DEALING WITH MILLENNIAL STUDENTS

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Teaching the new generation of students is a big challenge to the teachers. One must defy the odds and understand students’ needs and necessities in order that they can gain the most possible learning. And to start the year, it is right time that the learning providers or the teachers must be fully aware and abreast of the current situations and attitudes of pupils, be innovative and resourceful enough to deal with them so that the quality of education that the government is improving would be more achievable. The millennial students according to studies (Neil House and William Strauss of 2003, Christy Price of 2009 and Richard Sweeney of 2012) are digital natives who are perfectly at home with technology and use it to mediate their experience and social relationships. They value experiential and explanatory learning, quickly becoming bored with passive lectures, and are high achievers who are very grade motivated. They are also impatient, easily bored, and expect instant gratification when they do know that they did an assigned task well. They believe (for better or for worse) that they are expert multi-task doers such as doing homework, monitoring phone and Facebook feeds, and listening to music at the same time. And they are even team oriented and comfortable working in groups rather than doing assignments and homework alone.

Teachers are required to know better that students have different learning styles. These are those who can understand the students, who can laugh with them, who can guide them throughout the processes of learnings as they gain the significant values which are essential in their mental and emotional development. What is essential is to provide them with everyday quality learning styles using multi-media approach, videos for actual illustrations of the learning concepts, cooperative learning, and opportunities to discover
new things by themselves and experience the day to day interactive courses. Aside from the said materials, a teacher must be energetic, enthusiastic, can stand with full confidence in front of students, and most importantly, provide them with greatest possible love and compassion as to inculcate a multi-domain of learnings in their intellect psychosocial and even in their emotional aspects.

Stop the chalk and blackboard approach discussion, without any visual aids, storytelling by words, and copy these and that strategy. These are the passive lectures that students are getting tired of. Students are really bored with traditional sort of teaching resulting to bursting out into unbecoming behavior and attitudes. Instead of doing what the teacher requires to finish, they would rather make or do naughty things with their seatmates until fight arises. Retention of learning fails if these do not cease. We should learn how to adjust to the development of our learners and start using more innovative and interactive strategies that will truly let them enjoy and be immersed in the teaching-learning process. Let us not allow the difference of our age and era hinders the quality of learning that we can give to our students. Let us grab the opportunity to improve and have fun learning together with our dear students.

What is needed is not a teacher by profession but it must be a teacher by heart because students nowadays are becoming abrupt, hasty, and impulsive. If a teacher does not have the required attitude towards his job, he will never win. But if a teacher possesses the “must have” personality and characteristics of quality learning facilitators with innovative teaching strategies available in today’s developed technology, there would be an assurance of a very high learning outcome in the totality of the child’s new adventures in life, renditions of intellectual development and virtues in life that would bring them to their highest goals when they become mature and thus, can reach their full potential and be what they want to be in the future.
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