

ISKUL
sama diLaut
OMADAL



Sekolah Beras Laut Omadal sempena 2015

Iskul Sama diLaut Omadal

Impact Report

An overview of the transformative journey that Iskul students take towards becoming changemakers and leaders within their community.

This report delves into the impactful initiatives, achievements, and skills acquired by the children & youth of Omadal Island, Sabah.

June, 2024

www.iskul.my



info@iskul.my





Nurturing Leaders, Transforming Communities

Iskul Sama diLaut Omadal (Iskul), has expanded far beyond our initial vision of providing basic literacy and numeracy for the stateless, semi-nomadic Bajau Laut children.

Our mission is now to empower our students and youth to lead and contribute to their community, **irrespective of citizenship status.**

To witness their growth in confidence, creativity, and problem-solving skills has been remarkable.

Through student-led initiatives, they become catalysts for positive change, showcasing the transformative power of education to uplift the entire community.





Iskul's Background

ABOUT US

Iskul is a community-run project initiated in 2015 to provide literacy training for stateless semi-nomadic Bajau Laut children on Omadal Island in Semporna, Sabah, Malaysia.

The word 'Iskul' means 'school' in the Bajau Laut language.

Before Iskul was established, none of the stateless children on Omadal Island had the opportunity to education because their stateless status excludes them from attending government run schools.

OUR VISION

To build young leaders through holistic education to seek solutions to the problems faced by their communities in Omadal.

OUR MISSIONS

- Build leadership through inclusive interaction between local and stateless community, and exposure beyond Omadal Island.
- Provide a conducive learning environment and encourage the culture of inclusivity.
- Create awareness and seek recognition for our stateless community.

OUR JOURNEY

2015

We held our **first trial class** with the Mastal Arikik (little teachers) and began lessons on weekends.

2016

We held our first evaluation trip, participated in a YSEALI workshop, and one of our Mastal Arikik was nominated as a **UNICEF Young Changemaker**.

2017 - 2018

Registered with the RoS as Persatuan Pendidikan Bajau Laut (Iskul Sama diLaut Omadal) (PPM-009-14-24072017).

We received **support letter from District Officer for Iskul's initiatives and for construction of Pondok Iskul**.

2019

Several students showed great promise. 15 new students joined us; one of our **pioneer Mastal Arikik (MA)** stepped up to be our field coordinator; our **graduating students become MA's themselves**.

2020

We hired our **first full time teacher, and classes began every day**. Included arts and culture classes. An awards ceremony was held to celebrate students and MAs.

2021

During the **MCO**, food baskets were delivered to 221 stateless & Malaysian households. Distributed Vitamin C supplements and tested the community for the Covid-19.

2022

Iskul received the **Star Golden Heart Awards** and **Gamuda Inspiration Award** for our work with the community to provide basic literacy and improve community's access to water and health.

2023

Iskul applied to JPN/Ministry of Education to be an Alternative Learning Centre for students without document (**Pusat Bimbingan for "murid tanpa dokumen"**).

MAIN CHALLENGES



EDUCATION

More than 200 school-aged children in Omadal are not in school and unable to speak Bahasa Malaysia. They face social ills such as poverty and glue-sniffing



HEALTH

Mental and Physical health problems plague the community who have no resources to face these health issues



ENVIRONMENT

Without a waste management system, the environment that the community depends on is in danger of pollution

OUR RESPONSES



EDUCATION

- Basic Literacy for BM, Maths, Arts, Culture & Performing
- Life Science classes for advanced students
- Online English Classes
- Evening Classes for new students
- Digital Literacy Classes [upcoming]
- Conducive Learning Environment



HEALTH

- Nutritious Meals for students
- Improve community's water access
- Physical First Aiders training for students
- A Community Health Center
- Mental Health First Aid & Resilience workshops
- Public health & vaccination campaigns



ENVIRONMENT

- Marine Modules (Pejuang Laut Program)
- Pilot Waste Management system for 35 households to cultivate the habit of disposing trash into trashbin.
- Gotong-royong sessions

OUR IMPACT

EDUCATIONAL IMPACT



80 children receive basic literacy

24 stateless and Malaysian youth empowered through Iskul's development projects

10 stateless and Malaysian youth empowered to create video content

3 graduate students turned assistant teacher



HEALTH IMPACT



252 Omadal residents received medical treatment from mini clinic and Community Health Centre

50 pregnant & nursing mothers and children received supplement to boost their health

45 children received nutritious meals 5-day a week

150 ++ household on Omadal Island received Covid-19 food baskets

10 students produced and showcased a Wayang Kulit entitled 'Omadal fights Corona' in Bajau language

120 households improved access to clean water after receiving rain water storage tanks



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT



1 TON of waste has been removed from Omadal since Jan 22

34 households in Omadal participated in Iskul's Pilot Waste Management Project

17 students designed and built Floating Trash Trap around the waters of Omadal to tackle the trash problem

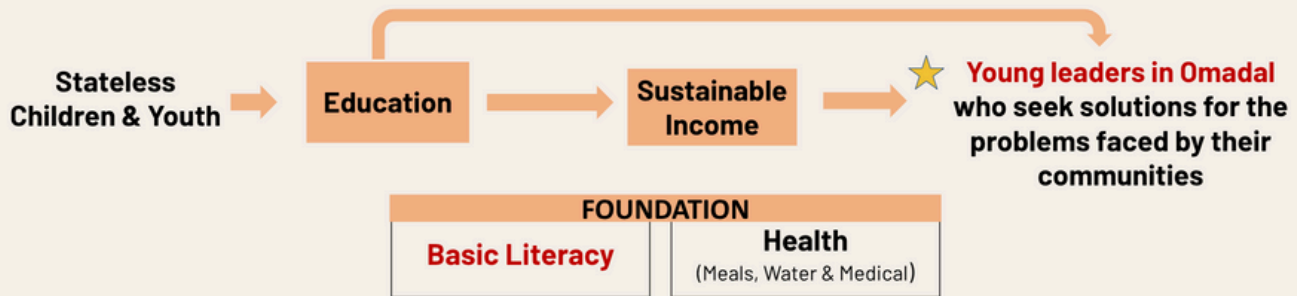
9 students underwent Marine Stewardship Program



Theory of Change

Developing young leaders in Omadal regardless of nationality status who are capable of finding solutions to the problems faced through **two ways**:

1. Empowering stateless children and youth in Omadal with basic literacy and nutrition



2. Empowering children and youth in Omadal regardless of status through community projects to build an inclusive environment.



Iskul's foundation rests on two vital pillars :

- 1) basic literacy and nutrition**
- 2) building inclusive environment through community projects**

Iskul recognises the vital importance of laying a solid foundation for young people in Omadal first. Our curriculum provides basic literacy while healthcare provisions includes nutritious meals for our stateless students. Clean water access and medical support extends to both stateless and Malaysian communities. This ensures that these children are healthy enough for effective learning.

Our second pillar involves exposing our students to diverse community projects. These projects develop essential skills like problem-solving and critical thinking, which are important for enacting positive change. We focus on various areas such as environmental sustainability, mental health awareness, storytelling, and digital literacy.

We include both Malaysian and stateless children in these community projects to create an inclusive environment where both communities interact. They learn from each other and benefit from the program. This empowered them to pursue their aspiration together and emerge as leaders and change makers in Omadal. Together, they can identify and address community challenges.

Iskul's holistic approach empowers young leaders to overcome personal challenges and equips them to drive positive impactful change on Omadal.

Executive Summary

This impact report highlights Iskul Sama diLaut Omdal's journey towards fostering leadership, empowerment, and community transformation among its students and community. Through a blend of organised activities, student-led initiatives, and the cultivation of youth leaders, Iskul has emerged as a beacon of hope and progress on Omdal Island.

Section 1 - Fostering Confidence, Leadership Skills, and Exposure through Organized Activities



Pesta Bulan Paluwak

34 students performed in various confidence-building performances in effort to embrace their talents, express themselves, and fostering a connection to their culture.



Health Awareness Campaigns

28 students participated in **2** theatre productions, **6** video productions addressing **3** campaigns which are Vaccination, Covid-19 awareness, as well as on the dangers of glue-sniffing.



Student Health Ambassador

50 individuals from **24** households participated in hygiene program where Iskul students educate their peers and family members on the usage of essential hygiene items.



First-Aid Training

15 students underwent a 2-day program of training in first aid, drowning victim assistance, choking management, emergency lifting techniques, and CPR protocols.



Community Health Centre

Managed by **4** residents including **2** from Iskul's own Mastal Arikik, the health initiative managed to give treatments for over **180** Omdal residents across citizenship since its recent establishment in October 2023.



Marine Stewardship & Community Mapping

Through a **12**-month curriculum of **12** different modules, **9** students managed to equip themselves with marine knowledge, practical skills, and the opportunity to lead action projects. The students also mapped Omdal's marine environment in their native Bajau language



Waste Management

34 households (**27** stateless, **7** Malaysian) cultivated proper waste disposal practices, delivering their garbage to Iskul for proper disposal. This resulted in the removal of over **1 ton (1,108kg)** of plastic waste from the island over **18** months.



Digital Content Creator Program

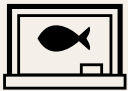
10 youths (**7** Malaysians, **3** stateless) participated in an **18**-month program, acquiring content creation skills and practical experience. In total so far, they have produced **32** videos. The videos have generated **333k** views in total and garnered **1.43k** subscribers on Youtube. Through Social Media Monetisation, the videos create a potential sustainable additional income stream for the youth. One of the short films have won the 'Kinabalu Awards' at the Kota Kinabalu International Film Festival.

Section 2 - Student-led Initiatives: Applying Skills as Changemakers



Gotong - Royong

34 Iskul students led the project having **3** objectives in mind; providing more bins in common areas, building awareness on the consequences of littering, and regular clean-up sessions that saw **490kg** brought out of Omadal Island.



Marine Corner

9 students built a marine awareness corner outside Pondok Iskul to educate and share with the wider community of Omadal Island, the material that they learn from the Marine Stewardship program.



Floating Trash Trap Project

17 students, empowered to be change-makers in providing solutions to the waste challenge on the island, have initiated, designed and built a floating trash trap capable of capturing and collecting floating debris, such as plastic bottles and bags, from the waters surrounding the island.



Sukaneka with the Omadal Community

8 students, with the help of Iskul Team, have organised a full day sukaneka event for the whole community of Omadal Island that saw participation of **110** residents, across ages and citizenship status. This event was initiated by to alleviate general happiness and build community interaction and bonds between the stateless community and the local Malaysian citizens.

Section 3 - Youth Leaders Profiles and Achievements



Mastal Arikik (Little Teachers)

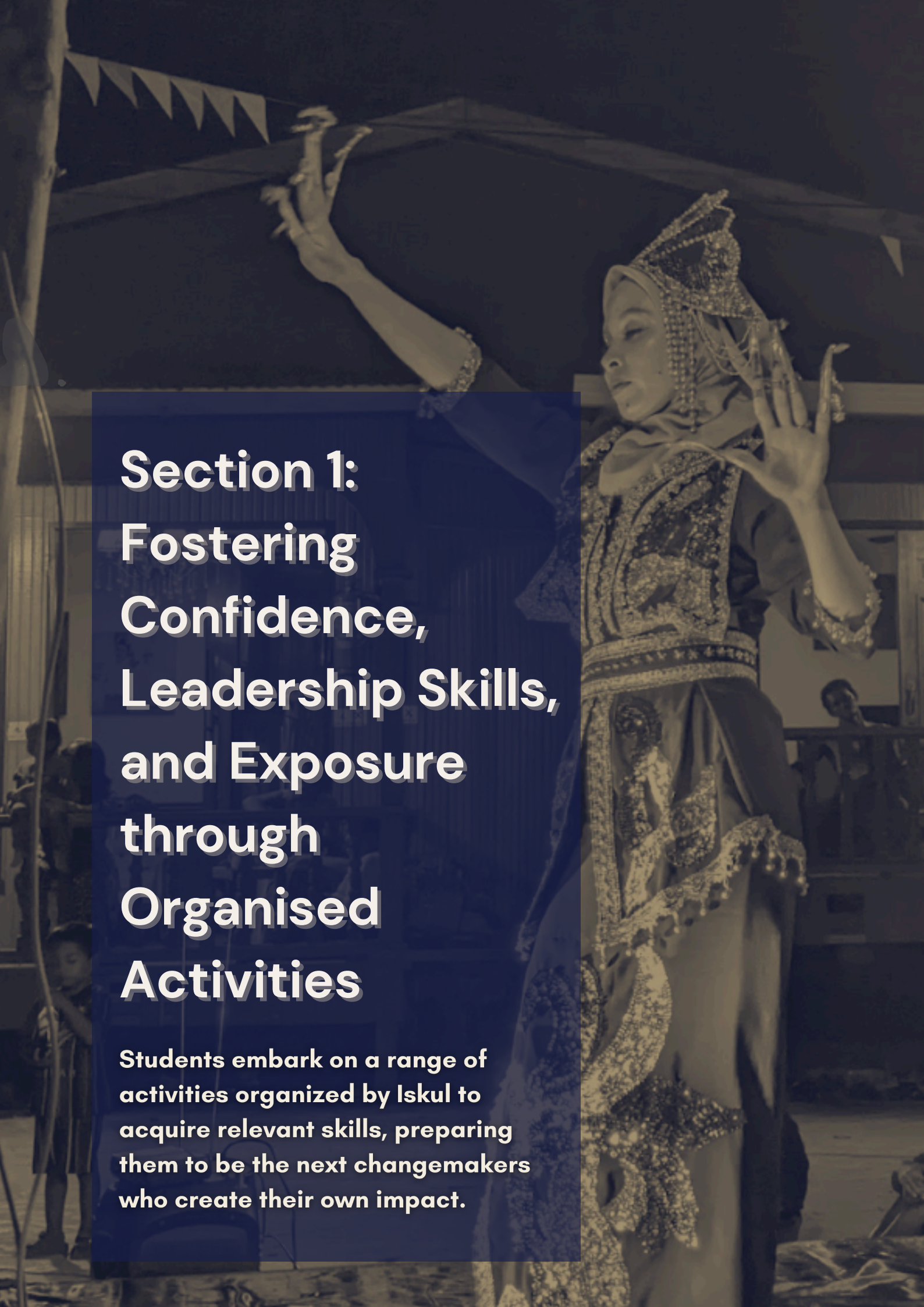
4 Mastal Arikik: **Bilkuin, Enidah, Delah, and Shima**, are all the 'little teachers' of Iskul, teaching level 1 – 2 classes. They receive daily training from Iskul where they are taught teaching techniques, content creation, as well as writing skills for reports and critical discussions. Apart from being a teacher, they are also a key liaison for the stateless community and each of them leads an action project at Omadal: **Waste Management, Kebun Iskul, Pandanus Making & Selling and Health Coordinator**.



Khairul, Iskul's Co-Founder

Khairul is one of the Iskul's co-founders and pioneer Mastal Arikik since 14 years old. His passion for educating the stateless community since his young has nominated him the '**Young Change Makers 2015**' by UNICEF. He is a pivotal figure at Iskul and to improve on his leadership skills, Khairul has been undergoing a series of trainings to refine his soft skills and technical skills. His insights to the relationship and interdependency between the Malaysian and stateless communities at Omadal is very significant for Iskul's coordination.

In summary, Iskul Sama diLaut Omadal's holistic approach to education fosters a generation of leaders and changemakers, driving social change and community development. As Iskul continues to empower its students and engage with the broader community, its impact will resonate far beyond the shores of Omadal Island.

A woman in traditional Indonesian attire, including a gold-embroidered kebaya and a traditional headpiece, is performing a dance. She has her arms raised in a graceful pose. The background is dark and out of focus, showing some structures and other people.

Section 1: Fostering Confidence, Leadership Skills, and Exposure through Organised Activities

Students embark on a range of activities organized by Iskul to acquire relevant skills, preparing them to be the next changemakers who create their own impact.



Pesta Bulan Paluwak



Iskul's Pesta Bulan Paluwak on Omadal Island provides a platform for students to express themselves and build confidence. Derived from the Bajau word 'Paluwak,' meaning 'out' or 'emerge,' the event celebrates the Festival of the Emerging Moon (Floating Moon).

This festival celebrates cultural heritage through various performances by students including theater, Wayang Kulit, and Igal-Igal dance performances. Inspired by Malaysian folk tales, these performances entertain while imparting valuable life lessons relevant to their cultural identity.

The festival engages the Omadal Island community by encouraging them to set up food and beverage stalls. A night market with student-managed games, adds to the vibrancy of the event.

This inclusive approach fosters community participation, strengthens bonds, and provides students with opportunities for personal growth and empowerment in a supportive environment.

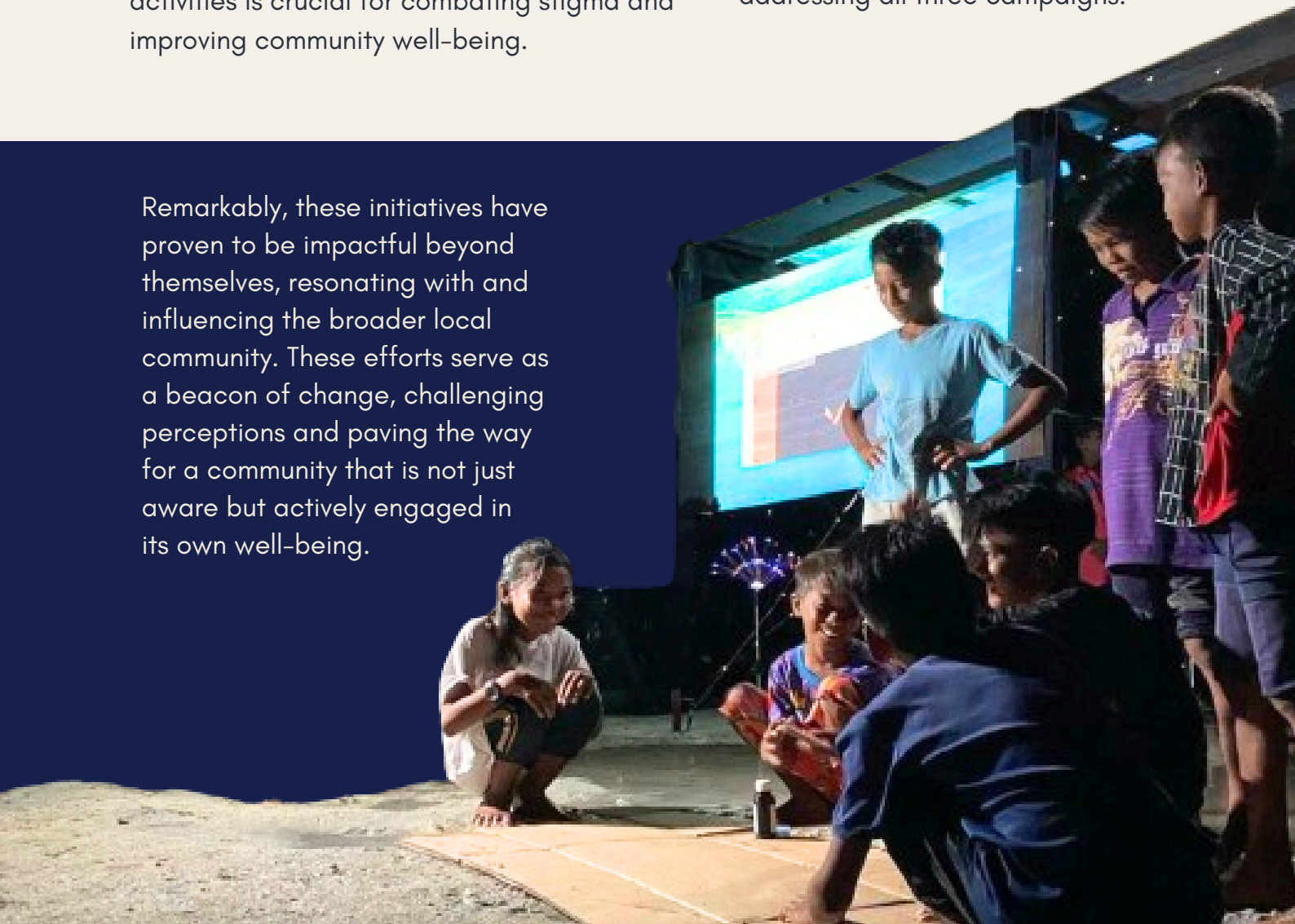


Promoting Health Awareness Through the Art of Theater

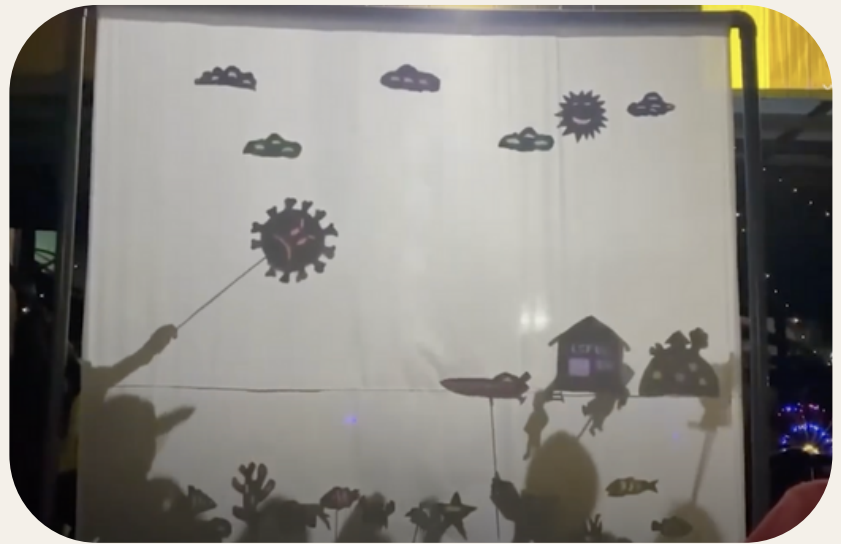
Health issues pose significant challenges for the stateless Bajau Laut community due to a lack of documentation and robust support systems, leaving them vulnerable to various health-related concerns. Negative perceptions further exacerbate their challenges. Iskul students have risen as champions, actively engaged in health campaigns addressing COVID-19, glue-sniffing, and vaccination. With limited medical access and no health facilities on the island, increased health awareness through such activities is crucial for combating stigma and improving community well-being.

Inspired by personal experiences and motivated to challenge stereotypes, Iskul's students & youth creatively educate their peers and community about health concerns. Through vibrant arts productions and impactful videos, they rewrite their narrative and promote a healthier, more informed Omadal. Notably, 28 students participated in two theatre productions on COVID-19 and glue-sniffing, while 12 youth were involved in creating videos addressing all three campaigns.

Remarkably, these initiatives have proven to be impactful beyond themselves, resonating with and influencing the broader local community. These efforts serve as a beacon of change, challenging perceptions and paving the way for a community that is not just aware but actively engaged in its own well-being.



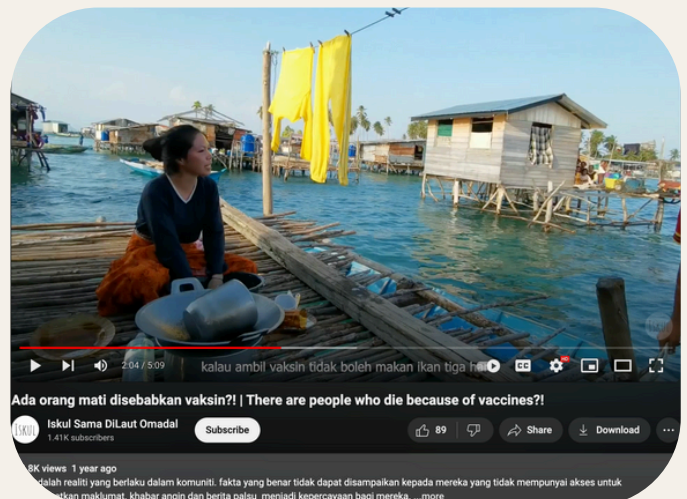
10 students showcased a Wayang Kulit titled "Omadal Fights Corona" on January 18, 2022, during Iskul's Pentas Paluwak. The performance, narrated in the local Bajau language, depicted dangers of COVID-19 and ways to protect against it, through the story of Rendy and his friends on Omadal, and their plans to solve their lives that were impacted by the virus.



During Pesta Bulan Paluwak on May 16, 2022, 13 students performed a sketch entitled "Keluarga Atuk," illustrating the dangers of glue-sniffing; a prevalent issue among stateless children in Omadal. Easily accessible in the Bajau Laut settlement, glue sniffing persists due to peer influence and hunger caused by financial constraints. The sketch aimed to address these challenges faced by the community.



Iskul's youth in the content creation program produced four health-related videos. Two released on March 29, 2022, highlighted MySejahtera use and quarantine after testing positive for Covid-19. Another, addressing glue-sniffing, went viral on social media on March 30, 2022. The fourth video, dispelling vaccination myths, launched on September 9, 2022, targeting misconceptions within the stateless Bajau Laut community. These initiatives showcase the students' creativity and extend their impact beyond the borders of Omadal.



Students Health Ambassador Program

Underscoring the transformative impact of our initiatives, Iskud proudly executed a two-day Students Health Ambassador Program from March 14 to 15, 2022. On the initial day, students were briefed on the program's objectives and importance and equipped with practical knowledge on proper utilisation of essential hygiene items (including hand and body soap, toothbrush and toothpaste, shampoo, and laundry soap). Guided by our dedicated teacher, students were entrusted with specific tasks for the upcoming workshops scheduled with their families.



On March 15, the workshop unfolded with active participation of approximately 50 individuals from 24 households. Serving as health advocates, our students took the lead in explaining the importance of hygiene, particularly in the context of combating Covid-19, to their families and the broader community. They elaborated on the correct usage of each hygiene item and facilitated a question and answer session, fostering deeper health understanding among community members.

The uniqueness of this program lies in the leadership roles that our students assumed by personally guiding and instructing their own family members on the proper use of hygiene items. This approach ensures that our students, through their active engagement, become leaders in championing hygiene practices within their households, contributing to a lasting impact on community well-being.



Students Stepped Up to be Trained as First-Aider

15 students underwent a two-day basic first aid and CPR training led by Mr. Khairuddin, Director for Malaysian Red Crescent, Kuala Lumpur Chapter. Now certified, these students serve as first aiders not only within the school but also in the wider Omdal community. Equipped with skills in basic first aid, drowning victim assistance, choking management, emergency lifting techniques, and CPR protocols, they play a vital role in enhancing community safety and preparedness.



"I have to be honest, Iskul kids are fast learners when it comes to practical sessions. They easily pick up anything that is demo-ed by the trainers for the first time. And they are passionate to learn, I can tell you the difference compared to same age of community I taught in the Semenanjung."

-Dr. Vivien How (UPM)

Seaweed Cultivation and
Health Awareness Program,
Omdal Island, Sabah

Community Health Centre

The Omadal Health Center, established in October 2023, marks the evolution of Iskul's initial first aid services. It represents a significant stride towards improving healthcare accessibility for all communities on Omadal Island. This initiative has managed to provide treatment to over **180 Omadal residents** across citizenship by February 2024.



Managed by four dedicated Community Health Helpers (CHH), including two of Iskul's own Mastal Arikik, the center prioritises inclusivity, with representatives from both the stateless and citizen communities. The CHHs acquired essential basic healthcare skills through intensive training sessions conducted by doctors and nurses at Klinik Warisan Semporna. Their training encompasses meticulously prepared health modules and training logbooks, covered wound management, basic medical care, first aid, and community health screenings. This comprehensive preparation ensures their readiness for their roles.



The Omodal Health Center also offers community health education and telemedicine consultations, monitored by healthcare experts. This initiative is in collaboration with the Seaweed Cultivation and Health Awareness Program, Omodal Island, Sabah, by Malaysia Society for Harm Reduction and UPM.

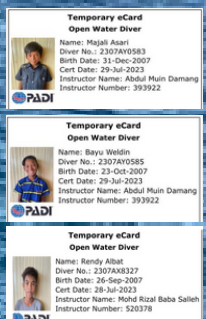
This initiative not only enhances the capacity of CHHs to serve their community but also inspires Iskul's students to pursue health services. **Witnessing the work of CHHs motivates students to become health workers, aspiring to improve Omodal's health.** Overall, the Omodal Health Center is a crucial resource for underserved communities, empowering individuals with practical healthcare knowledge and promoting community health on the island.



Sea Mapping & Biodiversity Exploration



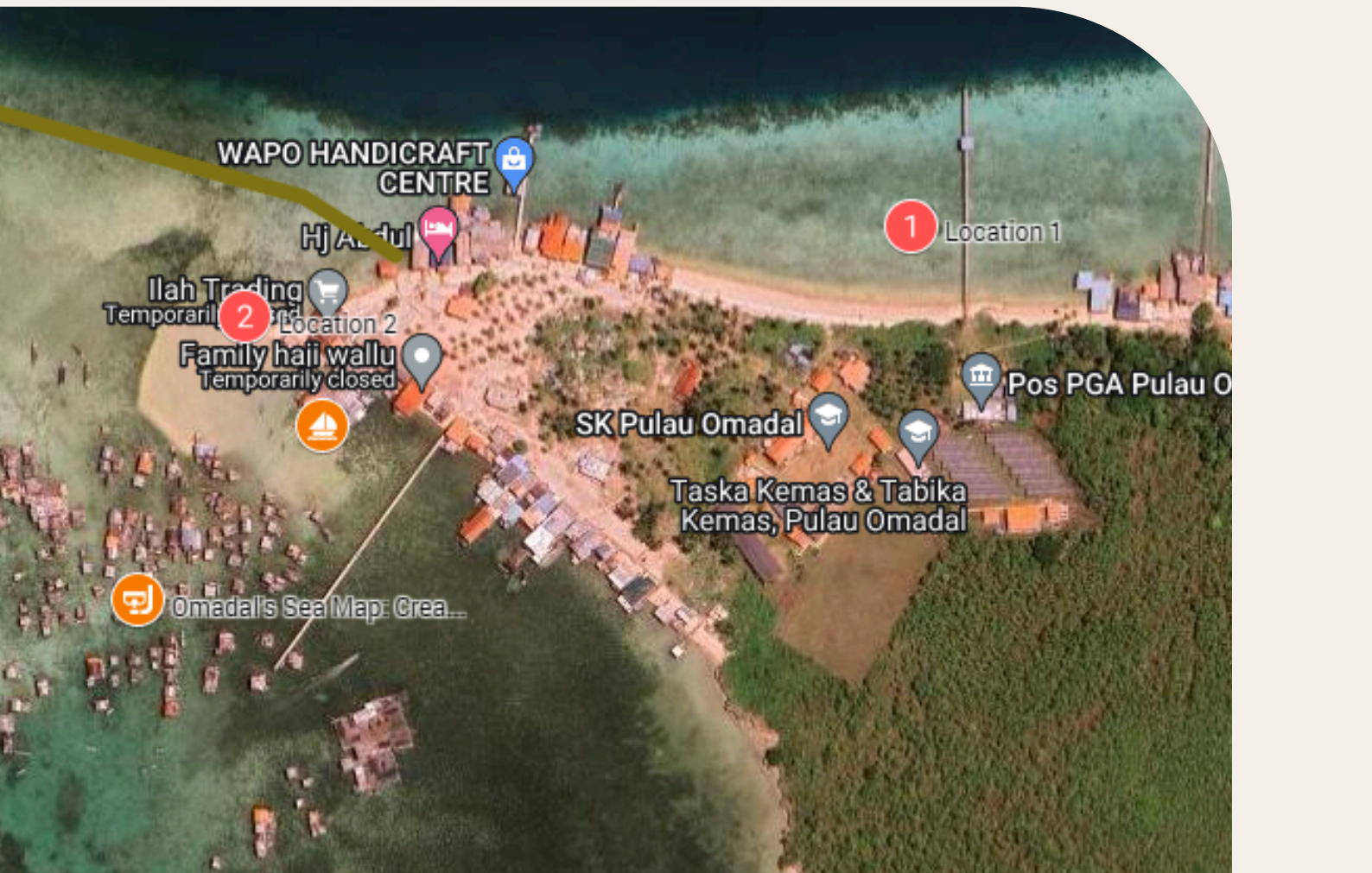
Recognising the importance of marine conservation, Iskul partnered with ReefCheck Malaysia to develop a marine stewardship program, despite lacking initial expertise. At first, teachers utilised marine books from WWF and "Ensiklopedia Marin" for preliminary lessons divided into four main parts; Island Discovery, Sea Exploration, Marine Life Mapping and Global Oceans. Iskul students underwent various activities like snorkeling excursions, and capturing marine life through photographs and naming them in their native Bajau language. Three students even achieved Open Water Certification for deeper exploration. The program concluded with ReefCheck's "Pejuang Laut" modules, empowering students through action projects.



Omadal Sea Map: Created by Kids for the Sea

Students mapped the island's marine environment in their native Bajau language, titled "**Omadal Sea Map: Created by Kids for the Sea**".

Students documented marine life with photos and named them with Bajau language names over four snorkeling excursions. Our teacher, Jefry Musa, compiled the information into a Google Spreadsheet, and Iskul volunteer Dr. Simon Soon from University Malaya mapped the students' output on Google My Map.



Iskul Students Influencing Responsible Waste Management in Their Households

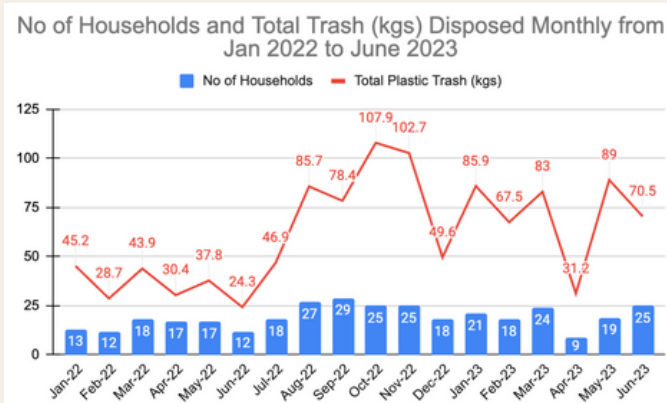
Historically, waste management for the Bajau Laut community in Omdal has been a concern; trash often carelessly thrown into the sea without awareness of the long-term impact.

However, Iskul's students—equipped with knowledge on the importance of their environment, hygiene, health, and responsibility—have emerged as changemakers, advocates, and influencers within their communities.



Iskul initiated the distribution of trash bins and bags to each household. Once filled, these bags are brought to the platform in Pondok Iskul, and every two weeks, Iskul then transports them by boat to Semporna town for proper disposal.

Many students take on the responsibility of bringing trash bags from their homes to Iskul, where they weigh and oversee the disposal process.



The graph indicates a significant increase in trash disposal over the course of 18 months, showcasing growing awareness and commitment towards responsible waste management in households, guided by their children at Iskul. This program contributes to a cleaner and safer living environment while moulding Iskul students into leaders and advocates for sustainable practices.

Digital Content Creator Program

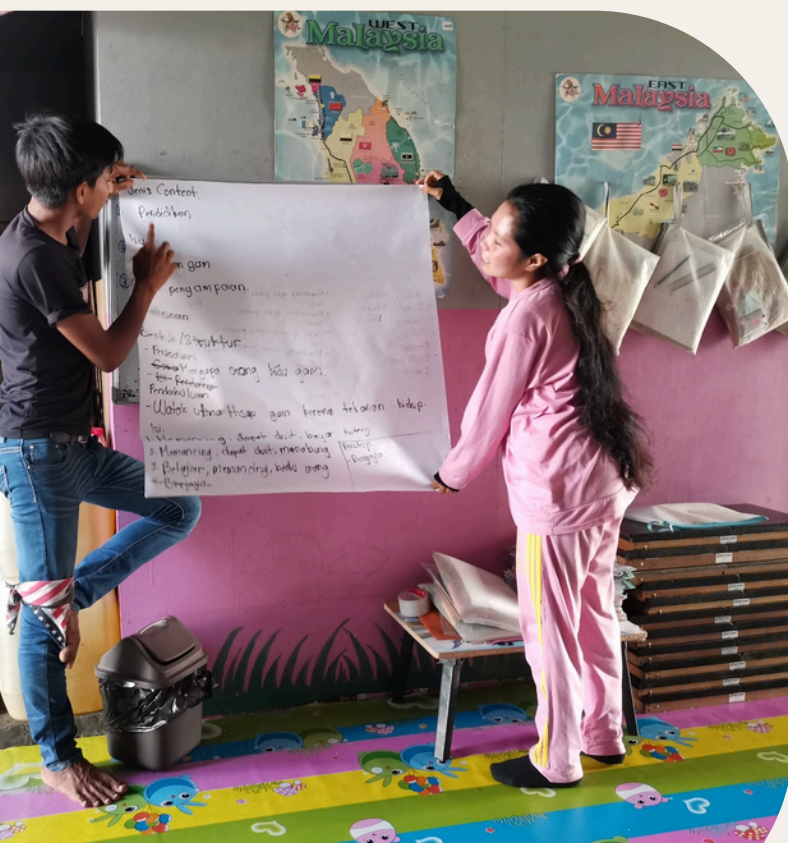
Video and Film Making Workshop

The Content Creator Program at Iskul aims to empower participants with essential skills in video-making and visual storytelling. At the end of the program, students are equipped to create videos independently; telling their stories and narrating the experiences of their community to the world. The workshops, conducted by experienced professionals like Andy Chia, a filmmaker, focus on fostering creativity and providing practical knowledge in filmmaking. Participants, including both stateless and Malaysian community members, come together to learn, collaborate, and share their unique stories.

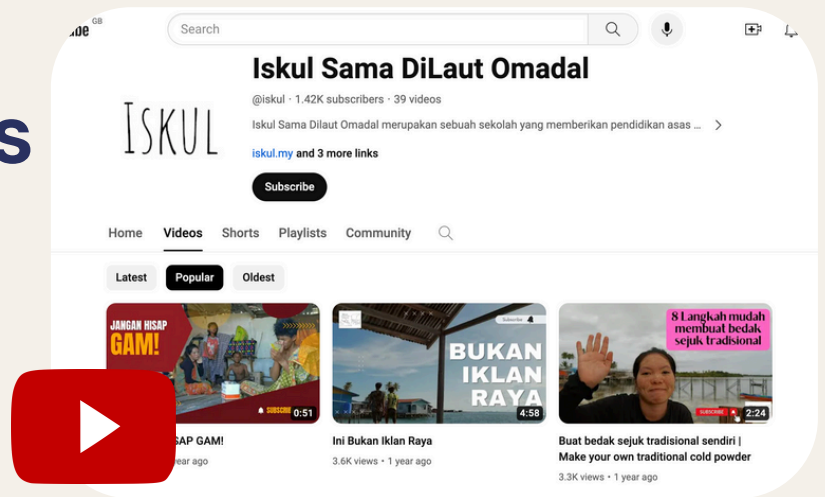


Weekly Mentorship

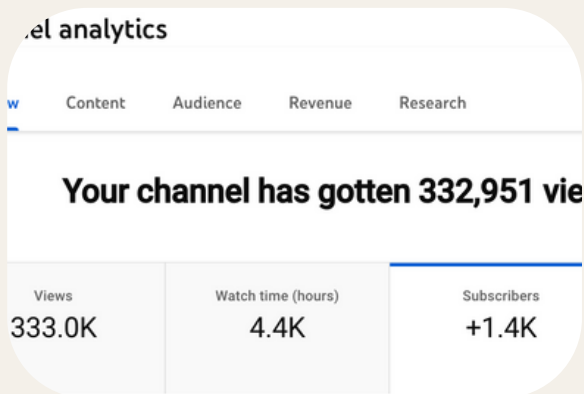
Weekly mentorship, led by Iskul team members Jefry Musa and Rahmat Mosa, is pivotal for the success of the content creator program. The mentors guided the participants through ideation, shooting, and editing, resulting in 39 videos spanning cultural and community-related themes. Iskul's establishment of YouTube, Facebook, and TikTok accounts has enabled widespread sharing of these videos, fostering community engagement and awareness.



Achievements from Content Creation



Monetisations from Social Media Platforms



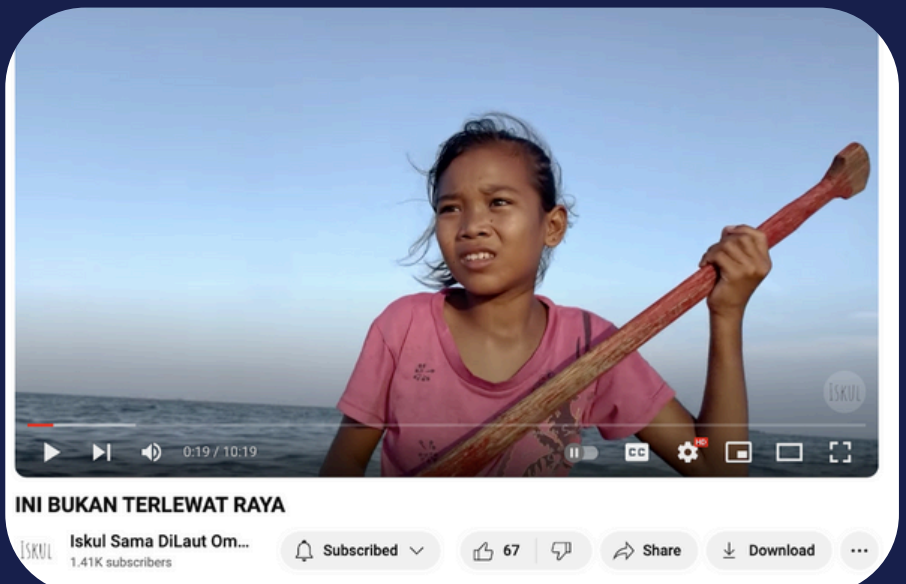
Participants have collectively produced 39 engaging educational videos, amassing a substantial 333k views and 1.43k subscribers on YouTube. Their impact extends to TikTok and Facebook, where they share stories and passion. Additionally, this collective effort generates additional income through social media content monetization.



Golden Kinabalu Award

Video titled "INI BUKAN TERLEWAT RAYA" received the prestigious 'Kinabalu Award' at the Go10 Filmmaker's Competition during the Kota Kinabalu International Film Festival (KKIFF) held at the Hilton Hotel, Kota Kinabalu, October 23.

A screenshot of the short film "Ini Bukan Terlewat Raya" that received the Golden Kinabalu Award. Watch it [here](#)



Impact on Omadal's Local Youth



The 7 local youth participants from Omadal.

A total of 10 youths attended this program, comprising of 3 from the stateless community and 7 with local citizenship. The participants were divided into two groups, mixing members from both communities to encourage interaction and collaboration.

The participants from both communities, enthusiastically collaborated to produce stories related to their lives and surroundings. This close partnership fostered mutual understanding and potentially reduces prejudice they may hold towards one another.

The videos cover a range of topics including traditional food, medicine, dance, and health messages, which benefit the local Omadal community by promoting and educating the broader online audience on their unique culture. Furthermore, the health awareness videos play a crucial role in educating peers about important health and social issues that require attention and change.



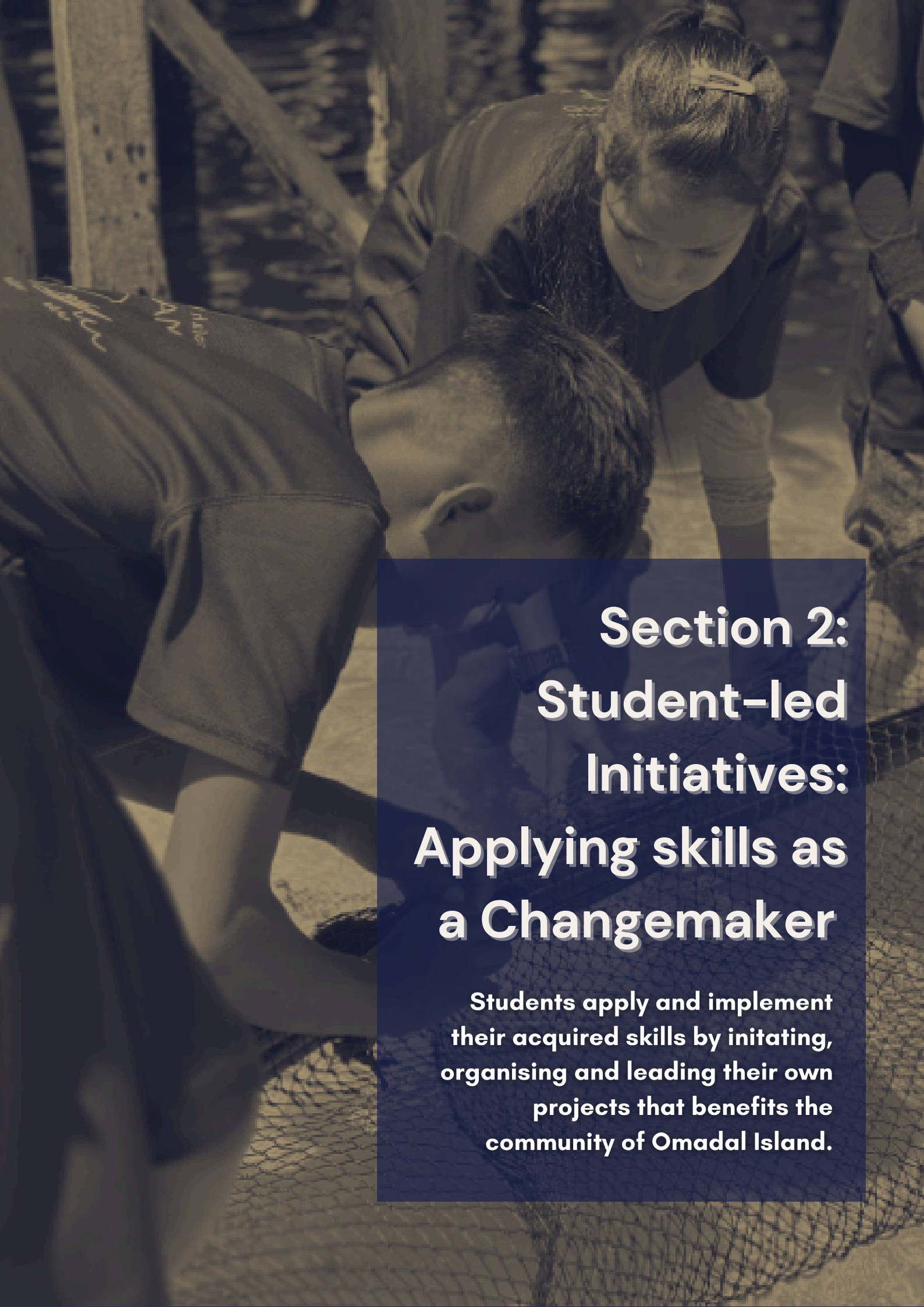
The 3 stateless participants.



"Saya seronok apabila diberi peluang untuk berlakon di dalam video yang dibuat bersama rakan-rakan yang lain. Saya berharap agar projek ini dapat diadakan lagi supaya saya boleh menambah ilmu saya tentang pembuatan video."

"I am delighted to be given the opportunity to act in the videos created with my fellow friends. I hope that this project can be held again so that I can further enhance my knowledge in video production."

- Siti Syakinaz , Malaysian Program Participant

A photograph of two students, a male and a female, working together on a large fishing net. The male student is in the foreground, leaning over the net, and the female student is behind him, also leaning over. They appear to be focused on their task. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the net and some wooden structures.

Section 2: Student-led Initiatives: Applying skills as a Changemaker

Students apply and implement their acquired skills by initiating, organising and leading their own projects that benefits the community of Omodal Island.

Student -led Gotong Royong



After Iskul facilitated an action project for our students in August of 2023, 34 of them, no longer shy and timid, felt empowered to propose 3 ideas they believed would contribute to making their homes and Omadal cleaner. The plans were mainly done in the form of gotong-royong, but they specifically outlined 3 objective to get out of this project:



First is to plan regular clean-up sessions picking up litter, and give their home the love it deserves. The first clean-up session saw **490kg** of trash brought out from Omadal!

Second, to provide bins to the playground and set up a daily monitoring schedule ensuring the bins are being used properly and the surroundings stay as clean as possible.

Finally, to plan awareness campaigns that encourage the entire community to get involved!

During gotong-royong, students roam the community collecting litter, ensuring no area, even beneath buildings, is overlooked. They record the weight data of the collected trash before preparing the bags into boats for transport.



These gotong-royong projects prove Iskul students are committed to being changemakers, ensuring their environment is clean and safe. This is one of the ways they change the common narrative that imposes otherwise.

Marine Corner: Educating the Community about Omadal's Ocean

Iskul students have delved into a comprehensive Marine Stewardship Training program from September 2022 to September 2023, led by Adzmin Fatta from ReefCheck Malaysia. Through 12 modules, they mastered marine mapping, scientific names, and photography, fostering a profound connection to Omadal Island's marine life.

The marine training led to student-led initiatives in October 2023 through a rigorous process of identifying the root causes of the marine lives they want to protect. 9 students felt empowered to contribute and provide solutions to the marine problem by **(i) creating a marine corner in Omadal to bring marine awareness to the residents and (ii) building a floating trash trap.**



Marine Corner

Iskul students constructed the marine corner from scratch. This serves as an educational hub, aiming to enlighten not their fellow students and the wider Omadal community. By utilizing the corner as a platform to share insight gained from marine modules, Iskul students hope to inspire and educate others on the significance of marine conservation, fostering understanding and appreciation for the precious marine environment that surrounds Omadal Island.

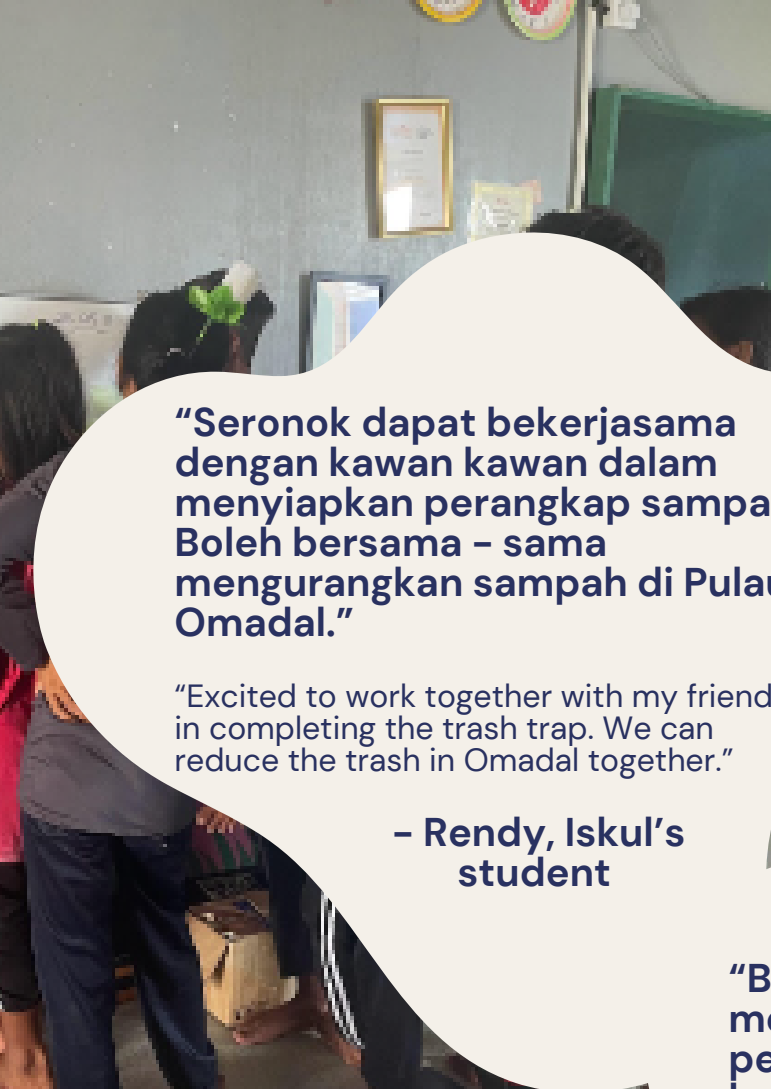


Floating Trash Trap Project

In a student-led initiative, nine students from Iskul Sama DiLaut addressed the issue of floating trash around Pulau Omadal. The Ata'u class, aged 12 to 15, focused on designing and implementing a floating trash trap beneath their school building. The project, guided by a structured Marine Module, unfolded over 12 months, integrating seamlessly into their academic schedule. Despite material procurement challenges, the students showcased resilience, creativity, and a genuine commitment to environmental impact.

Driven by a sense of responsibility towards the environment, the project aimed to actively reduce floating trash and implement a practical solution. The collaboration between Ata'u and Ahungun classes fostered a mentorship dynamic, strengthening community ties. Plans for future projects include optimizing trap placement, exploring sustainable materials, and expanding community engagement. This student-led initiative not only addresses immediate environmental concerns but also instills a lasting sense of environmental stewardship, showcasing the impact of hands-on learning and community involvement.






"Seronok dapat bekerjasama dengan kawan kawan dalam menyiapkan perangkap sampah. Boleh bersama – sama mengurangkan sampah di Pulau Omadal."

"Excited to work together with my friends in completing the trash trap. We can reduce the trash in Omadal together."

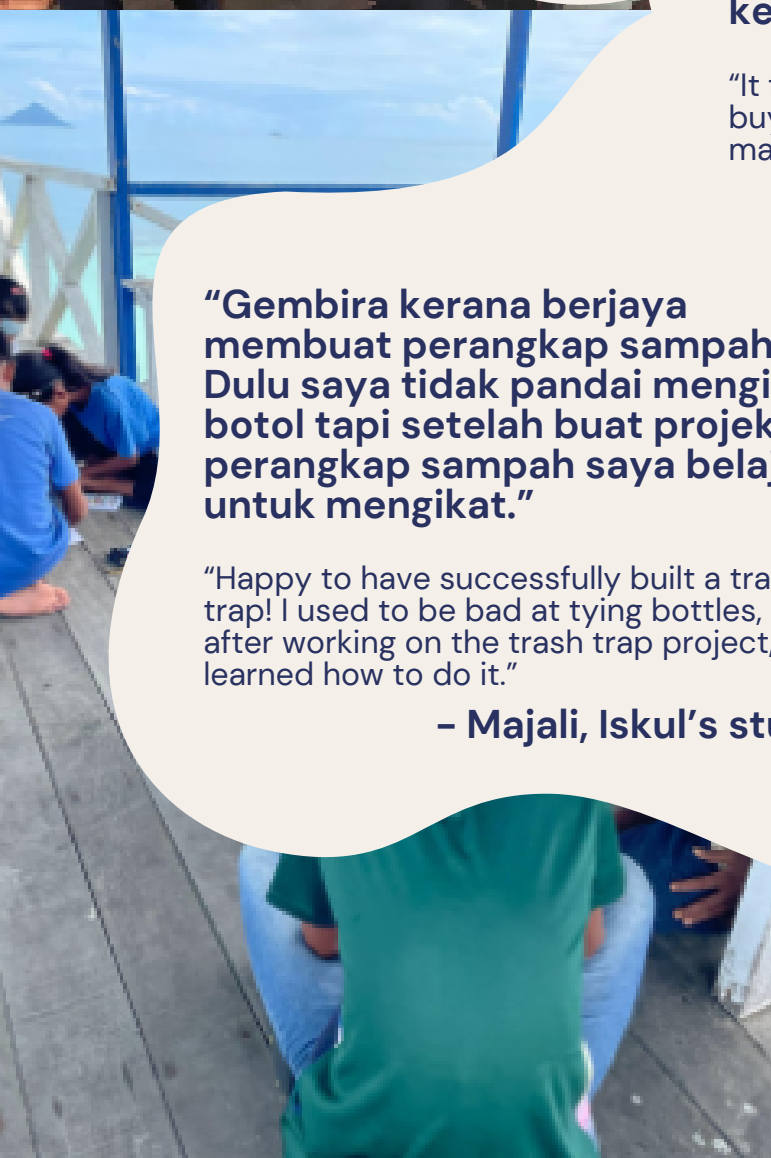
– Rendy, Iskul's student



"Best sebab boleh ke pekan membeli barang-barang untuk perangkap sampah. Boleh pergi ke banyak kedai mencari barang."

"It feels great to be able to go to the town to buy material for the trash trap. I get to go to many shops to look for things."

– Bayu, Iskul's student




"Gembira kerana berjaya membuat perangkap sampah. Dulu saya tidak pandai mengikat botol tapi setelah buat projek perangkap sampah saya belajar untuk mengikat."

"Happy to have successfully built a trash trap! I used to be bad at tying bottles, but after working on the trash trap project, I learned how to do it."

– Majali, Iskul's student



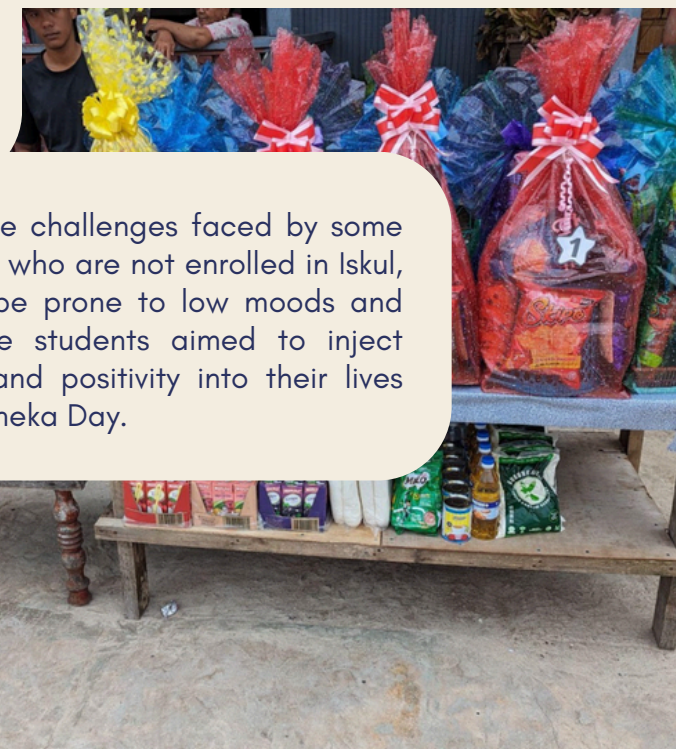
A young boy with dark hair, wearing a bright red t-shirt, is smiling broadly. He is holding a white plastic bag with green text that includes 'MA' and 'VIETN'. He is standing next to a brown plastic chair. The background is a solid dark blue.

Sukaneka: Iskul's Student Initiatives for Uplifting Omadal's Community Mental Health and Well-being

The Sukaneka Day event was proposed and organised by 8 of Iskul's students, responsible for every detail including the activities, equipment, and tidying up; with some guidance from teachers. The event hosted a total of 110 people across ages and citizenship who reside on Omadal Island.



The students proposed the Sukaneka Day after Iskul had organised them a mental health and wellbeing workshop. Reflecting on the material they had learned, these students recognised the necessity of such an event to alleviate the Omadal community's motivation and happiness through fun activities that can be done via community interaction.



Understanding the challenges faced by some stateless children who are not enrolled in Iskul, and who might be prone to low moods and social issues, the students aimed to inject motivation, joy, and positivity into their lives through the Sukaneka Day.

The students also realise that activities that bring together both the stateless and the local community at Omadal should be done more often so that a more harmonious relationship between the two can be fostered.

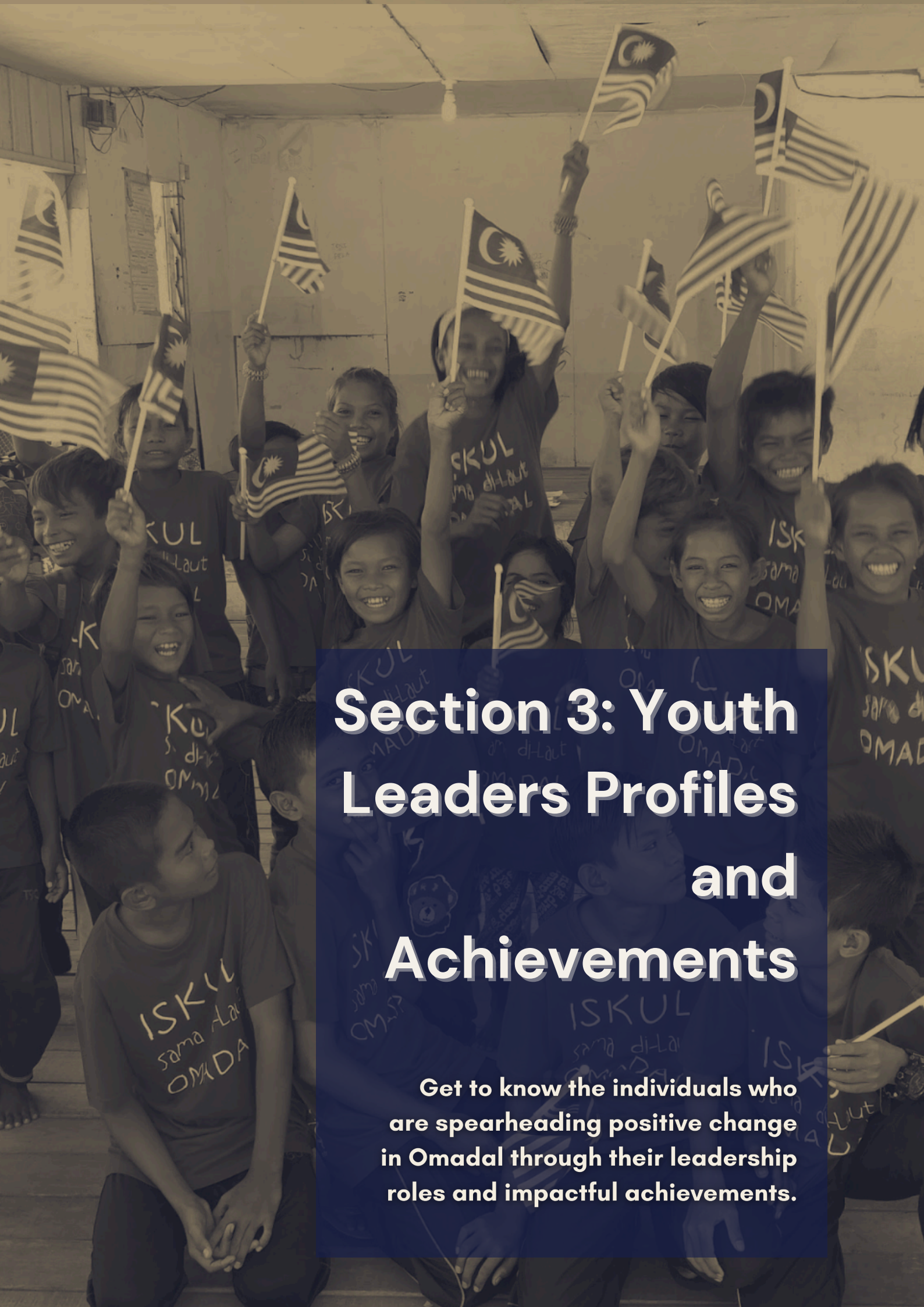


Raksasa Sampah: Content Created by the Students to Tackle the Rubbish Problem in Omdal

During the mental health action project, students seeking impactful initiatives turned their attention to the prevalent trash problem in their community. They realised that a cleaner environment means improved well-being for all. To advocate and spread awareness for this cause, Iskul's students have created a storyline entirely by themselves that tells the tale of a student with a habit of littering who is later confronted by Raksasa Sampah. With Iskul teacher Jefry providing guidance, they harnessed their creativity to craft a short film that creatively addresses the consequences of littering.

Check out the short film [here](#)





Section 3: Youth Leaders Profiles and Achievements

Get to know the individuals who are spearheading positive change in Omdal through their leadership roles and impactful achievements.

Mastal Arikik: From Iskul Students to Inspirational Teachers

Mastal Arikik are 'little teachers' in Bajau. The first few Mastal Arikik we had were Malaysian students on the island, who would help with classes on weekends. Today, our pioneer MA are moving on to bigger things, and some of Iskul's students are taking on the role. Most of these children have been training as Mastal Arikik since 2020, teach level 1-2 classes, **served as Iskuls Covid-19 relief movers**, and are **key liaisons for the stateless community**.





Iskul has four Mastal Arikik: Cikgu Bilkuin, Cikgu Enidah, Cikgu Shima and Cikgu Delah. Every evening, Iskul provides classes and training for Mastal Arikik. The main goal of these classes is to train and produce teachers who can teach and guide Iskul students. The classes are:

- **Teaching Technique** - Basic concepts for teaching children; demonstrating, modelling, scaffolding, attending, encouraging/advising, sharing, and building.
- **Content Creation** - Assists in public speaking skills, creating good speech/content/values, and using new media and technology in education.
- **Reports and Discussions** - Every Tuesday, Iskul staff, including Mastal Arikik, gather to complete documentation tasks such as reports, student profiles, data analysis, and student development. In addition, discussions are held on national history, marriage, climate change, poverty, and more. These sessions encourage teachers to evaluate, think critically, and prioritise.

Aside from teaching, each Mastal Arikik is given a community project to manage. There are four projects managed by Mastal Arikik: Waste Management Project, Health, Handcraft Making & Selling, and Iskul Garden. Through these projects, Iskul can sharpen values such as planning processes, communication, problem-solving, and leadership.



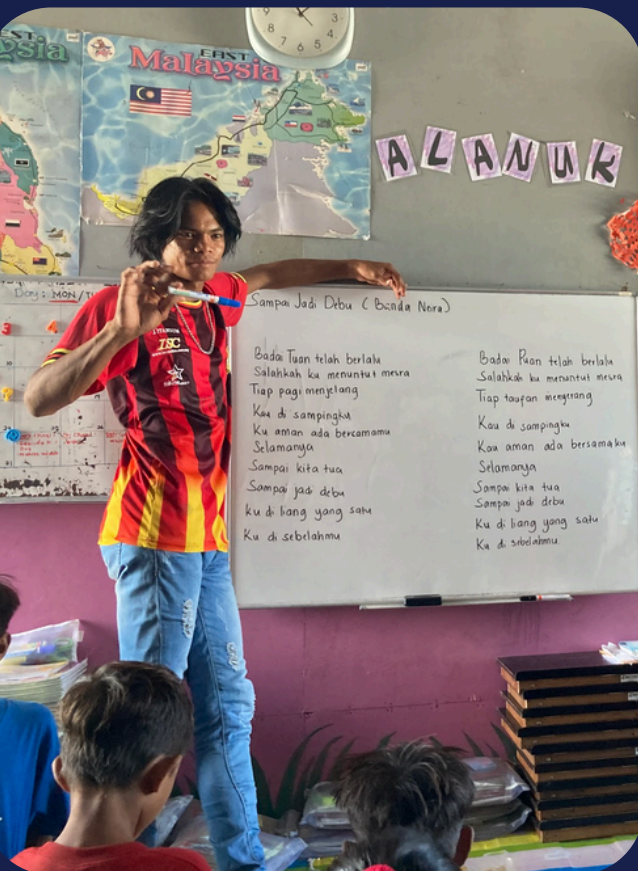
BILKUIN

"The idealistic boy who will make waves"

In charge of Waste Management Project



Bilkuin joined Iskul as a pilot student in August 2015. He is a child of the stateless community in Omadal. Currently aged 18, he is the sole breadwinner supporting his parents and 3 other siblings. He was one of our top-performing students.



Bilkuin spent a few months with his cousins on the mainland of Semporna and was able to pick up reading and writing skills faster than his peers. His cousins were able to attend formal school because his uncle is a Malaysian. He understands the difference opportunities make, and the importance of financial security when he was hired to work in the oil palm for several months.

Bilkuin teaches Level 1 students. He manages his class well and his students love learning from him. He makes his classes fun and interesting for them.

He is the **mainstay** of Iskul's community project e.g. water project and waste management project where he is the key liason with the stateless community.





ENIDAH

"A top student who is talented and committed"

In charge of Kebun Iskul

Enidah is also a child of the stateless community. Similar to Bilkuin, she joined Iskul in August 2015 when she was roughly 12 years old. Enidah has 12 siblings and her family earns RM10 daily. She graduated as the top student for Class 2020.

She made very steady progress every year as seen in 2015-2018 evaluation reports. She has also consistently performed well in her yearly evaluations. This shows her ability to focus and learn when given opportunities.

In 2019, she took up the challenge of becoming Mastal Arikik and was assigned to teach intermediate classes, in which students have now mastered A to Z and numbers.



Enidah leads the Kebun Iskul project, cultivating vegetables for sale, while teaching Iskul students how to plant vegetables. This hydroponic garden addresses the challenge of accessing fresh vegetables on Omadal Island, offering the community a reliable local source.



DELAH

"The proactive child who rose above all expectations"

In charge of Pandanus Weaving and Selling

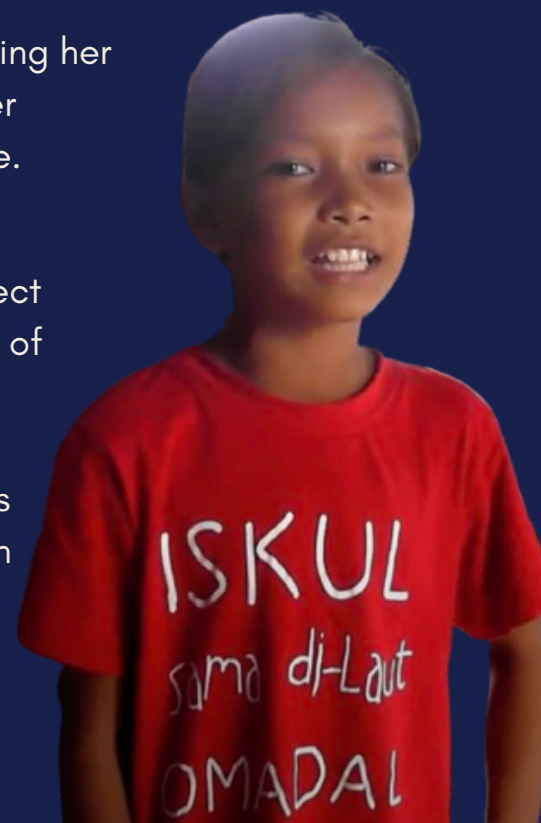


Delah has been classmate of Enidah and Bilkuin since August 2015, when she was about 11 years old. Delah has nine siblings and her family earns RM5 daily. Her older brother was in the graduate of class 2020, and her younger brother is currently enrolled in Iskul.

While working as a housekeeper with a Malaysian family, she was also learning from the school-going children. This has undeniably boosted her progress compared to her peers. When the new intake of students resumed in July 2019, she courageously stepped up to teach in Iskul despite having no prior experience and training.

Many students attending her class have enjoyed her kindness and patience.

She also leads a project that creates a stream of income for stateless women-selling hand woven pandanus mats in a collaboration with Yayasan Gamuda.





SHIMA

"The young girl who is raising the bar"

Iskul's Student Health Coordinator

Shima is the niece of one of our co-founders, Kak Roziah. She came to Omdal to learn pandanus weaving to make handicrafts at 15 years old in 2021. She has a birth certificate, but no IC. As a result, she could not enter the public secondary school.

Seeing her potential, Iskul engaged her as one of our Mastal Arikik in March 2022. Shima currently teaches level 2 classes, and serves as our student health coordinator.

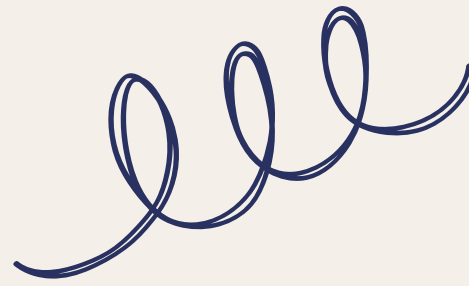
She has been in charge of giving medical first aid services to the other students and the community since 2022. Recently, she was selected as Community Health Helpers (CHH) and underwent a clinic attachment at Klinik Warisan Semporna over two weeks.



This initiative equips her with practical healthcare knowledge and positions her as a valuable asset in championing community health on Omdal Island.



Khairul, Iskul's Co- Founder



**Khairul Atim | Co-founder,
Pioneer Mastal Arikik and
currently Field Coordinator**



Khairul is one of the co-founders of Iskul Sama diLaut Omadal. He and his family reside on the Omadal Island. He's a Malaysian and he is able to converse in Bajau fluently. He was one of the pioneer Mastal Arikik (MA). He conducted the first trial class for the stateless children when he was 14 years old. Subsequently, he participated in the set-up process of Iskul. He committed to teaching his stateless neighbours on weekends since then. As our pioneer MA, he was nominated the "Young Change Makers 2015" by UNICEF.



Reflecting on the impact of Iskul on his life, Khairul expressed various positive outcomes. From a young age of 14, he felt a calling to become a kindergarten teacher, and Iskul provided the opportunity to fulfil this aspiration. He acknowledges that without Iskul, he might not have reached this level of growth and sees Iskul not just as an organisation but as a second family.

As a member of the tightly knit community, his background and experience makes him a pivotal figure in Iskul's operations. He provides insights into the relationship and interdependency between the Malaysian and stateless communities of Omdal Island. As the incumbent Field Coordinator, he is undergoing a series of trainings to refine his soft skills and technical skills. These skills will ease his coordination tasks and prepare him to co-manage Iskul with Iskul MAs and students in the near future.

"Cita-cita saya adalah untuk memperjuangkan hak pendidikan untuk komuniti yang terpinggir. Saya juga berharap untuk BERJAYA DALAM HIDUP."

"My aspiration is to advocate for the right to education for marginalized communities. I also hope to SUCCEED IN LIFE."

- Khairul, Iskul's co-founder



Discover the Aspirations of Our Students and How Iskul Empower Their Dreams

These are students currently enrolled in Iskul. They come from similar backgrounds as our previous Mastal Arikik, and we hope our continued support will drive them to achievements of their own by providing opportunities that may otherwise not be possible.

ALINI



MINA



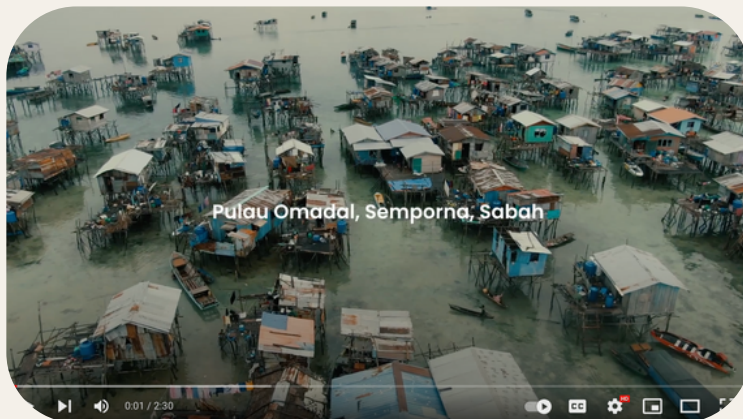
AG



MAJALI



Learn more about Iskul through these videos:



Yayasan Hasanah: 'Little Teacher' Jimmy's Story | Education for Every Child



Unicef Young Changemaker: Khairul



Persatuan Wanita Pulau Omadal (WAPO): Mastal Arikik in 2016

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Magsukul!