

THE ROLE OF EDUCATION

by:

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Education is now viewed as a dynamic wheel catering strong and enduring teaching and learning process. This is something clearly seen on how teachers and learners have prepared for the current school year. Indeed, education is a key toward excellence and capacity building of our nation.

We can look at education the way we've looked at it for decades as transmitter of knowledge, traditions, culture and values. The way we are today is basically because our forefathers have insisted that there are certain and non-negotiable that need variables to be transmitted from one generation to next. There is a definitive resistance to change the proven and tested traditional practices of the past. However, there is another view that says that knowledge must be questioned not just transferred, values must be tested and tried and not just taught. There is reason to believe that culture sometimes needs critiquing rather than just transmitting. Transmission is important for education to play its rightful role to do teaching a transformative and subversive activity. My personal bias is that this transformative act is at the center of educational role, otherwise, education stays at the backburner of change, always waiting for change to happen. In my understanding of change management, this type of drastic and sometimes undesirable change is best brought about in times of crises; unsettling, turbulent times, challenging time including pandemics, and other forms of disruptions. We can take a look at how this is possible.

Here is a scenario. If a student is enrolled in your class, the teacher commits himself to make the student 'better' after the engagement. Likewise, the student commits himself

to cooperate in the learning process. Successful learning happens when teacher and students collaborate for the sake an effective education. The paradoxical thing about a successful teaching-learning process is a reversal of roles that happens between the teacher and student. The teacher no longer just teaches but learns as well while the student no longer just learns but teaches as well. Therefore, the engagement is effectively carried out. This is quite observable by the manner of the facilitation of learning where students have a voice to express what they want relative to the discussion and where teachers have ears to evaluate and assess students' responses while identifying newly constructed information.

The first few minutes of the teacher's engagement with the students is very crucial. The students answers the teacher to determine what kind of engagement the students will have with in teacher. To be an effective teacher, educators must possess competent, compassionate, caring, and concerned. Successful engagement is basically "mutual liking" for each other because this eliminates the hindrances and facilitates learning. We may conclude that it is easy to learn from someone whom you like and who likes you as well. The learning matrix is determined by the amount of influence the teacher has in his students.

If there are 40 students in a class, a teacher engages with 40 multi-faceted personalities and varied needs physiological, psychological, mental needs, etc. A teacher's special skill is conducting diagnosis or assessment. For a successful engagement, one must know his/ her students well. The teacher makes sure that the hindrances of learning are eliminated early in the engagement of those without hindrances that they be challenged accordingly. There are multiple signs we can see in order to prove that students are truly at the center of the educational enterprise. They can either over-achieve or under-achieve. As facilitators of learning, we must be keen in observing what indicators students show in our everyday encounter with them.

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