

SAFE SPACES: FOSTERING A CHILD-FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT IN ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS

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Fostering a child-friendly school creates an encouraging environment for learning where a child develops his/her own identity. These safe spaces help promote safety, inclusivity, and supportive environment among students.

What makes a school child-friendly? A child-friendly school respects every child's right to health, education, and protects them from abuse. Furthermore, it gives students a chance to express opinions, engage in a group decision-making based on their abilities, and offers opportunities for play and leisure.

There are factors that strengthen an academic institution's child-friendly status:

Health and well-being. The school promotes the health and well-being of students by providing access to clean water, nutritious meals, and health services. Regular health check-ups and hygiene education are also integral parts of the program.

Inclusivity. A child-friendly school embraces diversity and promotes equality. It ensures that all children, regardless of their age, race, and gender have access to quality education. This includes accommodating children with disabilities and those from marginalized communities, preventing from a possible scenario of bullying in any form.

Active learning: The curriculum is designed to be engaging and relevant to the students' lives. It encourages critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills. Teachers use child-centered teaching methods that make learning enjoyable and effective.

Community Involvement: A child-friendly school fosters strong partnerships with parents and the community. It involves them in school activities and decision-making processes, creating a supportive network for the students.

It is evident that creating a safe and peaceful environment for children encourages them to develop their academic and social abilities, thus reaching their full potential. These safe spaces do not only impose on school administration but also requires cooperation from teachers, parents, community, and the government.

This may be a challenging step in improving the quality of education in the country but support from the government, civil society, and the community it is possible to ensure that a child-friendly school environment awaits the current and future generations where inclusivity, growth, and development can foster.

References:

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