THE QUALITY REVOLUTION IN EDUCATION

by:
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In a highly competitive era, policy makers and educators are showing their sincere interest in achieving quality education for continuous improvement and organizational excellence. Indeed, quality education is a great concern in many countries across the world.

To establish a sustaining initiative and add structure to the system, schools are now starting to embrace the 5S approach; this method puts emphasis on discipline and standards within the organization. It is a process of creating and maintaining a safe, well-organized and clean environment. This 5S concept uses a list of five pillars such as:

Sort. All unneeded tools, parts and supplies are discarded from the area and only essential items are kept. This leads to lesser hazard, clutter and space utilization inside the classroom.

Set in order. One place for everything and everything in its place. Arrange or keep all things in its place and allocate spaces for different types of learning. This gives each pupil sense of ownership and space, thus creating independence.

Assign shelves to keep certain materials or tools and show a clear identification by marking it with different colors or numbers that makes it easy for retrieval and return them after use. Also, label and lay out class information and files to differentiate between topics for visual management.

Shine. The tables, desks, boards and workspaces are properly cleaned. Regular cleaning in a proper way helps to identify and eliminate the wastes. It will also provide a conducive environment for pupils and helps teacher to provide instruction in a better way.
Standardize. The integration of sort, set in order and shine into a unified whole. Standardization is the condition that exists when the first three pillars are properly implemented. Cleaning and identification methods are consistently applied to avoid diverting to the old ways.

Sustain. 5S becomes a habit, commitment and is being continually improved with regular updates and weekly checks. It makes the classroom a wonderful place of learning and sends powerful message of excellence.

Thus, from looking at the benefits of implementing 5S in education, teachers can little by little see that their classrooms will eventually reflect high teaching standards and embody a vision of safe and well-maintained classroom.

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