

REEVALUATING OUR APPROACH: EMPLOYING POSITIVE DISCIPLINE TO MANAGE THE STUDENTS' BEHAVIOR

by:

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Teaching is a noble profession which entails that we are more than committed to our principle, responsibility and duty to uphold the idea that we are the builders of other professions. But the question is, how are we going to handle our students whose behavior is affecting their will to study? Paradoxical as it may sound, yet it is our major role to manage the behavior of our students as one step to push them toward goals that haven't reached their mind. We might be directed into thinking that our students have no dreams at all, but I would suggest you not to give up for we can always do something that will light their path a little brighter for them to see a good future ahead. Now that we have transitioned to a more effective and equitable approach, let us remember where we rooted from.

Traditionally, the known way to cope with students' misbehavior and misconduct is the infamous corporal punishment which has been the center of debates and scrutiny, leading to a deep commitment of our country, the Philippines, to prohibit corporal punishment in home and other settings (Country Report for Philippines, 2023). It is included to the House Bill 8306 and House Bill 1269 which aims to penalize any individual who carries out corporal, degrading and humiliating punishment to children.

Today, the encouragement turns into employing Positive Discipline as the most adequate way to discipline the students while giving importance to their physical, social and emotional welfare and development. According to Nelsen (2021), Positive Discipline involves the practice of directing children by clearly speaking to them about their behavior in a firm yet gentle way. It is a method that focuses mainly on the emotional

aspects of the students giving them vivid understanding of the situation they are in. In a study conducted by Nelsen (1979), there are significant results concerning the examined impacts of using Positive Discipline tools.

Accordingly, an international study in Sacramento California about the use of Positive Discipline to schools showed that suspensions of students lessen from 64 to 4 as recorded annually. In our country, based on the data released by UNICEF (2019), Positive Discipline becomes the highlight of the Philippine government as included to the 2017-2022 Philippine Plan of Action to End Violence Against Children, stemming from the National Baseline Study on Violence Against Children (NBS VAC) which unveiled that 64% of their respondents experienced physical violence during their childhood. In line with this, the Department of Education Regional Office III conducts several workshops and seminars regarding the implementation of Positive Discipline in classroom environment. It encourages teachers to reevaluate their approach in dealing with misbehaving students, and train them to employ non-violent method to manage a classroom. Furthermore, it provides them guidance on how to respond to common circumstances in the classroom using Positive Discipline.

To conclude, the school is like a home for students, and sometimes it serves as their only safe place for most households damage the welfare of their members whether it is physically, socially or emotionally. Positive Discipline is the potential solution to this problem, leading to much better impact to students which cannot be achieved through punishments and rewards. Therefore, we, teachers, are reevaluating our approach and choosing the most efficient, peaceful and practical way to manage our student's behavior without making them feel threatened.

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