

Game should be banned, says sociologist

KUALA LUMPUR — A Universiti Putra Malaysia sociologist has recommended that Pokemon Go be banned in this country as it carries many negative implications.

Prof Datuk Dr Mohammad Shatar Sabran, of the Faculty of Human Ecology, said Pokemon Go could cause one to become complacent.

“It causes people to neglect their daily duties,” Mohammad said during an interview on Bernama Radio programme “Dalam Radar”.

He said Pokemon Go players, especially the young generation, now prefer to play the game rather than to communicate with their family and friends, adding that the negative perception comes from the players’ preoccupation in the hunt for the game’s characters.

Pokemon Go, an augmented reality game based on locations developed by Niantic Incorporation of Nintendo USA, was launched on July 6 is now available in Malaysian and more than 30 other countries.

It is a conventional “hide and seek” game that requires players to find and and fight virtual characters based on real-world locations that are detected through smartphones. — Bernama