Establishing Student-Centered for More Efficient Learning Environment

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In present times, learning process will not be effective if teachers still use the traditional approach. Students will not be interested if they will just sit and listen to the discussion of the teacher and will be treated as passive learners. Some techniques and practices in teaching before are not applicable anymore to the new generation of learners because they learn more effectively if they will be involved in the teaching-learning process. There is a lesser chance that they will be interested if all the information will be coming from the teacher that is why it is very important to establish a student-centered classroom.

According to Derek Hughes, in a learner-centered classroom, students are the focus of education, while teachers facilitate learning and help students reflect and become responsible for their education. The students in this generation learn to become independent. Some strategies of the traditional teachers are not effective anymore because students with short attention span will lose their interest if they would not be given some participation in the discussion.

Teachers must believe in students' capacity to lead by letting them take charge of the activities in the classroom. Although they may not possess all the content skills, they will still learn many things through discovery learning and by collaborating with their classmates. If they will be given opportunity to lead, they will have a sense of responsibility and they will be the one to think of the ways on how to perform a particular task. It will also be more interesting on the part of the students because they are the one who make plans on how a particular activity works.
John McCarthy (2015) stated that teachers encourage student-centered learning by allowing students to share in decisions, believing in their capacity to lead, and remembering how it feels to learn. It is important to involve the students in their own learning because first-hand experiences could be great ways for them to learn better because they have direct involvement and application of different activities regarding their lessons. If the students are directly involved in the discussions and learning, almost everything would be completely understandable and they will learn even better.

For the students to be more engaged in learning, there are times that teachers may refrain from using pen and paper examination to assess students learning. They may use other options that is more fun and interesting such as oral recitation in a form of game, reflection of what they have learned, portfolio and many other alternatives that would give them better retention of information and would give them deeper understanding of the lessons. These practices could help establish a student-centered classroom and teachers would still be able to know who learned and did not learn among their students.

Andrew Pass (2015) said that one of the ways to achieve student-centered classroom is to encourage student collaboration and group projects because they are able to bounce their ideas back and forth with each other, creating a much greater opportunity to grow these ideas into something great. In collaborative learning, students also learn how to respect and appreciate others despite having diverse ideas. By this technique, they will learn how to decide on their own and discover more things that are not included in the lesson content.

Due to the fast changing world and the continuous changes in the strategies for 21st century learners, teachers must be flexible enough to be adoptive of different methodologies and techniques that will provide the students a more efficient learning that will prepare them in the higher level of education. Student-centered learning environment must be encouraged so that they will be able to learn independently and there will be no need for the teacher to settle with the traditional approach.
References:

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