

BUILDING CHARACTER: THE IMPORTANCE OF GMRC IN EDUCATION

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In a rapidly changing world where technological developments and academic achievements are often stressed, instilling good manners and right conduct (GMRC) inside the classroom remains the most important. Education does not only mean imparting knowledge, it is also about molding character so that individuals are well-rounded and can make positive contributions in society. The integration of GMRC in education is key in holistic development thus making sure that learners do not only excel in academics but also become ethical and responsible citizens.

Good manners as well as right conduct form the pillars upon which a just and harmonious society is built. In class, these values serve as guiding lights that help students navigate difficult social situations including moral dilemmas in their day to day life. By teaching honesty, respect, empathy, responsibility among others so that students involved learn how to act with integrity reflecting on other people's feelings are better informed for decision-making purposes. This kind of moral foundation underlies an atmosphere for learning where there prevails mutual respect among learners hence enhancing the overall learning experience in school.

The integration of GMRC into the curriculum also helps in addressing behavioral issues among students. By emphasizing GMRC, teachers can proactively tackle issues such as bullying, cheating, and disrespect. Teaching students how important it is to behave properly makes them more likely to be kind and fair, which makes the school setting safer and more welcoming for everyone.

Also, by giving focus on GMRC in schools helps kids learn how to be emotionally intelligent. In order for our learners to be successful in life and at work, they first need to develop emotional intelligence, which means being able to understand and control their own feelings as well as the emotions of others. In this regard, teachers can help students develop the emotional skills they need to make good relationships and deal with problems by teaching them empathy, self-discipline, and how to get along with others. These skills are very useful for students as they go through school and finally apply it in real-world scenarios as they start working.

One of the best things about teaching GMRC is that it changes students' lives in the long run. Students who have been taught to value honesty, responsibility, and kindness are more likely to use these values in their personal and work lives. These actions help make our students to become well-rounded and responsible citizens of the society.

To include GMRC in the school system, you need to take a diverse approach. Teaching the subject Edukasyon sa Pagpapakatao (EsP) is not enough; the learnings from the subject need to be a part of everything that students do at school and even at home. Teachers are very important to this process as they can directly or indirectly influence how the students think and act because they are the immediate role models. When teachers treat their students with respect, fairness, and empathy, they set a strong impression that students are likely to follow. Moreover, Nuñez & Villaverde (2021) suggested that character when integrated systematically and supported by well-trained educators, has a positive impact on student's behavior and performance in school.

Experiential learning opportunities such as community service projects, peer mentoring programs, and collaborative classroom activities can also reinforce the principles of GMRC. By allowing students to participate in these hands-on experiences, we empower them to apply moral and ethical concepts in real-world contexts, deepening their understanding and commitment to these values. For instance, joining community

service projects teaches students the importance of giving back and fosters a sense of social responsibility.

According to Sarmiento (2022), parents and guardians also have a critical role to play in the moral and ethical development of their children. Schools and families, more importantly the parents, must join hands to reinforce the importance of GMRC. Communication between educators and parents can ensure that there is a consistent message about the value of good morals and right conduct both at school and at home. This partnership creates a supportive environment where students can thrive and develop into well-rounded individuals.

Despite the clear benefits, the implementation of GMRC education faces challenges particularly in a curriculum that is already packed with academic requirements, having insufficient teacher training, capacity-building, and professional development, experiencing limited resources and instructional materials, and dealing with diverse set of learners who come from different socioeconomic backgrounds barriers (Danilo, et. al., 2025). In the same way, Cruz & Reyes (2020) discovered that a significant number of educators in public schools have reported a dearth of interactive activities, multimedia tools, and books that can be used to enhance the learning experience of GMRC.. However, the long-term benefits of producing morally grounded individuals far outweigh these challenges. Schools must prioritize GMRC as an integral part of the educational experience, recognizing that academic excellence alone is insufficient for the development of responsible and ethical citizens.

In conclusion, the importance of instilling good morals and right conduct in the classroom cannot be overstated. GMRC education is essential for the holistic development of students, fostering a positive school culture, enhancing emotional intelligence, and preparing students for the ethical challenges of adulthood. By integrating GMRC into the curriculum and creating a supportive environment for moral

development, educators can ensure that their students not only excel academically but also grow into individuals of strong character and integrity.

References:

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