ON THE USE OF CELLPHONE DURING CLASS HOURS

by:
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The Department of Education reissued and reiteration the DECS No. 70, s. 1999 and DECS No. 26, 2000 prohibits the students of elementary and secondary schools from the improper use of cellphones and other gadgets during class hours. From these decade-old memoranda, the old issue of prohibiting learners from using their mobile gadgets once again has resurrected. However, the DepEd affirmed strongly to the provision of the law. However, students are still stubborn against the law. This is a modern way of wasting time and student’s procrastination.

How distracting can a cellular be when a teacher is covering the lessons? How powerful is the cellular phones in addressing the needs of the students for answers during examinations? How this technology is used to profligate time in learning and processing ideas within the classroom?

Aside from the questions above, the health risk must be considered. After long years of studies and research, findings show that there is a link between cellular phone usage and sickness. In fact, cellular phones emit strong radiation when used. Today, many students wear eye glasses – their eyes are already blurred due to excessive usage of cellular phones. Their exposure to the radiation made their eyesight blurred and cloudy. Other medical health concerns may affect the cellular phone user over long exposure to the radiation emitted from the gadget. The natural process of sleep has been killing healthy cellular bodies which leads to low hemoglobin and red blood cell count. Thus, and ultimately, causes sleeplessness, uneasiness, and other psychological and medical fissures. If parents would continue to allow their children to use cellular phone, have them use it with respect and responsibility. Especially during class hours, while the teacher is discussing the lessons, the full attention of the students must be on what the
teacher is discussing. For, if a student busily lurk on the cellphone for some extra star points from the ML and other game apps, and the student was called upon to answer a question, the student’s mind is diverted.

Inside the classroom, a teacher tries all the best to motivate and deal the students within the scope of the lesson and the objectives of the day. Thus, some students disregard the effort done by teacher; and on the corner, uses the cellular phone. This is a sign of disrespect for the teacher. Such distracting behavior affects the stability and order within the class especially when the cellular phone rings. Therefore, the use of cellular phones can be a barrier to the teaching-learning process.

The power of communication within the classroom is exclusive between the teacher and the students. It is just proper to students to act respectfully and orderly when the teacher is around the classroom. The teacher must be a good class manager however. But expecting the students to be so need a lot of courage because most students are self-directed and their goals are short-term. As teachers, we must not allow these retrogressive behavior goes within the system of the students. If it so happens, strategies to curtail it as soon as possible must be rendered with fairness and justice.

The classroom is intended for studying. Ahead of a subject is another subject, ahead of a lesson is another lesson, ahead of which is a recess. Teachers must taught their students how to concentrate, focus, and eliminate unnecessary disturbances during these hours. Such a barrier in communication must not be allowed if both the teacher and the students are in harmony of doing the coursework work.

On the other hand, the power of the gadget while the teacher is communicating the lesson is not communication at all, but a disrespectful act. These actions by the students must be curtailed. Teachers must set House Rules and policies. Whoever disobeys the rule must be sanctioned. Every well-established and organized schools have
Students’ Handbook and School Policy Manual which includes provisions and penalties.

References:


