Rising to the occasion

Wise words: Besides paying attention in class and doing work at the right time, Parvin says that one should study smart and not hard.

SUCCESS comes in many ways. Luck and timing may play a role but most times, success is due to discipline and hard work.

For second-year Universiti Tun Abdul Razak (Unirazak) student Parvin Anpalagan, coming from a humble background has not stopped him from achieving good results throughout his schooling years.

The son of a lorry driver and housewife, Parvin was consistently placed first or second in primary school and achieved 5A's in his Ujian Pencapaian Sekolah Rendah examination.

His results secured him a place at Maktab Rendah Sains Mara (MRSM) Terendak, Malacca.

Despite the challenges of life in a residential school, he maintained a good cumulative grade point average in his studies.

Parvin was also active in clubs and societies; he was the vice president of a student counselling club.

At the club, he helped new students familiarise themselves with the school — a role he has continued in Unirazak as one of their student ambassadors.

Besides books, he also excelled in sports. Despite having no formal training, Parvin joined the track and field team in Form Five and won gold and silver medals at the National MRSM Athletics Championship and Malacca District Schools Sports Council.

Due to his academic and extra-curricular achievements, the accounting student earned a full scholarship from the varsity to pursue his ambition of becoming an accountant.

"Getting the scholarship was a big surprise for me as I was not expecting it at all," said Parvin.

When asked about his parents' reaction, he replied, "My parents were very happy. They trust me and have always encouraged and pushed me to do my best."

The Arsenal football club supporter plays futsal with his friends in Ampang during his spare time and has helped place Unirazak in third place in a recent inter-university football competition.

Parvin enjoys attending his classes, saying he is able to concentrate and focus better in class due to the small classroom size.

"All my lecturers know my name and are able to give me more of their time and attention. I feel that is important for me to continue doing well," he said.

He credited his lifestyle choices — avoiding junk food and being a strict vegetarian — as part of his secret for success.

When pressed further, he professed with a shy yet confident smile, "All you have to do is study smart, not hard. Focus in class, sleep well and do your work at the right time."