THE GENDER SENSITIVE CLASSROOM

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Again and again the campaign for gender equality and sensitivity has been in the top rank concerns of our society today. This would entail the change in manner of treatment between genders – genders meaning not only the straight males and female but also those who chose to be in between. This would be a challenging task for our students since they have been exposed to the norms that support the notion that there is a gap between the sexes. Culture has a lot to contribute to this. The stereotype gender has been in existence since the dawn of civilization in the history of the Philippine society. Women are delegated to have a part which is far different from the male, thus the great divide emerged. This would include being submissive, meek, no opportunity to make decisions for themselves and supressed. Male on the other hand are the dominating species and are the designated leaders of society. (Peralta, 2015).

Today, the landscape is changing. Filipino society has been slowly embracing the shift from a male dominated world to an equally treated environment. Opportunities for professional growth and development are now open to both sexes and to all genders. Female can now compete and be at par with their male counter parts. (Wonder Foundation, ____) 

But what part does education play in this ever changing gender inclined society. The education sector, being a part of building the foundation of every society in any nation have the biggest chunk of responsibility in paving the way for gender equality.

Gender equality must be an integral part of the teaching-learning process in every school. This means that teachers and students must become aware on how their roles are
now intertwined, interconnected and integrated. No longer are there disparities on what men should and can only do which are different from the female specie. Of course there will always be some differences one way or another on separating the ability of both sexes like child bearing which can only be attributed to the female specie. But as a whole, the opportunities and advancement the society has to offer are now no longer exclusive to a specific gender.

Teachers must be able to develop the ability to treat their students as unique individuals not tied up to a role that they must perform as dictated by what the traditional norms would say. The teacher must be able to display his/her teaching prowess not isolating the male from the female. This may be in terms of language use, treatment, reprimands and rewards. Equal opportunities to each and every student must be observed. If this is done, then the hopes of equality will not only be provided to education but will also transcend to all aspect of human condition.

References:


Wonder Foundation, ____, The Philippines, Wonderfoundation.org.uk, date retrieved 12/19/2017, retrieved from http://www.wonderfoundation.org.uk/Philippines