WHY DO STUDENTS DROP FROM THE CLASS?
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I have been working in a private company for over 20 years now and have raised three children who are currently in school. My three precious have shared stories of their classmates who have stopped schooling and I must admit that I cared less during those times. But a year ago, I decided to change my career and took on the reigns in teaching science subjects in a private school. At that moment, I had a confirmation of my children’s stories.

Increasing drop out is one of the most common problems among students especially in secondary level in spite of the programs implemented by the Department of Education. Some say that one a student refused to attend class is because of “teacher factor” since teachers are the prime motivator for students to seek further knowledge and come to school.

However, the blame of drop-outs should not shouldered by teachers alone as there are numerous factors that contribute to the overall learning children which includes parents, peers, and the guardians exploitation of minor such as the case where children as tasked to help out in earning a living for the family.

Here are some common reasons of students who drop from the class:

1. Poor living conditions and personal reasons.
   Students with an environment unsuitable for learning tend to phase out and loose their focus. With an environment that is chaotic and unsupportive to the learning process, the student will have the tendency to forget the importance of going to school and instead follow the surrounding’s negative influence.

2. Students wanted a better life and they want it quick!
   These students want it easy and do not realize what education can do to their future. All they know is that they need to change their life right here right now. They are after
the immediate gratification of their primary need and so they leave school with the hopes that something big and grand will come their way.

3. Financial reasons as a result of estranged family ties, illness and personal attitudes.

It has been noticed that the social status of one’s family has a strong influence on the drive of a student. Being used to a higher state in the community’s circle, the student may feel alienated once a change in their financial capability brought about by family’s relationship crisis, death of the bread winner or the likes occurs.

4. Parental views and support on education.

Much as we hate to admit it, what I learned from Psychology class is true that “The frightening part about heredity and environment is that parents provide both”. If the parents or the legal guardian has a negative view on having education, the child is more likely to have the same belief and thus will go on his own way.

In order to avoid these kinds of problems, the school should implement measures to keep the student’s interest in securing proper education and encourage them to stay in school. This includes guidance and counseling as well as regular monitoring of their attendance to keep tab of student’s changes in behavior. I also support the home visitations of teachers in order to have better ties with parents who will now become partners in the education process. It is also advisable to keep an environment that is conducive for learning both in school and at home. In so doing, we will be able to build a positive atmosphere where students will become energized and encouraged as they thread the process of achieving proper education.

Reference: Modern Teacher – 1996 Issue