

Teachers' Role in Shaping the Future Leaders of Our Nation

Aileen G. Mactal
Education Program Supervisor

“The kind of learners that a country has today is the picture of a nation’s future.”

The primary role of teachers is to teach learners not just the content of the subjects but the values as well. Teachers are called *loco parentis* which means that they serve as the second parents of learners. As the meaning of *loco parentis* implies which is “in place of a parent”, teachers must perform some of the functions or responsibilities of parents while the learners are in school and while the parents are not with their children.

Learners are attending schools with the main purpose of acquiring knowledge and good values from their teachers. Thus, teachers must perform their roles and responsibilities as providers of learning. From the lesson planning up to its execution in classes or in distance learning, teachers must be taking into consideration the learners that he or she has. It means that in planning, the teachers must take into account the individual needs of learners, their learning styles, the resources that each learner has, the cognitive level of learners, and others.

By applying those considerations, it shows that the teachers care and love their learners because they are thinking about what is best for their learners. Just like at home, for example, the parents give the highest possible care and love to their children, thus, they will drop everything to take care of their sick children; they will cook the best menu if that is the request of their children; they will tell unending bedtime stories; and they will answer the never-ending questions of their young ones, among others.

Through planning, the very effective SMART description of objectives such as specific, measurable, attainable, resource-oriented, and time-bounded must be captured to achieve the desired learning outcomes. According to Education Dictionaries, a lesson plan serves as the blueprint of the teaching-learning process, thus, it should be well-planned.

Instructional materials (IMs) are significant tools in the delivery of the lesson. It is a no-no to teachers teaching without IMs. These materials must be prepared as planned as how the lesson plan was crafted because the materials must be congruent to the lesson plan, to the levels of the learners, and to the lesson itself. If the lesson is about the parts of a plant, the teachers must have a picture of a plant, it may be manually drawn by the teacher on the board, printed, or on a computer to be flashed before the class through a projector or television. It tells that the teachers must be industrious and creative enough to develop those instructional materials to support the process of learners acquiring knowledge.

During the author’s teaching days, it is her routine that every summer break, she is preparing her instructional materials in advance. Thus, before the start of classes, she has already a complete set of IMs for all learning areas. Yearly, she is just adding instructional materials that could be helpful in facilitating the topics. Some of the learning materials are reading materials following the Marungko Approach and the Fuller Technique, Bingo Cards for letters and numbers, numeracy materials like

addition, subtraction, and multiplication numbers on flashcards. Likewise, writing localized small books and big books are also her outputs during summer breaks.

Teachers also serve as role models to their learners, literally and figuratively. Learners especially those at the key stages 1 and 2 literally copy their teachers: the way the teacher talks, how he or she walks, his or her facial expressions and even mannerisms, the way he or she dresses up, and others. They are even playing “role playing” in classrooms during recess time or lunch break. Teachers must be cautious enough in their ways and movements because while he or she is teaching in front of the class, the whole class is watching him or her.

The study of Ivery (2019) titled Teachers Perceptions of How Attire Affects Student Behavior and Academic Performance: A Case Study found that teachers are aware that their attire can affect negatively the behavior of their students. In addition, the professional attire of the teachers can influence positive behavior among the students. This means that the teachers’ attire should be put on premium. Wearing professional attire must be observed at all times most especially in the sight of the students. Even though the teacher and learner interaction is online, wearing decent clothes like blouses and dresses which are not revealing must be worn.

In addition, teachers’ role in teaching good values to their learners is very significant. As the DepEd abides to the core values Maka-Diyos, Makatao, Makakalikasan, and Makabansa, the schools through the leadership of the school heads must strengthen the values formation among all learners. For example, DepEd’s core values serves as the guiding principles of the Department wherein at all times, all employees must practice these in the delivery of quality service to clientele most especially the learners.

Learners especially children are good imitators. They are like a sponge that whatever they hear is stored in their mind; whatever they see, they believe it is true because they look up to their teachers with high importance. Thus, teachers must display the highest practice of living with good manners and right conduct, not just for the sake of the learners but it is the right thing to do as a person.

Teachers’ role in terms of providing motivation to students is very significant to achieving intrinsically-motivated learners. Why? It is because learners need not only the subject contents but they need someone who will support them and push them all the way towards their goal.

By telling stories to learners about how a teacher became a teacher considering that they are poor when he or she was a kid, how a police officer became a police officer after schooling for how many years despite the trials in life, how a doctor became a doctor despite he or she was a part of a broken family, and how a city mayor became a city mayor despite of just walking for how many years from their house to school are just some stories that teachers may tell to their students of whatever grade level they are in that will surely have a big impact to the students’ minds.

Way back during the author’s teaching days in Grade 1 for 10 years, she often gave motivation to her learners by asking them “What do you like to be when you grow up?” Some learners raised their hands for police officer, doctor, nurse, firefighter and many of them answered “to be a teacher.” After hearing their answers, she then asked them “How can you achieve your dream?” Many will answer by studying very hard, by listening to their teacher, by obeying their parents, and others. The teacher made them

realize how important it is to be a good child, to be a good learner, and to have a dream because that will make them achieve their dreams. She also made them understand that their life would be better in the future if they will start studying harder and by being a good person.

Based on the study of C. Kirabo Jackson, economics professor at Northwestern University, motivated learners have improved attendance in class and they get better grades. Thus, the teachers' impact to learners are stronger and they will carry those motivations up to adulthood.

By doing all these imperative roles of teachers, the youth and this nation can have a better future.

References:

Ivery, G. (2019) Teacher Perceptions of How Attire Affects Student Behavior and Academic Performance: A Case Study, Concordia University St. Paul, Portland.

Stauffer, B, (2013) What is a lesson plan and how do you make one?

Terada, Y. (2019). Understanding a Teacher's Long-Term Impact, George Lucas Educational Foundation.

<https://www.aeseducation.com/blog/what-is-a-lesson-plan#:~:text=A%20lesson%20plan%20is%20a,to%20follow%20each%20class%20period.>

<https://www.edutopia.org/article/understanding-teachers-long-term-impact>

Teachers' Role in Shaping the Future Leaders of Our Nation

Aileen G. Mactal
Education Program Supervisor

Good morning to everyone! I am here to present to you my article titled "Teachers' Role in Shaping the Future Leaders of Our Nation."

In this article, I gave emphasis on the significant roles of teachers as providers of knowledge and information to all learners, as motivators, and as role models in terms of values formation.

I shared this article because I would like the readers especially the teachers to realize how important their roles are so that their passion to teaching, their love to their learners, and their contribution to the development of our nation be revived or rekindled.