ROLES OF TEACHERS IN THE STUDENT’S CAREER PATH

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Teachers’ influence to the lives of the students is so enormous that it even touches the future. It is tantamount to say that in very successful student, there was a teacher who influenced and guided him or her to find and to choose the right career path they pursued. Student failure is a serious concern of counseling and guiding (Rao, 2004). Thus, teachers’ roles can be summarized as guide of knowing thyself, director in broadening horizons and initiator of real talk. Teachers act as informal and formal counselors guiding students in their choices of subjects and career paths (Khan, Murtaza, & Dad Shafa, 2012).

It is an old epitome that “a blind man cannot guide another blind person”. Teachers who have been in the situation and had overcome by choosing the right career path, has the privileges of helping student to find their own. Besides, a guide needs to understand the same scenario to really help out. “Knowing thyself” is a major requirement in order to gauge and to be enlightened to understand one’s capability, family financial status, strength and weaknesses. However, the controversial question is: how to help them to know themselves:

The process “knowing thyself” is a reflected process. Teaching the students the process requires to learn how to stop, reflect and evaluate. To stop is to suspend and limit oneself in all activities that preoccupy a person. These are also known as destructions. It can be a problem, a form of struggle and anything that makes somebody falter and feel helpless. On the other hand, reflection is going to the very “ego” of a person. It is knowing ones strengths or weaknesses, interests or dislikes, and what will make a person happy and fulfilled. Lastly, evaluation of oneself, is the time to evaluate the career path that may or may not be suited to the capacity and capability of the
students. As a teacher, it is important to allow the students to undergo processes of reflection as an initial step in choosing the right career path for them.

Commonly, students’ career preferences are influenced by the material benefits they will receive on the profession. In consequence, the plans and actuations are superficial resource with no solid foundation. There are instances of hardship that make them falter them leading them to easily quit and loose hope. Therefore, it is important to have a solid foundation in whatever career path they wanted to pursue. This is the role of genuine perseverance, giving no room for frustrations, hardship and struggles. This will be only made possible if they have full knowledge of their career. As their career path director, it is an obligation to broaden students’ awareness on the profession they wanted to pursue. It can be through vivid exposure that they can acquire concrete experience. It can be through professional dialogue that can provide them everything that they need to know about the profession. This also covers the course they need to take, the school, challenges and struggles they will face as they strive to reach their goal.

Good conversation leads to good information. It is expected that teachers need to be concerned to whatever students will be on the future. One of the best way to help out students on their career path is to initiate real talk with the students about what they want to pursue in the future. Real talk is not a simple conversation that happens to two individuals. It is a conversation with sincerity and truthness. It is synonymous to conversation using “ones heart”. Through this, the intention, motives and drives of students will be purified. Thus, by having an unblemished pursuit, a strong perseverance of reaching and attaining their goal will be developed. They will be ready to take the challenges, sacrifices, struggles, and tribulations they may encounter as they pursue their dream. It is moral obligation for teachers to prepare the students on those things that they may come across in the future.

Teachers need to indulge on helping students to discern on the career they wanted to pursue. On this manner, they need to prepare them to whatever that lies
ahead of them. It is because career selection is one of many important choices students will make in determining future plans (Borchert, 2002). It can be only made possible through embracing their role as guide of knowing thyself, director in broadening horizons and initiator of real talk. But the reality is it does not happen overnight of a single person. Nevertheless, teachers are encouraged to participate in helping the students to know and to persevere on the career path they wanted to pursue.

References:

