BRIDGING THE CULTURAL GAP BETWEEN STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

by:
Donna May S. Baltazar
Orani National High School-Parang-Parang

Teachers or educators hear or know a lot of gaps in the teaching-learning process. There are funding gaps, achievement gaps, readiness gaps and even peer gaps. There is another gap still to be examined, the cultural gap between students and teachers. It is very important for the educators to understand the gap primarily because they are the instruments of knowledge and skills and even to the development of the potentials of the students. These gaps must be determined at early stage to avoid conflicts with students leading them to lose interest during the learning process.

Culture matters in an educational system. Culture isn’t just the way we dress, religious traditions, language, beliefs and shared ideas and recipes; it is a lived experience unique to each individual. As educators, it’s our duty to stimulate intellectual development of children as part of the culture. Education is part of culture. One of the ways to understand culture is through education.

To truly engage with the learning of the students, we must reach out to them in ways that are culturally and linguistically responsive and appropriate and we also must examine the cultural assumptions and environment we bring into the learning situation. To engage the students effectively in the teaching-learning process, the teachers must know their students and their academic abilities individually. We must also determine their strengths and weaknesses. We must help them develop their potentialities as individuals. Let us make them feel that they are wanted, cared for and loved to build their competence and trust. If this happens, willingness and determination to develop and improve their potentials and skills will be more possible among them.
A classroom culture of trust and acceptance must be established so that students are empowered and comfortable with providing feedback to continuously improve classroom teaching and learning and learning from mistakes to enhance achievement. If the educators understand the gap and try to bridge the gap between the students, educational achievement and success is more likely to happen, teaching and learning situation is more likely to improve and the harmonious relationship in the education system concerning the students and teachers is more likely to achieve.

References: