THE AFFECTIVE TEACHER

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We all have heard and read about the effective teacher. Teachers who are brilliant with the teaching prowess and are able to impart knowledge to students in hundreds of ways and means. Using different strategies in teaching, having different references, promoting diversity in class activities, the teacher proves to be a formidable candidate for the Dakilang Guro Awards.

And then there’s the ordinary teacher which may not be a Pulitzer Prize winner in teaching methods and strategies but is able to carry out the lesson non-the-less. But what sets him different is that he is able to reach out to students in need of care and attention. He is able to listen to problems of students and students are able to listen to him whenever he speaks either in front of the class or in front of the guidance counselor.

After five or let’s make it shorter, two years, after the moving up ceremonies, ask the student which teacher does he remember most? Is it the great teacher who teaches diligently and full of efforts or the teacher who is able to listen to their souls and mend their broken wings? I would bet on the latter than the former. Why so?

Students of the millennial generation no longer aspires to be inspired and captivated by the intelligent teacher yet lacks the heart for compassion. Millennials have this certain personality that they are confused of the fast paced modernity of the environment, they yearn for attention and affection which happens to be very difficult to find even in their very own homes. These search leads them to bad vices, peer pressures and even worse case scenarios.
The intelligent teacher would only focus on what he is teaching making remediation if the students can not catch up with the discussion then gives a failing mark if the student can't really cope up with the lesson. Yes, he might be very effective in executing his task and his duties inside the classroom but he fails to ensure that the student learns the lesson not of the subject being taught but the subject of living a life.

The affective teacher on the other hand shows the heart for teaching. He sees the student as a fragile vessel that needs extra care in dealing with. He ensures that the students feel safe and comfortable to be themselves, that it is ok to fail at first yet strive to do better next, that it is important that all of his classmates finish high school and not just finishing with flying colors not minding what happens to the rest of the class. The affective teacher influences the students to become sensitive of their surroundings yet even more sensitive of their own individual needs. The affective teacher is able to see through the masks that the students are wearing inside the school and wears off once they get outside the gates and into their homes. The affective teacher is able to make students realize their faults and learn from these mistakes. The affective teacher makes students swear a promise and live by it even if the teacher is not around.

If the teacher is able to achieve all of these, become a role model for being affective rather than effective, the student will cherish and remember the experience being taught by the affective teacher and tends to forget how the effective teacher gave him high grades.

Students are humans that have feelings and reactions, and they react most on the emotions they get out of the teacher and out of the classroom. These feelings are retained far better than what they have learned after an hour-long discussion.
Reference: