

## SERVANT LEADERSHIP IN TEACHING: EMPOWERING EDUCATION THROUGH COMPASSION

*by:*

**Mary Jane H. Gutierrez**

*Teacher II Mariveles Senior High School – Sitio Mabuhay*

The role of a teacher in education extends much beyond the traditional confines of delivering knowledge. A teacher is more than just an instructor; he or she is also a facilitator, mentor, and guide who plays an important role in shaping the lives of students. A servant leader is a powerful leadership model that resonates with the transforming nature of teaching. The teacher as a servant leader highlights the significance of prioritizing students' needs, creating a loving environment, and empowering pupils to attain their greatest potential. In this article, we will look at the traits and impact of a teacher as a servant leader, as well as how they contribute to the development of a brighter future.

The Official Website of DepED Division of Bataan

Servant leadership is a philosophy that emphasizes the obligation of the leader to serve others. A servant leader, rather than pursuing authority or control, focuses on the needs and growth of their followers, with the goal of promoting their personal and professional development. Robert K. Greenleaf popularized the notion in the 1970s, and it has subsequently found application in a variety of fields, including education.

To determine whether you possess a servant leader quality as a teacher, one must have the following characteristics:

**Putting Students First:** In the context of education, a servant leader prioritizes the needs and interests of learners. They value the children's well-being, progress, and academic success above everything else. Teachers that use a student-centered approach create an inclusive and supportive environment that promotes learning and engagement.

**Active Listening:** Effective communication is a critical component of servant leadership. A servant leader teacher actively listens to their pupils, establishing an environment in which students feel heard and respected. Teachers can adjust their teaching approaches to fit individual needs and foster a sense of ownership over the learning process by paying attention to their students' problems, ideas, and feedback.

**Empowering Students:** A servant leader empowers students by allowing them liberty, decision-making, and personal growth. Teachers encourage students to develop a sense of responsibility, independence, and critical thinking abilities, allowing them to become active participants in their education. Teachers encourage students to achieve their greatest potential by cultivating their strengths and developing their own unique talents and abilities.

**Leading by Example:** Servant leaders establish leadership through their actions. Teachers model values such as integrity, empathy, and humility in the classroom, creating an effective role model for their students. They reflect the behaviors and values that they expect of their learners, developing a culture of respect, cooperation, and lifelong learning.

When a teacher realizes how to serve with compassion, this impacts not just the educational system but, more importantly, the lives of all students. Students can improve their engagement in class at school. A servant leader in the classroom promotes an environment in which students feel protected, supported, and inspired to actively participate in their education.

When one good leader produces another good leader, that is a sign of strong leadership. Students who experience the positive impact of servant leadership in the classroom are more likely to grow in empathy, compassion, and a desire to serve others. A Servant-leader teacher develops leaders of tomorrow by developing the skills and mindset of the

learners. These characteristics are essential for developing responsible individuals who make valuable contributions to their societies.

The teacher as a servant leader symbolizes a powerful educational approach that goes beyond typical teaching methods. Teachers can create a transforming educational experience by emphasizing students' needs, actively listening, empowering learners, and leading by example. A teacher's impact as a servant leader goes well beyond the classroom, molding students' lives and training them to be compassionate, responsible, and effective leaders in their future undertakings. We pave the road for a brighter and more inclusive future by embracing the concept of servant leadership in education.

#### *References:*

Gultekin, H. & Kara, T. (2022) Servant Leadership Characteristics of School Teachers and Its Effect on Student Success and Organizational Health in Selected Public Schools.

*The Journal of Ethnic and Cultural Studies*, Vol. 9, No. 4, pp. 120-138. Retrieved from <https://www.jstor.org/stable/48710367>

Noland, A. & Richards, K. (2015). Servant Teaching: An exploration of teacher servant leadership on student outcomes. *Journal of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning*, Vol. 15, No. 6, pp. 16-38. doi: 10.14434/josotl.v15i6.13928

Schroeder, B. (2016). The Effectiveness of Servant Leadership in Schools From a Christian Perspective. *Journal of Graduate Studies in Education*, Volume 8, Issue 2. Retrieved from <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ1230516.pdf>