TEACHERS AS MOTIVATORS, NOT PUNISHERS

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When children break the rules inside the classroom, they deviate from the group by stepping outside into a forbidden zone. Simply by making unnecessary noise, they come out the loudest and by teasing other students, they become the worst behaved. When children display characteristics such as these, they become separated from the average group of students who would usually be afraid to make the teacher angry.

According to B.F Skinner, there is a way of learning by means of rewards and punishments. This is Operant Conditioning. This type of conditioning states that a certain behavior and a consequence, either a reward or punishment, have an association which influences learning. Investigations on classical conditioning resulted to the development of other theories that may explain behavior and learning, and one of them is Operant Conditioning. Operant conditioning attempts to annul the belief that internal thoughts and mere motivations would result to learning a behavior. A known behaviorist, Skinner considered that only external causes of behavior should be considered.

When children become noisy, we have the choice to give Positive Reinforcers. This is done by rewarding those who remain behaved with things that are delightful to them. Like for example, exempting them from cleaning chores for the day. Then later, we may opt to give Negative Reinforcer, the removal of the unfavorable stimuli after the display of behavior. This can be done by exempting the other students as they transform into behaved from noisy. This will give them the idea that they will be spared from the activities that they do not like if they behave
As teachers, we should first try to understand why students tend to become noisy, instead of right away scolding and asking them to stay quiet. We should have the patience to discover a less tiring approach to make them stop this kind of behaviour. Children will not remember how many times you have scolded them. But they will cherish every moment that you sit by them while making them understand how important they are in your class.

When we give punishments, we make them feel that they did not act the way we expect them to act. This puts them into a state of inferiority. But when we try to motivate them not to do the same mistakes again, it gives them hopeful thoughts that they are not that bad at all. It also gives them the idea that they are important and will boost their self esteem. Children will always be children as they discover their true worth in the society. Our role as teachers is to help them find their true worth, not punish them every time they fail to do so. Let us motivate them for after all, the biggest role of a TEACHER really is... to TEACH.

References:

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