INTEGRATING VALUES WHILE TEACHING MATHEMATICS

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Mathematics, the science of structure, order and relation that has evolved from elemental practices of counting, measuring, describing the shapes of objects. It deals with logical reasoning and quantitative calculation and its study is based on reasons. The purpose of Mathematics is for calculating the extension or composition of matter in space and time and to compute the units that made up the total of the material.

Despite its utility and importance, Mathematics is perceived by many students as difficult, boring, impractical, and abstract. The discipline of Mathematics presents many challenges to dissimilar learners. However, Mathematics is one of the core subjects in any curriculum and is essential in everyday life activities and most educational opportunities and careers require mathematical knowledge, thus it is vital that students receive sufficient instruction that leads to proficiency in the subject.

By integrating values through life lessons, students can learn better from the principles and concepts of Mathematics, and in turn, incorporating values may have possible bearing on students' mastering the concepts of the subject as well as in increasing their retention rate. Certain qualities namely the power of reasoning, creativity, abstract or spatial thinking, critical thinking, problem solving techniques and even effective communication skills may be nurtured especially when teachers integrate values in teaching the subject. Maybe it is difficult to think of ways or strategies to integrate values but as teachers we should be creative and innovative to make the discussion lively while accomplishing the target objective which is to make students learn at an effective way.

There are several opportunities on how to integrate values in the discipline of Mathematics: make a real mini store inside your classroom when teaching money for
them to become aware in using currencies whenever they are outside the school while it teaches them awareness and discipline aside from the Mathematical concepts; provide a pizza or cupcake in discussing fractions for them to visualize the divided parts, and by that, students not only hear the discussion but also experience the lesson while they learn creativity and determination; let the students themselves be the real Cartesian Coordinate Plane and ask them to be the ordinates plotted in the plane, for through that you can assess the students if they know how to plot points on a plane while at the same time they will learn patience and sensitivity.

Teaching is a tough task especially for a subject that includes a wide range of concepts, principles, and theorems like Mathematics, yet we need to be reminded that it is our role – to give information, to facilitate learning and to inspire students to be better people for themselves and for the people around them. We should give our best to impart the knowledge that the students need. As Aristotle proclaimed, “Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all”.

References:

https://www.britannica.com/science/mathematics