

CREATING A CAPABLE CLASSROOM COMMUNITY

by:

Kristine Joie S. Gatbonton

Teacher II, Orani National High School, Parang-Parang

Learning becomes progressive when learners feel that they are part of the class and whenever they feel that their presence, feelings and points of view are considered and valued. Customarily, we recognize the classroom as an extension of home where the teacher in loco parentis status functions as the second parent while the classmates act as brothers and sisters. This is basically how a classroom community exists.

However, contrary to how we perceive community as a group of individuals sharing common beliefs, ideals and interest, a classroom community refers to a bigger picture.

In order to create a functioning classroom community, there are more complex elements to be considered. First, connection should be established in order to make sure that harmony and unity is observed. Members should feel that they are banded together not only in terms of their skills or aptitude but when it comes to their intuitions and spirits. Being connected means member are sensible to the feelings of others and in effect leads to exerting an effort in solidifying the team. Through connection, they may also build their trust among each other which is crucial in fulfilling their shared tasks and purpose.

Moreover, communication is also indispensable in fostering healthy relationships within a classroom community. Members should be given the opportunity to express their ideas and emotions whenever they believe is necessary to do so. Respect is further mastered when they learn to listen to others and accept various outlook which at times may be different from their own. This is also a good avenue in order to bridge gaps and differences by having their opinions heard and acknowledged by the group. In addition,

it can also address the prevention of having untoward behavior which may be a problem in the future. The classroom community serves better when members can effectively disclose their psychological needs so other will be aware on how to respond to each appropriately.

Furthermore, it is desirable to reinforce a positive environment as it drives good behavior and optimism within the members of the classroom community. One way to do this is by appreciating and acknowledging the effort of each member regardless of how big or small it is. It compels them to be motivated and wanting to perform better. The teacher as the key player in the classroom plays a vital role in observing a positive ambiance within its four walls. The support and influence that the teacher shares not only empower students and their relationships, but may also create an impact in helping them become successful in the future.

Indeed, creating an engaging and a solid classroom community is one of the challenges face not only by the teacher but as well as the learners as members. On the other hand, being able to build such is highly rewarding since it makes learning more holistic, relevant and meaningful.

References:

Ivory, A., 2021. The Importance of Classroom Community. [online] hmhco.com. Available at: <<https://www.hmhco.com/blog/importance-of-classroom-community#:~:text=A%20classroom%20community%20consists%20of,to%20unify%20with%20their%20classmates.>> [Accessed 12 June 2022].