EXTRINSIC REWARDS DEMOTIVATE STUDENTS

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Normally teachers motivate their students by all means necessary so as to encourage them to participate in school activities and classroom discussions. This often happens when the teacher wants the class to compete in school activities promising point rewards reflected on their grades. Another type would be certificates given every grading periods for best in attendance, best in recitation, best behaved and all sorts of best in the world that the teacher could give so as to encourage every students to become better at school. But what about those who don’t get awards and rewards? How do they feel? What happens if the rewards system fails, giving recognitions to those who don’t deserve it. Lastly what happens if the reward system suddenly stops?

These questions must be critically discussed among teachers so as to establish the effectivity, continuity and sustainability of providing motivation to students. Yes receiving a certificate, recognition and applauses from the crowd give a feeling of happiness and confidence for those who achieved such but teachers must also give attention to low achievers. They must also feel a sense of fulfillment even if they did not get any awards.

Motivating students through reward system can be effective but only to a certain point. Studies show that students who got perfect attendance awards after a grading period no longer feel that they need to sustain the same awards next time. Since they have already proven the fact that they can complete school days, they feel that they need a break thinking that others can take the prize much worse see that the prize has no bearing what so ever at all. Another concern is that in the advent that the award and reward...
system stops, so does the motivation of the student to excel. Knowing that they will no longer get benefits from it, they lose the interest eventually.

Does this means that extrinsic motivation is not good for students? Not at all. Still extrinsic motivation gives some sort of benefits but students must not just simply look for the benefit they can get in short term basis. Teachers must instill to students’ minds that extrinsic motivation is not always present and what is much important is the intrinsic motivation. By making the students realize the value of hard work, perseverance, dedication and discipline, the rewards they can get in life are far more priceless and valuable as compared to certificates they get out of a ceremony. Seeing and feeling the fulfillment of a job well done must be the driving force of every individual not the momentary fame and applause from the crowd. The best way of motivating students is to let them see the bigger picture of the world outside the four corners of the school, how they will be able to survive with the training they get from the classroom is the best encouragement a teacher can provided.

References: