

# W A C A N A

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# **The Implication of Attending Tuition Classes: Motivation or burden??**

By

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## **Introduction**

*"I think what the teachers care about is position and getting good grades, A, B, C. I didn't learn anything..."*

The above statement were drawn out from a conversation with a 9 year old pupil from a primary school. It's a judgement of the learner about the educational system as a whole and its effect on the learner's cognitive capacity. And as educators, we should think about why and how we could help the learners to survive the educational system with overemphasis on the products and examination that might consequently deny the children rights to the real meaning of learning, the core business in education. Most parents would sought "supplement" coaching for their children in order to achieve excellent results in their national examination. It's pitiful sometimes that the parents would do this for their own pride and pressure their children who would be cognitively burden with lots of homework and stressful exercises in addition to the tight schedule they have to fulfill.

It was the resultant change in the Malaysian educational system since independence due to globalization and societal needs that has put many demands on part of learners to strive for betterment in educational field to keep up with these changes. At the same time, parents who are well aware of these changes in educational field also put emphasis on their children's academic achievements. Apart from the formal hours of schools, many parents send their children for tuition classes as 'supplement' education. The emergence of tuition centers are an indication that attending tuition classes as part of the urban and sub-urban lifestyle. If once upon a time tuition classes are associated with the well-off families but the emergence of these tuition centers now indicates that it serves as the necessary supplement for all level of students regardless of their background. In addition to this, the implementation of tuition voucher scheme is another indication of helping students who need financial assistance to attend this 'supplement' education.

The question here is not about the tuition vouchers or tuition schools but the issue of students attending tuition classes. Before going further on the issue, it is essential to define what is meant by tuition class.