

WHY STUDENT VOICE MATTERS

by:

MARY GRACE M. MEDINA, MEM

Teacher III, Adamson Elementary School Samal District

Giving students the opportunity to voice their opinions is only one aspect of empowering them to do so; another is establishing a dynamic, inclusive, and engaging learning environment. Allowing students to actively participate in decisions that affect their education is crucial, as the idea of "student voice" emphasizes. Not only do kids feel appreciated when they are heard, but they also become more involved and accountable for their education.

Students who are encouraged to speak up feel more control of their lives. They gain leadership and critical thinking abilities when they are given the opportunity to analyze teaching strategies, propose project subjects, and participate in class debates. Since education is now done with students rather than to them, this fosters a culture of cooperation between educators and learners. With this change, academic success is fostered in a classroom where respect for one another and a sense of shared ownership are valued, (Tian, 2024).

The increase in confidence that student voice has important advantages. Students start to believe in their own ability when they understand that their opinions matter. Active involvement, taking chances while addressing problems, and a readiness to constructively criticize ideas are all results of this self-assurance (Kapoor, 2024). These actions eventually contribute to the development of strong, self-reliant students who are prepared for obstacles in both their academic and personal lives.

Teaching also becomes more responsive and adaptable when teachers pay attention to what their students have to say. Learners' feedback can show which teaching methods

are working and which require improvement. Particularly for students with varying learning requirements, students frequently offer distinctive perspectives on how to make classes more interesting or approachable (Scanlon, 2024). Everyone benefits from this collaboration, which raises the standard of education and creates a positive learning environment.

The foundation for government involvement is established by student voice. By engaging in classroom discussion and speech, students develop the abilities necessary for democratic participation in society. They acquire communication skills, listening comprehension, and teamwork – all of which are critical in a world that is becoming more interconnected by the day.

To sum up, incorporating student input is a fundamental component of successful, human-centered education rather than a passing trend in academics. It results in more self-assured pupils, knowledgeable educators, and a lively, adaptable school community. We must prioritize elevating student voices as we transition to learner-centered approaches, not only to enhance academic performance but also to develop the next generation of intelligent, capable, and empowered citizens.

References:

Tian, S. (2024) Why student voice matters in academia: The importance of inclusive education. Available at: <https://blogs.ed.ac.uk/teaching-matters/why-student-voice-matters-in-academia-the-importance-of-inclusive-education/>

Kapoor, D. (2024), Unleashing the power of student voice. Available at: https://www.teachermagazine.com/in_en/articles/unleashing-the-power-of-student-voice

Scanlon, J.(2024).Tips for Building a School Culture That Values Student Voice.

Available at: <https://home.edweb.net/building-a-school-culture-that-values-student-voice/>