

The Importance of Teaching in The Millennial Generation

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This class and these last two videos demonstrate how important teachers truly are. In a place like India where millions are living in poverty and only approximately 15% of students reach high school and only 7% graduate, it is clear to see how valuable an education is. It is disheartening when the video explained that some teachers show up to hand out food and then leave or 40-50 percent don't show up at all. This behavior is clearly having a negative impact on the children of India. As a teacher, we need to understand the type of impact we have. Sometimes our biggest impact happens when we don't even realize it. It might be something we do or say, and at the time we don't think anything about it, but it might have a great impact on our students. Teachers need to be aware that things they do and/or say can have a positive impact or a negative impact on students. In the classes that do have teachers, it is sad to hear that the education system is creating job seekers and not creators. As an educator we do need to prepare of students for a future in the workforce, but not at the expense of creative thinking. Where would we be if the world lacked creativity? If teachers aren't inspiring creativity in our students the world becomes stagnant and there is no progression.

To the Millennial Generation, technology is their life. It defines who they are. It has been a part of them since the day they were born. It is normal for them to use it. To them, abnormal is not using technology. They don't understand how one can exist if they don't have and use technology. This part of their lives enables them to connect with others who make it a part of their lives. If you don't have technology, then you aren't connected to the Millennial Generation. That connection is lost at school if teachers are not integrating technology into the classroom. Schools and teachers need to recognize that technology and collaborating with others

is how they learn. In addition, this generation expects to be recognized for their efforts, no matter how small, and they require continuous validation. Social media like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram are all about recognition and validation. In order to educate this generation, teachers need to take this same ideal and apply it in the classroom. The world is constantly changing, but it seems that school remains the same. This generation can adapt to the changes going on. If schools and teachers can't adapt like this generation, then we are failing our children and our future.

My overall goal is to provide my students with a fun classroom atmosphere where they want to come to school. I expect to do this by remembering what I learned about generations that are different from mine. I want to take what this generation already has instilled in them, like curiosity and positivity and maximize it in my classroom. My job is to make sure they are learning, but in a way that brings out their creativity and curiosity. The fun is missing in most classrooms for many reasons, but teachers need to make a commitment to bring it back. Another goal of mine is to give my students the continuous recognition and validation because that is what they are used to when using social media. They thrive on this in their lives so it is important to remember to use it in my classroom. I expect my students to make as much of a commitment to learning as I have made to teaching. I expect them to give me their best, because they are expecting the best, sometimes the impossible, from me. I also want to learn from the students as much as they learn from me. They can teach me that failure is really not failure, but a way to learn and then re-adjust your goals.

Before this class, I understood that teachers played a big part in the lives of the students they have, but now I have a deeper understanding on how much of an impact teachers truly make. It is up to the teacher whether that impact is negative or positive.