THE PRESSURES OF BEING A TEACHER

by:

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“Kabataan ang pag-asa ng bayan.” Each of us probably has read or heard this saying for more than a hundred times. In fact, it is posted in the walls of school premises to inspire the students that they can do more in the future – that they can be more than who they are today. One may be the next president of the country. One may be the next hero to be written in History books. Others may even discover the cure for AIDS and cancer. Everyone has a chance to be greater and braver than the others, disregarding the scores and grades of each test paper. It only takes practice and an enormous amount of motivation.

As to this, teachers portray a huge role in affecting each student’s life. When a student graduates from elementary school or secondary school, he or she carries more of the life’s lessons taught by the mentor and less remembers the lessons and lectures learnt. Teachers are great motivators for students. They believe what teachers say. They follow commands of teachers. As to what the saying goes, “A good teacher makes his/her students remember the lessons; A great teacher makes himself/herself worth remembering by the students.” Due to this kind of expectations, as well as the dream of individual teachers to create a mark on the minds and hearts of their students, pressure exists on how they will be treasured after the lesson ends.

Moreover, as a teacher, there is a big expectation that one is a lot smarter than any student he or she handles. Thus, there is unseen responsibility of superiority amongst students. It is like there is no room for mistakes. Still, everyone knows that there are no perfect individuals, including mentors, despite the fact that they stand as role models for the students. It is quite impossible to dedicate a teacher’s life into teaching and studying, when in fact they have their personal lives outside the school premises. The pressure of maintaining a superior image becomes challenging specially to highly intellectual or sarcastic students.
Teaching is a lifestyle job. Maybe not as much as a police officer (maybe in some ways more though). But you don't clock in and out. You can't leave your work life at the office and separate it from your private life. You have to deal with dozens (maybe over 100) of students and their parents. They all have different objectives and challenges. You have to deal with a lot of hostility. You have to deal with many different expectations that do not often coordinate. You have to try and repair problems that you have no part in. And society now expects teachers do be some sort of magicians that can resolve all the challenges of society with just a smile and a positive attitude.

Do other professionals deal with these challenges too? Of course, no one said they didn't. But teachers deal with them on a daily basis and often cannot do anything to alleviate them. You can't just reassign your students to another teacher. Moreover, in few other professions are people asked to be held accountable for things over which they have no control. We don't blame police for criminal behavior. But teachers are blamed for student behavior.

Definitely, choosing teaching as a profession is a challenging task. Still, despite the troubles and pressures ahead, as well as the expectations and disappointments of the students, teachers must be thanked. If not because of them, probably a large percentage of the human race would be illiterate. The Earth will be a simple planet with no progress. Besides, teachers manage to teach and inspire students at the same time. It is a gift to have that appeals to do so.

Reference:

GABRIEL ROSS, Teachers: Is teaching more stressful than other professions/jobs?

https://www.quora.com/Teachers-Is-teaching-more-stressful-than-other-professions-jobs