

Handcrafted chairs keep visually impaired man focused

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ALTHOUGH he lost his sight at the age of 32 due to a genetic condition, V. Saravanan did not lose his determination to provide for his family.

He has even gone on to impart his work skills to other visually impaired people.

Saravanan, 48, said he joined the Malaysian Association for the Blind (MAB) and in four years, learned skills to make designs on wooden chairs from a 78-year-old master.

He shared that he learned five basic designs from his sifu at MAB.

"I created another four new designs on my own," he said at the Malaysian International Furniture Fair (MIFF) 2019 held at Malaysian International Trade and Exhibition Centre (Mitec) in Kuala Lumpur.

His hand-designed chairs were among the items showcased at the fair to enable the public to place their orders through MAB.

"I also started to teach these skills to other visually impaired people at MAB to help them make a living too," he said.

Saravanan said he was really happy to be able to impart his knowledge and woodworking skills to others like him.

"It's pure joy," he added.

He has also set up a company so



Saravanan (left) teaching 19-year-old visually impaired Mohd Shamil Mohd Shahrulnizam on the technique and skills required for the woodwork handicraft designs on chairs at MIFF 2019 at Mitec in Kuala Lumpur.

that he can do projects at his home in Shah Alam and support his family.

Saravanan's chairs range from RM85 to RM130 each, depending on the size.

For instance, he said the 12-inch chairs were priced at RM85 each, while the 18-inch handcrafted ones

suitable for the dining table and computer tables were priced at RM99 each.

He also makes coffee tables with designs for RM250 each.

"If the customer wants a glass top added, it will be priced accordingly," said the father of four children aged between 16 and 22.