WALKING AN EXTRA MILE FOR MILLENNIALS
(SUITABLE AND EFFECTIVE TEACHING STRATEGIES FOR MILLENNIALS)

by:
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Millennials are the people who were born between 1980 and 1990—a decade which was marked by milestones of industrialization, technological advancement and socio-political reforms in the local and global setting. Such a milieu shaped them and made them, “The People of Tomorrow.” They are more innovative, open-minded and likely to work mostly in group. Some of them are technology-literate and they do not want the old approach of teaching. They want to explore the world with the help of technology.

Price as cited by Laskaris (2016) noticed that Millenials or students belonging to Generation Y use technology in a different way as compared to their predecessors, Generation X. She theorized that Millenials do not only manipulate technology as a separate entity but as an extension of their bodies as it is incorporated in their daily lives.

In the context of education, however, Millenials couldn’t cope with today’s training methodologies and instructional materials especially when they are developed by traditional, seasoned, and non-experimentive teachers whose old teaching techniques have become hard-wired (Laskaris, 2016).

Why, in spite of well-thought and well-designed curriculum and ICT Hubs, do millennial learners fail to meet learning objectives set for them? Vermuelen (2017) suggests that teachers ought to realize that education has shifted from ‘fact’-based or knowledge-driven learning to exploration, troubleshooting, and creativity through collaboration towards prolific future.
Vermuelen (2017) warned teachers that the foregoing general statements do not mean that students want to use more tools or equipment but rather be engaged in worthwhile, challenging, stimulating and novel activities and tasks where technology serves as a bridge of learning.

Technology, alone, still doesn’t suffice. What is the use of a bridge if no one walks an extra mile to thread the educational journey? Teachers ought to master and apply effective teaching strategies that will surely fit Millennials. These methods have been used in different schools for years now while others have just started to embrace and practice them. Lest we forget, let us review these basic strategies.

1. Technology-based Instruction

Millennials are now computer and digital literate. Most of them are likely to engage in three-dimensional, interactive, multi-platform and visually-appealing computer-aided instruction. They veer away from the traditional way of delivering lessons such as lecture method that only appeals to auditory learners. Instead of going against the grain of trending technology, teachers ought to keep up with developments in gadgets, internet browsing, social media, e-learning, and information-sharing. Alongside educational technology, discipline, regulation in usage, netiquette, and respect for intellectual property must be taught and instilled in students.

2. Collaborative Learning

Millennials are sociable. They tend to work with other people and participate in groups. They are open-minded and, thus, they find joy in discussing their ideas with other people. They also seek advice from others for them to improve and grow. Hence, educators must give them activities and tasks that hone their interpersonal skills.

3. Gaming Strategies
One of the dominant abilities of this generation is playing games be it a video game or or a board game. Instead of waging war against these video games and game applications, teachers can use them as springboards for motivation, drills, reasoning, and decision making.

A simple game included in the lesson can make a lot of fun but can also make a lot of mess in the absence of rules and limitations.

There are numerous teaching approaches that fit learners across generations but technology-based instruction, collaborative learning and gaming strategies are the call-of-the-times. In today’s fast-paced and constantly changing learning environment, teachers, as facilitators of learning, must be flexible as students of generation Y and Z have a lot more to learn in and outside the school.

References: