

# SMK Bukit Bandaraya wins 14th contest

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IT was an exciting morning of verbal jousting as the finalists of the annual Taylor's Inter-School Debate argued for and against the motion, "The liberation of women has disintegrated the family unit".

Debating for the affirmative was Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan St Michael

from Ipoh, Perak, represented by Nicholas Ling, Alex Pereira, Kavesunder Manoharan and Sivaram Prasad.

Fighting the negative was Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Bukit Bandaraya, Kuala Lumpur, represented by Kamal Benjamin, Jerome Leng, Kiret Singh Ahluwalia and Grace Chang.

In its argument, the team from SMK St Michael said that women were the most important figures in the home.

The liberation of women, which gives rise to career opportunities, takes them away from the home, leaving children in the care of grandparents, who would not be able to give the same care as parents, or babysitters and maids, who are not part of the family unit.

Disputing the affirmative team's arguments, the opposition said liberation for women, which meant them being able to be educated, maintained or improved the family unit as educated mothers are better able to look after their children, with proper time management.

Further, they added that the affirmative team contradicted themselves in saying they were not against liberation for women but that liberation has disintegrated the family unit.

The adjudicators awarded first place to SMK Bukit Bandaraya. The best speaker was Kiret.

An elated Kiret said he felt this was one of the most challenging debates he has participated in and that winning the best speaker award was not even an issue.

"We were just thinking of the win. I think skill is rewarded if there is effort," he says.

In announcing the winners, chief adjudicator Jagdeesh Kaur Gill, assistant director of the Curriculum Development Centre from the Education Ministry, praised both teams for their research and presentation skills.

She also commended Taylor's efforts in promoting the use of the English

language through the annual debate.

Held since 1994, this is the 14th instalment of the event, which saw 160 students from 40 schools in the Federal Territory, Selangor, Negri Sembilan, Penang and Perak participate.

Among the topics covered in the preliminaries, quarter-finals and semi-finals were "The internet has brought the world closer together", "The wearing of uniforms as school attire bridges the gap between the rich and the poor" and "Blogging should be outlawed".

SMK Bukit Bandaraya, as the winning school, received the challenge trophy and RM10,000 for the purchase of academic resources. The winning team members are also entitled to a full-tuition fee scholarship to study

in any pre-university programme at Taylor's.

SMK St Michael, as the runner-up school, received RM5,000 and the team members are entitled to 50 per cent waiver off tuition fees.

(END) Source : New Straits Times