MOTIVATE YOUR PUPILS

by:
Maricel A. Bansil
OIC – School Principal Doña Elementary School

The teacher is the single most important person in the teaching-learning process while motivation is the single most important means towards student growth and achievement of goals. Properly motivated, children enjoy growing and moving forward, gaining new skill, abilities power and knowledge. One half of the teacher’s work is done if her students are properly motivated. Various theories of motivation have been suggested by psychologist and educators for developing techniques of motivating pupils in the classroom.

The behaviorist associationist view of motivation emphasizes that there is a need for the teacher to apply reinforcement in order to guide learning. This approach may be appropriate and effective in some situation but if used in excess, motivation becomes extrinsic, manipulative, materialistic and in essence impressive.

When a child engages in activities primarily because he will be rewarded, the motivation is extrinsic, in contrast with intrinsic motivation, when a child participates in where he will get inner satisfaction. A teacher, who supplies reinforcement for almost all responses of children, manipulates their behavior and the students may either cease to respond or demand greater reward for greater effort.
Ideally, the student should be encouraged to be autonomous and to perform an activity for its own sake and for his personal growth and satisfaction. Eventually self-directed behavior of the pupils should be the ultimate goal of motivation.

Abraham Maslow’s theory of motivation implies that a teacher should do everything within her power to satisfy the lower level needs of the students so that they will function more at the higher levels.

A student for instance will learn better if he is physically comfortable, feels safe and relaxed, has a sense of belonging and experiences self-esteem. Maslow’s list of needs arrange in their hierarchy is shown below:

- Aesthetic Needs
- Desire to know and Understand
- Need for Self-Actualization
- Self- Esteem Needs
- Love and Belonging Needs
- Safety Needs
- Physiologist Needs

Learning situations arranged attractively by teacher enable students to select activities for which they feel personal appeal or value. The self-chosen activity the child selects to perform becomes its own motivation, thereby lessening the teacher’s load. The teacher should be an
expert in giving freedom to the students to choose the activity they want but still in controlling the situation so that the student can get the utmost learning experiences they have chosen.

References:

https://teach.com/what/teachers-change-lives/motivating-students/