Why is the Classroom Management very important?

*“Education is not a Preparation for a Life. It’s a Life itself.” –John Dewey*

I’ve been taught at the all-male junior high and high school of Moon-Hwa foundation for 6 years from March, 1993 to Feb. 1999. How tough do you imagine my classroom atmosphere was? It was a kind of disaster every day because we had only male students going through adolescent period in the school. When I’ve went to LLC since Jan. 2005, however, I’ve realized that managing a shambolic classroom was totally depending on how the teacher implemented the policies, rules, and skills to students. Through my experience of two different kinds of education, I would like to talk about why and how important the classroom management is now.

Normally, the more students are young, the more it is difficult to control. Especially in my adolescence experience at Moon-Hwa in 1995, the wooden rod was the only solution for managing the classroom. Teachers ruled over students very strictly. There was a Chinese Character teacher in Moon-Hwa Junior High school in 1995. Her name was Ms. Byun, 43 year-old spinster, and very famous for terrifying students. If anyone answered wrong to her question or didn’t get 100% on the test, the students got a very heavy hit on the laps or soles of feet per a wrong answer with her full power. Therefore, we all studied it very hard before and after the class, and also forced to memorize all things unconditionally. Looking back on my past, however, I think there was a good point to accept even though it seemed like very harsh. Anyhow, due to her such strict punishment, all students throughout the whole school could get 100% on the mid-term exam of her class in 1995. It became a unique record and new history of our school. Moreover, it helped all students memorize lots of Chinese characters they learned for a long time. I also still remember many words and cannot forget the words’ forms and meanings until now.

Another important thing for the classroom management is how to manage the frequent tardiness and absence. I think the teacher has a duty not to let students come late and also should give them the motivation to attend the class autonomously. When I attended the Ms. Susan’s ESL class in the states in 2005, her teaching style was very kind and a sort of Enable type of the 3 key teaching methods. Ms. Susan instituted the penalty point system in the class for the tardiness and absence just like as TIMES MEDIA TESOL program. However, there was no instruction under the coercion of attending the class. It’s totally up to students’ choice. If I wanted to get a good grade at the end, I attended it spontaneously, but normally I didn’t always attend the class on time because I could make up the points by the other assignment with the extra points. Though it sounds very democratic, yet, since students are very young and being a student status literally, I think they should be treated under certain strict policy or rules in the class.

I’m a tactile- kinesthetic type of person so prefer to learn something through various practice and experience. In my experience of learning English in LLC 2005, I remember it was very effective that Ms. Susan attracted voluntary participation from students through many group works or group debates under the competition composition so students could be eager to participate in the group work autonomously. If I were a teacher and had to help trainee teachers for the Lesson Presentation, I prefer to guide them to teach their students with the same way that I’ve learned and tell them my experience of learning.

There should be a lot of method of teaching and would exist various situation in the classroom. It’s very important for teachers how they will manage the classroom atmosphere during the class so students can learn effectively. Sometimes teachers should be very strict and tough, but on the other hand also they can be mild and gentle. I think it will be very difficult for a person who is not well-trained or experienced. However, if a teacher has their own method to control the classroom either strict or mild way so let students be able to feel it’s like a policy or control system, I believe in that the classroom will be well managed under the teacher’s own way.

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