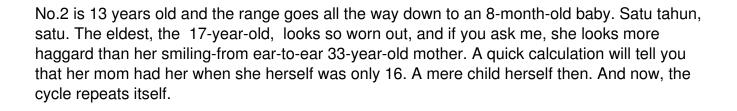


By Monica

I've seen 10-year-old Raj for months. He's neat, clean, courteous, helpful and obedient. I must confess I favour him in my heart, though I know I shouldn't practise favouritism.





Raj's parents, 33 and 38 years of age, are both "tukang sapu di highway" and "potong pokok" respectively, living in Lembah Subang. Their family is just one of the many there who survive miraculously.

How do they feed a family of 13 on their meagre income? And yet, none of them is skinny or looks undernourished to me. Thank God. Their eyes are bright, eager, expectant, joyful and full of life and hope. Except for the eldest, the 17-year-old. I see the light has all but dimmed.



