HOW DO YOU WANT TO BE REGARDED AS A TEACHER?

by:
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“Be proud you are a Teacher”, says in bold letters on the wall of the Dep-Ed Division Office.

As we hold the celebration of “National Teachers’ Month” which begins on September 5 to October 5 every year, we contemplate with pride the above mantra. Really, teaching is a noble job; we should be proud we are.

Yet in not a few occasions, such as reunions, gatherings, or casual conversations inside a jeep, we hear various narrations of how the present millennials describe their elementary, high school or college teachers:

“I won’t forget Mr. A, my stern-looking teacher in Mathematics. He made us memorize the multiplication table from 1 to 9. I can still recite them now.”

Mrs. B was my idol. She inspired me a lot when she wrote my name on the “who’s Who” blackboard by the classroom door as one who came earliest and helped clean the room!”

Every time I entered our room, I saw to it that I brought a big handkerchief to cover my head to shield it from the showering saliva of Mrs. C, our teacher-in-charge!” (laughter)

My idol in college was Dr. S. The moment the class in Education heard her footsteps by the corridor, we sat upright, ready for her witty lectures on the “Principles of Teaching” of which she masters.”

“Ssssh, I hate to recall how Ms. D made me write a board of sentences, while she chatted with Mrs. E from the next room.”
The remarks can fill even three long pads relating humorous and embarrassing but all thought-provoking. But that’s how students perceive their past teachers. Some may be true, others exaggerated, still a few sincerely given, but all those impressions are food for thought for all teachers.

Yet coming from a wise millennial, these observations/suggestions to teachers reading this, are worth knowing and applying. He said, “To be effective educators, much more is demanded of teachers now”.

The Math teacher would have to reinvent himself. Memorization should take place only after explaining through concrete objects how products are reached. Mrs. C has to be observant of the reactions of her wards, to prevent being a laughing stock. Mrs. B. should be commended for her appreciation and acknowledgment of the good deeds of students. Mrs. D needs to go into Technology. She must realize that information and knowledge are literally at our fingertips. A student does not have to burden himself with bulk of books nowadays. Even preschoolers absorb so much knowledge from watching countless You Tube videos. Dr. S can even widen the interest of her education class by bringing her class out of the classroom into the community to understand real problems. While written tests help measure student’s knowledge, it would be better to test how capable learners are in solving problem at home, community and country globally.

As we end National Teachers’ Month, it is well to say a prayer to those departed mentors and recall their great deeds, donate something to those who are still alive, recognize how much we are indebted to them on their being instruments for what we are now.
References:

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