**BETWEEN AGES**

*by:*

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Y is young and O is old.

Why is it that there is always a hidden, sometimes obvious gap between teachers of different ages? There’s a friction though some just try not to notice it. There is this blank space that divides the two ages. There is always something.

Let us start with O. Let O represent the old generation. O have been serving in the field for decades. This group of teachers have gone through a lot. They know almost everything based on experience, from the smallest to biggest, pros and cons, in and out. They are the ones who have served in the school and the contributors of what the school has become. They are the pillars who managed to stay and serve the stakeholders through thick and thin.

Let us now talk about Y. Let Y represent the young generation. Y is the group of teachers who are equipped with potential, enthusiasm, and new ideas. They are the eager ones. They are the ones who see new hopes, new challenges, and new direction for the school. They have fresh minds and they want to take risks. They want to try new things; they innovate and apply what they have learned from college.

But despite these good attributes of both ages, where do gaps really come from?

They come from expectations and lack of proper communication.

O expect Y to ask them and consider the norm in the school before the latter take actions. Y, on the other hand, expect O to teach them what they need to learn because
they are new in the field. They do not know exactly what to do and how to do it. There is expectation and lack of communication between the two. O is now thinking that Y do not consider them in their actions while Y think that they should do things on their own because O will not teach them how to do things, anyway.

And this is where bigger gaps start.

O think that they are being disrespected. Y think that they are being ignored. The gap just keeps on growing that sometimes it leads to misunderstanding, quarrels, unhealthy working environment. And it can even get worse.

This is why orientations for newly-hired teachers are very important. It is understandable that some things they learned from college become quite different when they get to the actual teaching field. They need assistance. And this is where O should come in. When good assistance and proper communication are established, surely the gap between ages will just be numbers.

References:

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