

## LEADING BY EXAMPLE

*by:*

**Raffy R. Abilong**

*Head Teacher III, Sapang Balas Elementary School*

“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”-Proverbs 22:6

Training. One word yet there are a hundred and one meaning most especially in the field of education. I say this because I also underwent “training” in almost all facets of my existence. It’s what learning is all about. It separates the “learned” to not so “learned”. It defines a good leader as well as a good follower.

There had been a lot of principles on the topic of leadership. At first, there are only three styles namely: autocratic, democratic, and laissez-faire (a French word for the phrase ‘allow to do’). Now some added more like charismatic, delegatory, and participatory to name a few. The concept of being a leader throughout history re-invented itself in whatever situation calls for it. There is no right or wrong style. It is synonymous with the term manager. A good leader ‘manages’ his/her subordinate in the right direction or on the plan he/she thinks is beneficial to them. The same is true in the field of education. As teachers, we are what others called “Jack-of-all-trades” from the perspective of dealing with our students. Teachers can be the sole authority when giving instructions to the students’ guidance. They (teachers) can also become a facilitator during group activities. They act as a guidance counselor to students who have problems in their respective homes whenever approached by them (students). They even transformed themselves into performers in an instant just to stir the inquisitive minds of their beloved students.

A lifelong learner. Teachers cannot give what they don't have. That is why they go through seminars/workshops. They enrolled in school too same as their students. They go through graduate studies to further hone their skills to become a better version of themselves. The notion that they only do this for the financial upgrade is not all true but done all for the benefit of the learners.

The bottom line is, as I opined, teachers, as leaders are unparalleled.

*References:*

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs%2022:6&version=KJV>