

REBUILDING PUPILS ENGAGEMENT AFTER PANDEMIC

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Face-to-face classes brought the realization not only on the learning gaps but also on the behavior of learners towards learning. It has become a challenge for us teachers to encourage our learners to engage themselves during classroom discussions and activities.

According to Azmi et.al., (2022) Covid 19 impacted the behavior of learners as they shift from face-to-face to online classes which then resulted to the prevalence of mental stress, anxiety and depression. Being alone inside the house where learning environment becomes new, individual behavior of learners were not developed. They tend to become aloof and struggle to build a connection with anyone else.

In an interview to some Grade 2 teachers, they commonly found out that learners are scared to commit themselves in the activities. Whenever teachers ask question, nobody from their classes raise their hands to answer. This shows how the school closures impacted the social and communication abilities of the learners.

Based on the data presented by Ed Week Research Center (2021), approximately half of the learners in a class felt less encouraged and less morale which shows that their motivation had dropped further. With this data, Teachers were more challenged to become more innovative and help their pupils rebuild their engagement.

Collaborative work among learners will develop a bond and gradually breaks the barrier which holds them back. Sharing of ideas and group working is one of the initial ways to let learners rebuild engagement. A five- to 10-minute activity, brings a new learning day and helps our pupils to internalize their lessons.

Learners will be more engaged and motivated when they give the freedom to choose. Autonomous learning gives them the feeling of self-assessment. Guided activities were provided but eventually independent activities will let them shine on their own.

Live experiences from learners is a must to be told. Letting the learners share their actual experiences gives them the sense of belongingness. While sharing, everyone is listening to them which will make them feel accepted and belonged. The next time u let them stand in front of the class, they will be confident enough to engage themselves in the lessons.

At the end of every lesson, conduct an engagement check-in which help not only the learners but also the teachers. Simply asking What I don't understand and What I understand. This data will be great use for the school head in conducting ang implementing activities.

References:

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