STUDENTS OF THE YESTERYEARS

by:

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Most often do we hear teacher saying that they are having a difficult time managing the class most specifically, how to handle students. Teachers would tell stories of their past batches of classes or students to be generous, obedient, polite, diligent and most importantly studious studying hard . . . very hard. Now a days, students, as most would say, are less of what are expected of them. A teacher once commented that the students they once were are no longer the students they see now.

Well come to think of it, taking to consideration the theory of individual differences we can really say that we cannot expect how we behave is the same how others will. But considering the general norm in the classroom or in the school in a bigger scope, the landscapes of education pertaining to the students have drastically evolved.

The question now is this, what happened to our youth? Why did they change and what can be done?

What happened to the youth?

It is observable that the youth, our students, behave in such a way that most teachers cannot comprehend. They are more aggressive and not easily contained. They
want to discover things for themselves, by themselves. They are considered lazy and narcissistic. They want things happening almost at the same time. (Lucky Attitude 2017).

Backtracking a few years ago, students are far different. They are diligent, polite, hardworking and patient. Teachers could attest to that.

**Why did students change?**

Studies show that students today are heavily influenced by technology. Being millennials, these students are accustomed to getting what they want at an instant more like at a click of a mouse button.

This behavior is somehow alienated with the slow process of studying. As we all know classes take long hours of reading, listening and answering test questions. Give them a single page reading selection and expect them to complain of it being too long yet technically the selection is classified as a short shorts. In addition to that, students are used to multitasking in front of a computer or any electronic gadgets. They surf, chat play and view videos over the net almost simultaneously. The classroom set up is different from this setting. Classes are organized to take place one activity after the other. Students are required to stay put, sit tight for long hours and listen attentively or at least pretend to until they fall asleep.

These circumstances are not ordinary for today’s youth. As a result, they become restless and create ruckus simply because they are bored.
What can be done?

Well, in the part of the students it is quite difficult to expect them to adjust accordingly and adhere to school rules and regulations. This may be because they see the school as an artificial environment where they can’t act and work naturally.

So the adjustment mainly lies on the hands of the teachers. Being the person who has the capacity to understand and having wider perspectives in life, the teacher must be able to adapt to the needs of the students. These needs should be addressed as much as possible so as to ensure that student do not feel alienated inside the school premises.

Teachers may try to incorporate technology during discussions so that the students can establish a relationship between the outside world and the classrooms. The teacher can also simulate activities which can be done simultaneously. This gives the students a sense of interaction done in a natural setting.

Though students on their end, should be responsible enough for their grades but a greater responsibility lies on the hands of the teachers themselves.

References:

(____), (2017), The List of Millennial Characteristics, Lucky Attitude, retrieved from http://luckyattitude.co.uk/millennial-characteristics/