UNDERSTANDING DIVERSITY OF LEARNERS

by:

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If there is one thing that we may consider certain and correct is that every individual is unique. Everyone is distinct in his or her own special way. In the school, particularly in the classroom, the teacher is facing and dealing with different kinds of unique individuals coming from various places and from different backgrounds.

Understanding diversity in learners connotes that you are accepting their individual differences. There are salient and relevant factors that the teacher may contemplate and ponder regarding the diversity of learners.

In terms of demographic profile, the students may differ in terms of age, gender, ethnicity, religion and socio-economic status. These may affect the way they behave, think and perform in the class. The learner’s actuations and behaviors are highly affected by demographic aspects.

Students differ in terms of attitude. This is a very significant factor because the attitude shows what kind of person you are. It refers to the way an individual projects himself or herself to people and how to consider things in life.

Another thing that makes them different is with regards to interest. Learners or students have different interests. The other are so much engrossed in academics, the others are sports fanatics, the other students are too much indulged in technology, while the other learners are musically inclined.
Not all students have the same intellectual abilities. There are learners who have high intellectual levels who can easily grasp ideas, there are students who are considered average and the others are slow learners and need more attention.

The students also contrast in terms of skills or competencies. There are students who are good in language, the others are good in mathematics, the other group may be good in science and the others are good in practical technological applications.

Another distinguishing factor that showcases differences among students is talent. The students may have different exceptional abilities in singing, dancing, playing musical instruments, persuasive speaking and other kinds of talent.

The outlook or perspective in life may also one reason of difference among learners. The students may vary in their views and standpoints. It is the way how an individual perceives life and how the person expresses a stance or viewpoint on a certain matter or issue.

The students may also be dissimilar in terms of personality. There are students who are extrovert, outspoken and sociable while the others are introvert, shy or timid. There are students who enjoy mingling with peers but the others prefer to be silent and private.

Diversity among learners may be reflected in terms of values and beliefs. The students possess different values and beliefs. They may contrast on moral standards, ethics and principles. Also, they may favor certain tenets or ideals.

It is a mere fact that students are diverse and teachers have to deal with them logically and tactfully in order to manifest understanding on their differences. Teachers are expected to acknowledge students’ diversity most especially in the classroom. Determining these factors would be helping in managing the students well and in providing them with their respective needs.
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