DEALING WITH THE GENERATION Z

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Classroom is a dynamic environment filled with diverse learners—learners, who may or may not be eager to grasp the value of learning. They are pre-occupied with their own beliefs, preferences and intentions. With that, their behaviors differ from the previous generation – that of their teachers.

Teachers are generally starting to adjust with the millennials as a new generation begins to arise – the Generation Z. This pertains to individuals who were born from 1995 onwards (Kleinschmit, 2015). Therefore, how can the former or previous generation adapt the manner, mindset, and the viewpoints of what you called the Generation Z?

Knowing them is also identifying their characteristics. Although individuals are exactly not the same, still, it is significant to know who are they; thus, teachers will be able to adapt and to adjust in their world. Specialists revealed that generation Z can function in both real and virtual world. They can easily switch between these two worlds, as they perceived them as complementary to one another (Zarcynska-Dobiez & Chomatowska, 2014; Dalot, 2018).

Robertson (2018) characterized the generation Z and the way they learn and discover knowledge. According to him, Gen Zers (generation Z) have an advanced knowledge on the use of gadgets and they acquired it at an early age. They can never imagine the world without internet usage. Thus, they love texting and messaging on
mobile apps or online platforms, sometimes even over face to face interaction. Gen Zers have the ability to absorb tons of information every day and they can perceive it visually; yet, they only have short span of attention which is 8 seconds. Hence, when their attention is hooked, hold and capture it.

Robertson also added that the internet and technologies allow gen zers to start earning money at much earlier age. They are also independent, confident, and they do not rely mostly on their parents. Several suggestions arise that teachers should focus more on digital learning and use the social media like Facebook, online gaming, even YouTube to incorporate learning.

With these types of learners, teachers should possess technical, conceptual, and interpersonal skills to adapt with this generation to build an effective learning environment with them – the Generation Z.

References:

