THE EFFECTS OF PEER INFLUENCE IN THE PSYCHOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT OF A CHILD

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There are different factors that affect the behavior of students and their motivation within the school premises. One of which is peer influence. It is one of the primal instincts of humans to socialize and be accepted socially. No matter how some try to rebel against the norms, it is natural to seek the approval of others. It is an instinct that is deeply engraved in human’s psychology.

This natural instinct can lead into at least three distinct scenarios. The first is that the students will persevere more in excelling academically then be able to prove his or her worth within the group. This usually happens when a group is competitive and academic driven. This is the more positive note of peer influence. This is the kind of peer influence every parents dream of. Although the after result can initially be positive there can be a long term negative effect. It is true that being an achiever is not a bad thing, but if the motivation is not correct it can be more of a burden than an accomplishment most especially if the individual is only pushing through due to one propose. It is still vital that parents and teachers be on the side to guide and direct them to the realization that it is still self-choice and not because of others that one must achieve goals and aspiration. On the other hand, there is far more negative side wherein students who hang out with devious peer. These children tend to do negative things even though they have correct perception of right and wrong. Once again it is an active choice to be accepted and to fit in within a group of peers. The effect of this scenario can be very adverse and can affect the overall disposition of the child. It is common knowledge that as the generation goes by the more teens become more curious. They tend to try stuffs that they shouldn’t due to the ideas that doing so will make them
cooler or something in the same line of thought. The third scenario is that one rebels against it all. There are just those kinds of people that refuse to do what is expected and what is common. These rare cases push a child to a rebellious phase wherein they just quit trying to fit in and just do their own thing without any consideration of right or wrong. Most of the times, these cases result to bullying and solitude. In these situations, it is crucial that someone stands behind to understand and rationalize their behavior rather than use it against them.

Having a group of people to relate to or be around with is an important part of development. Still, it is vital that it is positive and nurturing and does not act as anchor to subdue down someone’s potential. As educators and as second parents to the students it is one of the responsibilities of teachers to be observant and sensitive when it comes to these kinds of relationships within the classroom. The mediation can be the borderline between the points of no return.

References: