

Hard efforts pay off for husband, wife

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KOTA KINABALU: A married couple who both graduated with their Masters degree showed that anything is possible if people put their minds to it, when met with reporters during the UMS 19TH Convocation here, Saturday.

Mohd Mahadzir Rahimi, 43, received his Masters in Education (Curriculum and Instruction) while his wife Norsimah binti Dasan, 45, received her Masters in Psychology (Counselling) during the ceremony which was officiated by Tan Sri Abdul Ghani.

They had met while studying in University Sains Malaysia (USM) Penang before furthering their studies in UMS and obtaining the degrees in a span of 3.5 years and 4.5 years, respectively.

Mahadzir said that in the road to success, there are many hurdles to overcome but it is a matter of one's determination and perseverance to overcome them that matters in the end.

The father of five said that he had also faced various hurdles such as balancing between familial duties and work, in the pursuit of knowledge and education.

"Studying while managing a family is no easy task, especially since my wife and I are currently in a long-distance relationship due to different work postings.

"Whenever we are both home, we would take turns to watch over the kids when we're not studying or our parents would sometimes look after them," he said.

Besides the issue of being posted in Sandakan while his wife in Kota Kinabalu, he said that he had also faced other problems such as monetary issues.

"There are times where I have to conduct researches in various universities in Malaysia but I would be short of money and have to cut down on food or not eat at all.

"For the same reason, I sometimes have to stay at my friend's place as to cut down on living costs," he said.

The 43-year-old Kemahiran Hidup (Life Skills) school teacher been teaching in various institutions such as in Maktab Rendah Sains Mara (MRSM) Langkawi, MRSM Mersing, MRSM Kota Kinabalu and is currently teaching at MRSM Tun Muhammad Fuad Stephens in Sandakan.

Meanwhile, his wife encouraged mar-



Mahadzir (left) and Norsimah posing with their Masters degrees.

ried couples who are still hesitant about furthering their education due to other commitments to work together as to pursue their interest in education.

Norsimah said even though there will be challenges in various aspects such as mentally and physically, it is vital that husband and wife support each other as to achieve the goal of furthering education.

"Because my husband and I are pursuing different fields of study, we have to find ways to cooperate in addition to sacrificing quality time with family. However, we still strive and persevere through the odds in order for our efforts to bear fruit," she said.

The Tuaran-born woman said the struggles got especially tougher when she was pregnant in her second year of studying, causing her to slow down on her studies in addition to other issues such as stress.

She said that she was able to cope with the situation with the support from her husband, children and her working supervisor.

She added that all of her children has been very supportive in their endeavor for knowledge, even giving them a slight motivational push at times.

"My eldest daughter has especially helped us by taking care of her younger siblings whenever we are busy with their work.

"My children would sometimes remind us to study or work whenever I'm slacking off by pretending that my superiors are calling me," she said cheerfully.

Norsimah is currently working as a tutor in Open University Malaysia (OuM) and other private institutions.