THE DELICATE CASES OF SPECIAL NEEDS OF SPECIAL STUDENTS

by:

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There are lot of issues and topics within the educational sector. Some of which are known and over publicized while others were set to the background. One of those topics is Autism and Special needs. In the past autism has always been regarded as a form of oddity or freakishness. In some cases of superstition, it is view as a curse or a ‘pinaglihi’ scenario. Although in the point of view of scienc, autism is caused by defects in genetics or in other cases complication at pregnancy. Filipinos are naturally superstitious and so cases of autism became a bit of a taboo in a certain extent.

Within schools, autism is also uncommon since most of the time parents of children with autism usually choose not to send their children to school in fear that it will only deter them in terms of social growth and will make them a target for bullying. Although the situation has change in the past decades, it is still a huge challenge for the education sector to accommodate those with special needs. There are programs recently that incorporate special education in a public setting wherein special individuals can learn and study just like ordinary students only with the supervision of teachers that are trained to handle special students. This help them with amalgamating with society. Being able to see and understand people with special needs help the public to comprehend that they too are human and not some freak of nature. But these projects and programs only apply with extreme special needs and disabilities such as Down syndrome, lack auditory abilities, and speech incapacity. Unknown to some, there are cases that are less obvious and much harder to detect, such as ADD (Attention Deficit Disorder) and ADHD (Attention Deficit and Hyper Active Disorder). Most of the times the ‘symptoms’ or
indication of these disorders were regarded as just natural for children especially at a young age.

ADD and ADHD cases were the same in some aspects but they are also different. ADD patients are mostly easy to distract. They are very poor at concentration and holding one line of thought in an extended period of time. They are simple on track mind kind of people. People who suffer from ADD are difficult to handle. They come off as ‘ditsy’ or ‘slow’ at times. This is why without prior knowledge about the case it will be hard for a teacher to exert the amount of patience and effort needed to make sure that the child will not left behind academically. ADHD on the other hand is at the extremity in terms of scale of patience. ADHD patients are just like ADD patients only they are more active and they often act like a whirlwind of energy that spins around the classroom. They tend to be more advanced in some way or another, whether it be in learning or in playing. An individual that is diagnosed with ADHD finds the world around them slow and boring. This reasoning often ends up making them target of bullying or maltreatment since they often seem to be arrogant or boastful. Sadly, the topic of ADD and ADHD education is not a priority. There are lack of enough studies regarding the behavior of patience in school settings and how they affect the overall cognitive development of the individual. There are also very few teachers that train for handling these cases of special needs. To absolutely determine that a person indeed have ADD or ADHD it has to be diagnosed by a professional. There are a lot of psychological test and observations to be conducted making it next to impossible for financially challenged people to be diagnosed. There are ADD and ADHD cases that took years to be detected.

Although it will be far, far, ahead before these minor problems to be addressed, it will help to spread awareness and information to schools. Parents, teachers and other students need to understand that although individuals with special need are different with other people, they are still normal human beings that need respect and equality. It is apparent that in the past, talents are found in the most unexpected places. Who knows
what a child could become with the right guidance and patience. Being ‘special’ doesn’t hinder the potential of a person, but in fact it molds them into endless possibilities.

References:

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