SCHOOLS: THE REAL CULPRIT IN VALUES DESTRUCTION?

by:
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One time, I sent a letter to the parents of a student who was extremely noisy. It was a letter that indicates the behaviour of their son. I called the parents’ attention because of the complaints of the subject teachers regarding the boy’s unmanageable behaviour. As his adviser in grade 8, I felt it was my duty to update the parents about their son’s activities inside the campus and in the classroom. Someone came in replacement of the parents, the grandmother who has also complaints about his grandson’s attitude. I asked where the parents are and she answered, they cannot come because the father is afraid that he might kill or hurt his son in front of us, his son’s teachers. Confused in the approach that I am going to use in counseling the representative because I was expecting for the parents to come, I called the student. I narrated all his misbehaviours, His noisiness, his bullying activities, his laziness in doing written activities as grieved by his subject teachers and so on…At last, I was done with my blahblah in front of the grandmother and the boy but got nothing in return. No reaction from the boy or the grandmother. They are used to it she said. Since elementary, the same resentment was she heard about his grandson. But nothing changed. And that’s why the parents also don’t want to attend the conference. They can do nothing with their stubborn child.

I was narrating this experience because as the society expected that the school is the moulder of moral values among the students... It was just frustrating to learn that mostly, parents would push their children to school expecting that the school will teach and develop the good behaviour of their children even without their cooperation. They treat school as their escape from their responsibility. They are thinking that sending their children to school will make these students develop their moral values. Well, in fact, Yes
it’s true. Teachers try hard to help the students find the best in them and develop that best. But wait…before these students attended the school, where are they? Aren’t they at home with their parents, their first teachers? The first five years of their lives which is the foundation of their personalities was spent at home. What these students bring in school came from home. The school will only polish what the home created and form. How come that after creating what’s in the child, the parents are thinking that it was the end of their responsibility?

According to J.Jessy Brinda Mary M.SC.,M.Ed.,M.Phil., “Family is the first home of citizenship and mother is the first and most important teacher of the child. From mother, he/she would learn values of life like truthfulness, honesty, love, respect to elders and selfless service etc.” This concept stressed the importance of parent’s guidance to a child.

In the booklet produced by the Inter-departmental group on positive parenting, it states that; “Children do not usually misbehave just to upset or annoy their parents. There is often a reason behind a child’s behavior.” Finding out the reason for this misbehavior will greatly help the child’s value formation.

An advise by President Obama about parenting may help; “To parents, we can’t tell our kids to do well in school and then fail to support them when they get home. You can’t just contract out parenting. For our kids to excel, we have to accept our responsibility to help them learn. That means putting away the Xbox and putting our kids to bed at a reasonable hour. It means attending those parent-teacher conferences and reading to our children and helping them with their homework.” —President Barack Obama, July 17, 2009. Even the global leaders recognize the role of the parents in students’ performance.

In my 20 years of teaching children from preschool to high school, special and regular class, I observed that parents are usually cooperative and participative in school during the first years of their children in school. Later part which is in high school was taken for
granted maybe because parents thought that their children can make it on their own. High School which is the critical stage in a person’s life is not given much attention by the parents because of the thinking that teenagers much need attention from their friends and peers during this stage. One thing I learned from the students...whatever IQ they possess, matured or immature in thinking, introvert or extrovert, leader or follower...they need the attention of their parents. They seek for it. They want to know and feel that their parents care and are concern about them.

But reality bites, schools plan and implement information dissemination. Only few would come. The irony of it is that those parents who will attend the meeting, conference or orientations are the parents of the students who are actually performing well. Those who have problems? They have reasons. Now, the question still remains. Who is the real culprit in values destruction? Every factor has its own contribution but as for the schools, doing the best would somehow help in minimizing the problem. Hoping that somehow God will use the school to turn these challenging students into a responsible and productive citizens of the nation.

References:

