

BEYOND THE FINAL BELL

by:

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The school day may end when the last bell rings, but for an ARAL tutor, another learning journey is just beginning. I have met pupils who entered the room carrying more than their notebooks; they also carried fear, doubt, and the feeling of always being behind. Some could hardly read a short paragraph, while others struggled with the simplest mathematical operations. They did not need someone to remind them of their mistakes because they already knew them by heart. What they needed was a teacher who would stay a little longer and believe they could still improve.

Being an ARAL tutor has taught me that learning cannot always be measured by test scores or grades. There were days when a pupil's greatest achievement was reading a sentence without stopping or solving one problem without asking for help. Those moments may seem ordinary to others, but they meant everything to the learner. Every smile after a correct answer reminded me that confidence is built one small success at a time. It also reminded me why I chose to become a teacher in the first place.

No teaching session was ever truly perfect because every learner carried a unique story, learned at a different pace, and faced different challenges. While some pupils easily understood the lessons, others needed additional time, repeated explanations, and patient guidance before the concepts became clear. These experiences taught me that patience is one of the most valuable tools a teacher can possess, while sincere encouragement often has the greatest impact on a learner's growth. I realized that pupils become more engaged and confident when they feel accepted, even when they make mistakes along the way. More than simply delivering lessons, teaching became an

opportunity to inspire hope, build confidence, and remind learners that they can overcome challenges through perseverance and support.

Serving as an ARAL tutor is not simply an additional task after regular classes. It is a commitment to ensure that no learner is left behind because of circumstances they cannot control. The greatest reward does not come from certificates or recognition but from seeing a once-struggling pupil walk into the classroom with confidence. Every learner who discovers the joy of learning becomes a reminder that every extra hour spent teaching is worthwhile. After all, the true measure of a teacher is not how many lessons are finished, but how many lives are changed.

References:

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