

# Financial literacy help for 80 Muslim kids

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CHILDREN in low-income Muslim families, especially families in debt, will be put through a financial literacy programme put together by Citi, Citi Foundation and the Sim Kee Boon Institute for Financial Economics of the Singapore Management University (SMU).

The Citi-SMU Financial Literacy Programme for Young Adults will team up with the Association of Muslim Professionals (AMP) to run workshops for about 80 children aged 14 to 17, whose parents are in debt and undergoing counselling.

The programme was previously for students from the technical institutes.

Under the tie-up between the two-year-old programme and AMP, workshops will be run twice a month until year-end. These sessions will be taught by student trainers from the Citi-SMU Financial Literacy Student Club, who have met AMP to understand the children's needs.

The collaboration between the programme and AMP was announced at the programme's inaugural symposium, titled Building Inclusivity in Financial Literacy Awareness.

Some tweaking of the course material will be necessary, since the programme is normally for older individuals aged 17 to 30. Student trainer Siddiq Poh, a second-year accountancy student, said that one challenge he faces lies in tailoring lessons to those aged 14 to 17.

"Between the content and approach, the difficulty we have so far is to find the sweet spot . . . We have been trained to teach students above 16. That's why we're facing difficulties in coming up with the curriculum, activities and presentations," he said.

To overcome this, the trainers have had discussions with their professors on the best approach.

Besides working with AMP, the student club will organise a Financial Literacy Awareness Day next month to reach out to 800 students from the Institute of Technical Education (ITE), polytechnics and junior colleges. Workshops will continue to be run for ITE students next month.

At yesterday's symposium attended by about 160 participants from organisations such as banks and junior colleges, speakers addressed topics such as the impact of financial education and innovative ways to teach young people the rudiments of managing finances.