SUGGESTED WAYS OF DEVELOPING PUPIL EXCELLENCE

by

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Poor learners are “pains in the neck” of teachers. For their low performance, they are sometimes subjected to ridicule and humiliations and even invectives.

Teachers should refrain from this malpractice because poor performance of pupils is not a fault all their own. It is possible that the teacher’s methods of teaching are not good enough to strike the “learning chords” of the pupils. Sometimes also, the poor performance of pupils is due to parental neglect. In some cases, it is the social environment of the pupils that causes their poor performance who frequently are absent because of gambling, drinking and others.

The situation needs reexamination. A positive attitude is necessary. Instead of ridiculing or humiliating the poor learners, remedial measures should be instituted.

Teachers and parents should cooperatively work together in developing pupil excellence. The community should provide an atmosphere that is conducive to learning – a community that is free from negative factors for learning like gambling, drinking and other vices. The teachers, the parents and the barangay officials should actively participate in the development of pupil excellence for the improvement of its inhabitants or the community as a whole.
Here are suggested ways of developing pupil excellence:

1. Encourage school children to solve their own problems.

   In many cases, when school children are confronted with problems in their studies, it is the parents who actually solve their problems. This is not correct as it tends to develop dependence on others so that when they are confronted with problems, they are helpless. Independence should instead be developed in children so they will be trained to solve problems and accept responsibilities in real life. Of course, the children who need assistance should be assisted but one should avoid spoon-feeding.

2. Encourage children to have high expectations.

   Very few children expect more than passing grades. Many are just contented with passing grades only and some even expect them through “considerations.”

   Ideally, children should be encouraged to have high expectations. More knowledge, more chances for success.

3. Parents should participate actively in school activities.

   Parents have the right and responsibilities to take active participation in school activities where parents are involved. Attending PTA meetings is a must for parents so they will know the development and progress of their children. Teachers should discuss this in teacher-parent conferences. Teacher-parent conferences are productive dialogues.
4. Involve parents and pupils in other school activities.

Many outdoor activities help instill the very characteristics needed in the success of children in the classroom and in real life. Parents should encourage their children to participate in other school activities like scouting, athletics, field trips, etc. by providing them with materials needed in such activities. Accompanying their children, if necessary, in their outdoor activities gives their children maximum moral support.

There are many other ways of developing pupil excellence that teachers, the parents, and the community can do, assuming of course, that the classrooms are conducive to learning and well provided with instructional materials. The problem is that we teachers are faster in blaming our pupils for their low performance, some of us even pretend that we were better than them during our school days. Positive attitude and developmental thinking can do wonders in developing pupil excellence. How about exploring the possible avenues to pupil excellence? It is the best way of removing the dark frontiers in the minds of our children.