

## TEACHER-CENTERED VS STUDENT-CENTERED CLASSROOM: A COMPARISON BETWEEN TWO CLASSROOM APPROACHES

*by:*

**SHYAM N. ORIBELLO**

*Teacher III, Hermosa National High School*

As far as Philippine education goes, classrooms had always been run through a teacher-centered approach. Within this system, the teachers control what the students learn, how they learn, the pace of lessons, and several factors that shape their attitudes toward learning. However, new studies have found that the contrary, a student-centered approach, has several upsides that could cause a revolution in the classroom. Nonetheless, to truly understand which approach is better, we need to weigh the advantages and disadvantages of both a student-centered and a teacher-centered classroom.

One advantage of a student-centered classroom is that it can increase student engagement and motivation. When students are actively involved in their own learning and have some control over the direction of their studies, they are more likely to be engaged and motivated to learn. This can lead to an increase in overall academic achievement.

Another advantage of a student-centered classroom is that it can better accommodate the diverse learning needs and styles of students. In a traditional teacher-centered classroom, the teacher is often the sole source of information, and the pace of instruction is dictated by the teacher. This can be challenging for students who learn at a different pace or in a different way. A student-centered classroom allows for more flexibility and can better meet the needs of individual students.

A third advantage of a student-centered approach is that it can foster critical thinking and problem-solving skills. When students are given the opportunity to explore and investigate topics that are of interest to them, they are more likely to engage in higher-level thinking and problem-solving. This is an important skill that will serve them well in their future studies and careers.

However, there are also some disadvantages to a student-centered approach. One disadvantage is that it can be time-consuming for the teacher to plan and facilitate a student-centered lesson. The teacher must be prepared to spend extra time creating a lesson plan that allows for student choice and creativity, and must also be prepared to adjust the plan as needed.

Another disadvantage is that a student-centered approach may not be suitable for all subjects or all students. Some subjects, such as math or science, may require more structure and guidance from the teacher in order for students to understand the material fully. Additionally, some students may struggle with the freedom and responsibility that a student-centered approach requires.

On the other hand, a teacher-centered classroom has its own set of advantages and disadvantages. One advantage is that it can be more efficient for the teacher to plan and deliver a lesson. In a teacher-centered classroom, the teacher controls the lesson's pace and direction and does not have to worry about catering to the needs and interests of individual students.

Another advantage is that a teacher-centered approach may be more suitable for some subjects or some students. As mentioned earlier, some subjects may require more structure and guidance from the teacher in order for students to understand the material fully. Additionally, some students may prefer a more traditional, structured approach to learning.

However, there are also some disadvantages to a teacher-centered approach. One disadvantage is that it can lead to lower student engagement and motivation. When students are simply passive receivers of information, they may become disengaged and lose interest in the material.

Another disadvantage is that a teacher-centered approach does not allow for flexibility or accommodations for diverse learning needs and styles. All students are expected to learn at the same pace and in the same way, which can be challenging for some students.

In conclusion, both a student-centered and a teacher-centered approach to education have their own advantages and disadvantages. While a student-centered approach can increase student engagement and motivation and better accommodate diverse learning needs.

## References:

Ameliana, I. (2017). Teacher-Centered or Student-Centered Learning Approach to Promote Learning? *Jurnal Sosial Humaniora*, 10(2), 59.

<https://doi.org/10.12962/j24433527.v10i2.2161>

The SHARE Team. (2012). Teacher-Centered vs. Student-Centered Education | Resilient Educator. *ResilientEducator.com*. <https://resilienteducator.com/classroom-resources/which-is-best-teacher-centered-or-student-centered-education/>