DISCIPLINING: UNDERSTANDING STUDENT’S NEEDS

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Disciplining students is not an easy task. It requires patience and passion towards students. Most of the students with discipline problems were found to be rejected in their families and if not, they have this feeling of rejection. Usually, they come to school late, uneasy, unfocused and worst they engage themselves to smoking or under the influence of alcohol in some cases. Usually, instead of accepting them, they were nagged and rejected, the result could be worst until they do not come to school at all.

Most of the high school students are in adolescence age. They are very sensitive to some critical issues like separated parents, being bullied, broken homes, poverty and the like. Because of these, they can easily be attracted to different vices with their peers just to escape momentarily from their burden.

As teachers, we should be sensitive. Nagging or punishing students is sometimes not a solution to behavioral problems. Instead, we should attend to their needs and assist them to their challenges. They need to feel safe and protected, be loved and cared of. They need to be understood, with regards to their feelings or emotions and their plans for themselves the fatherly or motherly care that everyone needs. Yes, they may defy us and do things contrary to what we want them to do. They may transgress school rules or policies. However, it doesn’t mean they don’t want us to care for them. What would help them is for you to enter into a dialogue about these issues and look to agree with them, if your concern and what you would like to happen are clear to you, you can get somewhere. Let us not ignore them. Ignoring bad behavior and not rising to it is one thing; ignoring the person who is annoying us is another. Sometimes, ignoring them if they mope will just result to mope even more for him.
If only students feel that they are understood, cared and loved, disciplining would not be a problem. As teachers, we are not bound only to teach ABC’s but also to build students with strong and good character. Sometimes we just need to sit with them, speak with them and play with them. Let us create an environment that is a home away from home. Start changing first our attitudes towards our misbehaving students, let them feel and experience our deepest sincerity and you will see that you can change not only their hearts but also their lives and the lives of the people around them.

Reference:
Familylives.org/advice/teenagers July 8, 2015