OBEDIENCE VS RESPONSIBILITY
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Teachers as facilitators of learning are expected to manage and discipline their pupils to enable learning process effectively. In some days pupils cooperate and focus on their academic activities but it does not happen all the time. The reality is interruptions in class happen. This is why teachers apply different approaches that may help manage the pupils.

Teachers may either strengthen them to be obedient or may spend time teaching them to be responsible. Obedience and responsibility are two that should not be interchangeable for they are two different words with two different processes and outcome.

According to Merriam Webster Dictionary, obedience comes the Latin “oboedientia” or act of obeying. Obedience is reinforced when teachers give orders to be followed consistently without explaining the reasons why. On the other hand, responsibility according to the above mentioned dictionary means the quality or state of being responsible: such as moral, legal, or mental accountability. Responsibility is taught when we give pupils the space to commit mistakes and work together on how they may avoid committing the same mistake.

Kline in his article further differentiates obedience and responsibility. According to him obedience is taught when teachers decide on their own without pupil’s output, provide choices because of good behavior, is teacher-centered, do not give room for mistakes, set classroom rules and expectations, and react to teacher’s feedback. On the other hand, responsibility is taught when pupils are empowered to be decision makers, provide daily choices, is pupils-centered, give room for mistakes and guide them on how it could be overcome, pupils provide inputs on classroom rules and expectations, and teachers explain the reasons why feedback are given to pupils.
This means that obedient pupils do what their teachers want them to do, not what they internally feel led to do therefore only little learning takes place inside the classroom, and that they have few tools on how to be responsible once they leave our classrooms. While, responsible pupils grow into young adults performs tasks without being asked because they are equipped on how to deal with hardship when they leave classroom. Although, raising responsible kids takes time and it’s a development grows slowly over many years once they becomes the norm, not the exception, and that norm will stay with pupil as they head into the world as adults. (Kerry)

References:

http://www.changekidslives.org/thoughts-2
https://selfsufficientkids.com/kids-responsibility/