REFLECTION ON THE HABITUAL ABSENTEEISM

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One of the major problem of the teachers in the public school is absenteeism. According to Sheen & Dudley, (2018), it is a common phenomenon which happens to almost everyone. There are students who fail to attend classes because of different reasons. There are students who are consistently being absent. Thus, if they will be asked the reason about their absences, some will just stare without saying any reasons. This may probably annoy many teachers because attending classes is all part of the students’ responsibilities. It has viewed as part of immaturity and irresponsibility of them for they are required by all means to be present and to be participative in any classroom activities. However, many failed to deepen their understanding on the real reason why students are constantly practicing absenteeism. This may be a more serious matter to reflect upon or a chance to help these students. It is better to know the students more, acknowledge the participation of their families, understand their situations, and to see their environment.

Knowing the students is the first step in answering the question: why students do not go to school. This may provide answers to the inquiry and may convince teachers to understand and to come up with solutions in order to help the students. This stage begins with reviewing all the portfolio that their previous teachers have prepared. Through this, the present teacher may see their records. Likewise, they may see the trend and determine if the student just willed not to attend in the class or something has forced or caused absenteeism. After this, they have to conduct personal interview with their previous teachers. This will serve as confirmation on the data retrieved from the portfolio. A personal interview will be also beneficial to the student. Through this, a concrete information will be gathered as point and basis for an action to be done. Teachers have to
be careful with all the information. They need to possess a logical ability to evaluate the genuineness of the data will be gathered. Through these steps of knowing the students, a proper intervention may be decided.

Teachers have to look also in the participation of students’ families on the occurrence of their absences. It cannot be denied that there are parents who just tolerate their children for being absent. They just do not mind whether they come to school or not. They believe that it is not part of their obligations as parents to monitor whether their children really go to school. They do not even mind to inquire with the teachers if their children are around. Most often, the initiative of monitoring comes from the teachers. They are just too complacent that their children will be promoted to the next grade level. Teachers can suggest to have a parenting seminar to the parents so that they may be enlightened with their real responsibilities as parents. Likewise, they have personal talk with the parents to remind them about their main responsibility as parents to the students. With these, they may seek self-realization that it is their responsibility to urge and encourage their children to attend classes.

Situation has also a big effect on the mentality of the students. This may discourage them to attend classes. Students can experience it at home or even in the school. At home, this can be their family status. Students probably discouraged to go to school if there are family problems. There are times that they rebel on their parents doing the opposite thing. It can be in a form of poverty. Poverty causes a desperate actions that is very temporal. There are times that students are forced to work at their early age to earn money. Out of desperation, they do not mind anymore for a long time effect for what they need is an instant answer for their problem. For the school situation, it can be in a form of abuses. They may be bullied by their classmates or a teacher that causes loss of their self-esteem. Teachers have to look onto the situation of the student. Only going into the situation, one may realize that student needs their help instead of anything else.
Teachers have to see their environment of the student. If the student is coming from the most remote area far from the school, it is expected he or she may be tempted to seldom attend classes. But it does not take the chances that there are students who inspite of distance may still come to school just to finish the studies. However, this is not always the case. There are students who loss hope and enthusiasm because of the distance of the school. Teachers have to take into consideration on these problems. In most cases, students with this problem may be advised just to take modular form of instruction and may come to school two to three times a week.

Absenteeism is a big and serious problem in the school. Thus, it has been existing to anywhere in the world. Instead of complaining for this habitual practices of some students, it is better to pause and think for possible reason why they are absent. Teachers are duty-bound to motivate students to come to school. Likewise, they have to think for possible solution to win back students’ enthusiasm to attend classes every day. It is because all students are precious and deserve to finish their studies.

References: