BEHIND ABSENTEEISM

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Absenteeism is one of the major problems in the educational system of our country. Sometimes student fails to attend to his classes in some point of his learning. But the question is: Why did students skip classes?

Absenteeism according to Eneza Education (2013), is a truant behavior that negatively affects the performance of the students. It is an act of not attending the classes with or without permission from the teacher that leads to inability to accomplish the tasks given by the teachers resulting to failing grades. This problem is a shadow that covers the real situation of the learner. Every student has a story that teacher has to read and understand. They need to uncover the real reason of habitual staying away from the school of the learners.

There are reasons behind absenteeism. It is not that students are lazy, but there are things they need to do that is why they have to skip classes for a day or two and sometimes more than a week. It is not just absenteeism, but a situation that hides different stories.

Let us cite students who work in the industry of agriculture as an example. Students who are in this type of job need to double the time helping their parents to earn a living. These students have younger siblings who are also studying and need a full stomach before leaving their home. They want to help their brothers and sisters by letting themselves to suffer. This shows that behind every absentee is a story that is written on a field.
Students, who do not regularly attend classes, have stories untold at home. Some students have personnel problems on their family resulting to anxiety. Students, who cried when the discussion focused on parents, have experienced losing one of their parents or maybe their father or mother has left them to establish another family. Some students are also experienced rejection from their parents and others are abandoned. Some students have parents far from them due to occupation abroad. They couldn’t do anything because if their parents do not work they have nothing to eat. These situations can lead to emotional stress that affects academic performance.

Students, who experienced bullying, have the tendency to miss classes. They encounter different forms of bullying like verbal, emotional, social and physical abuse. As a result, they isolate themselves from the others and afraid to deal with their classmates. They become timid and shy and do not want to perform in front of the audience. To escape on this situation, they look for an outlet to release their emotion and tension. The outlet could be positive or negative. It depends on how students accept the situation. Some will involve themselves to something creative, like in singing, dancing, painting, or any craft that will make them strong or other people around will be proud off. Behind every bully victim is a talent hidden in a classroom. However, some students cannot properly handle the pressure that allows them to do something unbecoming. Teachers must help these students to recognize the value of positive response.

Students, who are working at night, have the possibility to avoid classes because they sleep late. These students need an extra job because they are living on their relatives. Behind every working student is a reason that every teacher must spot.

Students who are these situations must be addressed by the teachers, so that appropriate approach and reinforcement must be given.
Reference: