

## **MORE THAN LESSONS: HOW TEACHER ATTITUDES INFLUENCE STUDENT GROWTH**

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Teachers do more than teach. They also change how their students think, feel, and act. In the Philippines, where classrooms can be large and resources are often limited, a teacher's attitude can be just as important as their knowledge. A teacher who is positive, supportive, and proactive can motivate students to do their best. On the other hand, a teacher who is hostile or indifferent can make it more difficult for students to learn and grow as individuals. This illustrates why teachers are more than just educators; they are also mentors and surrogate parents who help students develop in all aspects of their lives.

One meaningful way teachers affect students is by being motivated and interested in themselves. A teacher who is excited, patient, and genuinely cares about their students' success fosters a positive environment in which they can learn. Filipino students respond well to praise, constructive criticism, and opportunities to showcase their work. For instance, many public schools have teachers who praise small successes, such as a student finishing an assignment correctly or showing improvement in a subject, to boost their confidence and encourage them to continue learning. On the other hand, students who believe that teachers are difficult to approach or overly critical may be less inclined to participate in class, refrain from asking questions, or become anxious about learning.

Teacher attitudes also influence the modeling of behavior and the development of values. In the Philippines, where family and community values are deeply ingrained, students closely observe their teachers and often emulate their actions. Teachers who show respect, empathy, and good behavior can help students develop these same traits. Teachers who promote cooperation, kindness, and accountability foster not only

academically proficient students but also socially responsible individuals. Values Education and classroom community-building exercises use teachers' attitudes to teach core moral values. They emphasize that education is not just about achieving good grades, but also about developing character.

It also has a significant impact on students' academic performance. Research indicates that students in classrooms with supportive, encouraging, and proficient teachers tend to achieve superior grades and demonstrate enhanced knowledge retention. Teachers in Philippine public schools often employ innovative teaching methods, such as group projects, peer tutoring, and interactive discussions, to engage students and cater to their diverse learning styles. Students are more likely to participate actively, take intellectual risks, and keep going when things get tough when they know their teacher cares about their growth.

Teacher attitudes are also crucial in supporting students' mental health and well-being. Many Filipino students deal with stressors like poverty, family problems, and social pressures that can make it hard for them to learn. A teacher who is friendly, patient, and understanding can help students by serving as a mentor and guide, providing emotional support, and referring them to school counselors when needed. In this way, good attitudes in teachers help protect against the adverse effects of personal or social problems.

However, it's not automatic for teachers to develop positive attitudes. It needs professional development, help, and self-awareness. Teachers can learn a great deal from training in how to manage a classroom, develop emotional intelligence, and teach in a way that focuses on the students. Schools can foster a culture of collaboration by having teachers share ideas, mentor one another, and celebrate their successes. Teacher training programs in the Philippines are increasingly emphasizing not only subject matter knowledge but also social-emotional learning skills, cultural sensitivity, and interpersonal skills.

In conclusion, a teacher's attitude has a significant impact on how much their students learn, how interested they become, and how they grow as individuals. Filipino teachers are not just people who teach; they are also mentors, role models, and second parents. Their enthusiasm, empathy, and moral behavior have a direct effect on motivation, behavior, and school success. Teachers make classrooms where students feel valued, inspired, and able to reach their full potential by encouraging positive attitudes and setting a good example of responsible behavior. In a society plagued by problems such as poverty, insufficient resources, and social pressures, the teacher's attitude can mean the difference between a disinterested student and one who is excited to learn and excel.

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