TRYING HARD

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Being a teacher nowadays is quite challenging basically because of so many things that surround us and our learners. Poverty, family problems, unpredictable environment, media, technology, peers and personal problems tend to make our work a lot harder than ever before.

In twenty-four years of teaching, I have observed and noticed that several factors affect teaching and learning outcomes. Aside from being a well prepared, knowledgeable and active teacher, we need to be aware of the personality, condition and readiness of every pupil in our room. Knowledge of their problems at home such as absence of any of the parents, or of both due to financial or personal family matters may help us inject some values that can make them feel better, and learn to accept it and focus on their study. Some of our children are overwhelmed with the products of growth and development like computers, cell phones and other gadgets. When they’re not guided on the use of these things, they may overuse and/ or misuse them, and end up lacking time for study. Awareness of the rapid changes and developments that most of the time confuse or pressure our learners and even us teachers can make us ready and set activities which can guide them and take advantage on the usage of these “high-tech gadgets”. Deep understanding of our pupils gives us opportunity to device plans for better learning outcome. Knowing what and how to teach is vital, but knowing who to teach is equally significant.

As of now, I still couldn’t consider myself one of the best teachers, but because I honestly try my best to become one, I’m proud of being a second best or trying hard.
Special thanks to my admirable mentors who in one way or another keep me enjoy who and where I am now as a teacher. Like them, I wanted to know, understand, accept, motivate and guide my pupils toward the achievement of their brightest dreams in life. Like a concerned mother I wanted to touch their heart, sharpen their mind and lead them in the best possible path toward a good way of living _to become happy and productive people. These devotions that I wanted to fulfill were inspired by one of the famous quotations of a Swiss Psychologist and Psychiatrist named Carl Gustav Jung. According to him, “One looks back with appreciation to the brilliant teachers, but with gratitude to those who touched his/her human feelings. The curriculum is so much necessary raw material, but warmth is the vital element for the growing plant and for the soul of the child.” Guiding our pupils with true understanding of them as individuals makes us truly efficient and effective teachers.

As a teacher, I found out that knowledge of different teaching methods, strategies, techniques and approaches is not enough. This knowledge should be accompanied by deep concern and dedication to be employed effectively. For only when we are sincere and dedicated, we will have a strong determination to make plans and implement these plans for the benefit of our learners. I know that I still have so much to learn and to discover. However long and rough the road may be, I will try to find it, and walk through it for the fulfillment of my role as a mentor. May God continue to bless and guide our family, all of our friends, our pupils and their families, our fellow workers, superiors and us to always be able to give our best in all our undertakings as TEACHERS that our Almighty God wants us to be....

References:

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