Kit here did not attend schools.