

Effective Teaching: Passion and Commitment

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Abstract: Teachers play a vital role in shaping the future generations as they are responsible for imparting knowledge to students. However, the quality of education is not solely dependent on the curriculum and teaching strategies but also on the commitment and passion of teachers towards their profession. Passion and commitment are at the core of effective teaching. Passionate and committed teachers have serious impact on student learning outcomes; therefore, these features are important for their potential to make a difference in student learning. Passion and commitment are essential tools for high quality teaching and make significant contributions to student achievement. This article aims to explore the role of passion and commitment for effective teaching and learning.

Keywords: Passion, Commitment, Great Teachers, Effective Teaching

1. Introduction

Education plays a crucial role in creating opportunities and creating a better future. Through providing individuals with the necessary knowledge, skills, and competencies to succeed in life, education has a major factor in shaping an individual's personal and professional growth. Education is a powerful tool to enhance one's critical thinking and problem-solving abilities. For that reason, a key benefit of education is to help individuals analyze situations, identify problems, and find practical solutions which are considered essential for personal growth. Education fosters the promotion of social inclusion, tolerance, and diversity, and helps individuals develop positive social relationships. It is essential to recognize the importance of education owing to its ability to contribute to the formation of strong and cohesive communities.

Commitment and passion are at the core of effective teaching. Day underscores the impact of passion in education and puts forward that “passion is not an option. It is essential to high quality teaching” (2004, p.3). Teacher commitment is related to the dedication, loyalty, and passion of teachers towards their profession. In other words, it is the investment teachers in their profession (Tyree, 1996). It is the extent to which teachers are willing to go beyond their job requirements to ensure that their students receive quality education. Teacher commitment refers to work performance of teachers which greatly contributes to the achievement of students (Mart, 2013). Committed teachers are those who prioritize learning needs

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of their students and are willing to invest their time and energy in helping them achieve academic success for a better future.

Teachers play a vital role in shaping the future generations as they are responsible for imparting knowledge to students. However, the quality of education is not solely dependent on the curriculum but also on the commitment of teachers towards their profession. Hargreaves (1997), highlighting the importance of commitment and passion, states that “Pedagogical changes fail, when they do not engage the passions of the classroom” (p.18). Teacher commitment has the potential to make a difference in student learning. A committed teacher can inspire and motivate students to achieve their goals and reach their full potential (Celik, 2022). This article discusses the importance of teacher commitment and passion to education and student learning.

2. Literature Review

Passion and commitment are powerful factors that can motivate teachers for effective teaching. Day (2004) stresses that “passion is associated with enthusiasm, caring, commitment, and hope, which are themselves key characteristics of effectiveness in teaching” (p. 12). These factors can greatly affect quality teaching and student learning. Teachers and their teaching abilities have serious impact on student learning outcomes. It is true to say that passion and commitment can greatly help teachers perform their teaching efficiently.

A good definition of passionate teacher comes from Fried (2001) who argues that “it is this quality of caring about ideas and values, this fascination with potential for growth within people this depth and fervor about doing things well and striving for excellence that comes closest to what I mean in describing a “passionate teacher.” (p. 17). Passionate and committed teachers are well aware of the importance of creating a conducive learning setting, for that reason, they always aim for a learning environment that can promote student participation and engagement. Furthermore, teachers with passion and commitment employ a variety of teaching strategies in the classroom to enhance learning and academic performance of their students. It should be noted that the relationship between teachers and students holds a significant place in learning. With this in mind, committed teachers endeavor to establish a friendly and supportive learning environment in the classroom to build positive relationships with their students. Teachers build trust and respect between students and themselves by being approachable which fosters a positive learning experience. In addition, their willingness to listen the concerns of their students is one of the reasons for the increase of engagement. In particular, caring teachers can increase the eagerness of students towards learning. The source of passion is love. Teachers with passion and commitment love what they do and they have enthusiasm for teaching. Zehm and Kottler (1993) state that “the passionately committed teachers are those who absolutely love what they do” (1993, p. 118). The excitement, love and enthusiasm teachers have towards their job motivates and stimulates their students to learn effectively. These are essential tools to encourage students for effective learning.

Needless to say, motivation is a key factor in effective learning, therefore, teachers should always seek for different ways to foster motivation of their students (Limbo & Viva, 2021). Usually, it is teachers who need to motivate students towards learning. Committed teachers act as role models and instill values such as determination, hard work, and perseverance in their students. These tools can not only inspire and

motivate students to pursue their dreams and reach their full potential but also improve the effectiveness of learning. Another feature of committed teachers is their constant struggle to improve their professional growth. Teaching skills and subject matter knowledge are essential for teachers. Passionate teachers continuously try to improve their teaching performance and keep up with the latest teaching trends. They make efforts to enhance their teaching methods and improve their knowledge to benefit more to their students. Hansen (2001) about the role commitment and passion on the development of teacher performance argues that “a teacher who really ‘knows and believes’ that teaching is worthwhile will likely conduct him-or herself differently from a teacher who has lost faith in the endeavor or who resorts to expediency in the face of challenge” (p.56). It is evident that passion and commitment are significant tools that can make huge changes in student learning. Once teachers have these tools, students will take learning more seriously.

Passionate teachers possess a set of characteristics that distinguish them from others. Some of the key characteristics of passionate teachers are:

Dedication: Passionate teachers are dedicated to their profession and to their students. They make all possible efforts to contribute to the success of their students and the school they work for. They are committed to providing the best possible education and are willing to go above and beyond to ensure that their students succeed.

Creativity: Passionate teachers are creative in their approach to teaching. They are always looking for new and innovative ways to engage their students and make learning fun and meaningful. Learning can be quite challenging sometimes for students but creative teachers through incorporating creative activities into the curriculum can help their students with their learning.

Empathy: Passionate teachers are empathetic and understanding. They are able to connect with their students on a personal level and create a safe and supportive learning environment. A good learning environment can motivate students for better learning. For that reason, it is one of the major responsibilities of teachers to create a learning setting for their students where learning can be performed with ease.

Growth mindset: Passionate teachers have a growth mindset and are constantly seeking to improve their teaching skills. They are open to feedback and willing to learn from their mistakes. Communication, organization, combination of skills are all essential tools for effective teaching. Teachers need to convey information in such a clear way that it should be understood clearly by their students. Engaging students, and creating a supportive environment requires development of critical thinking, problem-solving, and collaboration skills. In other words, teachers constantly need to develop their skills for effective teaching and help students with their academic development.

Positive attitude: Passionate teachers have a positive attitude and are able to inspire their students to do their best. They believe in their students' potential and encourage them to accomplish more. When teachers demonstrate a positive attitude towards learning of their students, it can inspire students to be more engaged and confident in their abilities. Moreover, a positive attitude can also help teachers handle challenging situations and setbacks that may arise during the learning process. Unless these difficult situations are handled by teachers, learning does not occur effectively. When teachers approach learning

with positivity and enthusiasm, it can help students overcome their fears of failure and encourage students to take risks that lead to new discoveries and innovations.

Overall, passionate teachers are essential to the success of any educational institution. Their dedication, creativity, empathy, growth mindset, and positive attitude inspire their students to learn and grow, and their passion for teaching is contagious.

On the other hand, teachers may face serious challenges that can affect their commitment to education. These include:

- **Burnout:** teachers are constantly under pressure to meet the demands of their job. This can lead to burnout, where teachers become emotionally and physically exhausted, leading to a decline in their commitment to education. Owing to being overworked, they might experience feelings of ineffectiveness and lack of achievement. Therefore, teachers need to know how to build balance in their lives.
- **Lack of support:** Teachers need support from their colleagues, school management, and parents to perform their job effectively. A lack of support can lead to frustration and demotivation, affecting their commitment to education. Teachers when needed should ask for support to maintain their energy, enthusiasm, and motivation towards teaching. Collaboration with their colleagues
- **Low pay:** Teachers often receive low salaries compared to other professions, which can lead to financial stress and affect their commitment to education.

These challenges can affect teachers' performance negatively. Teacher burnout can impact the quality of education. Teachers by setting realistic expectations for themselves, they can overcome this serious problem. In addition, seeking support from colleagues would be a good idea for teachers to avoid the problem. Developing a growth mindset and embracing challenges as opportunities for growth can help teachers stay motivated and engaged in their work.

Cooperation between teachers is essential for the success of a school. It allows for the sharing of ideas, resources, and strategies that can improve student learning outcomes. When teachers work together, they can provide a consistent and cohesive learning experience for their students, which can lead to better academic performance and overall student engagement.

Moreover, collaboration among teachers can also help to reduce burnout and job-related stress. By sharing the workload and providing mutual support, teachers can help each other to maintain their passion and enthusiasm for teaching. They can also learn from each other's successes and challenges, which can contribute to their professional growth and development.

Passion is one of the most important elements of being a high-quality teacher. Palmer (2017) discovered that being passionate about teaching is a leading factor for effective teaching. Passion, which is an indicator of excellent teaching, may not be enough to make difference in the teaching quality. Self-efficacy of teachers is also required for teaching. Whether teachers can motivate their students to achieve high goals can impact the learning outcomes in the classroom. Another significant feature of a high-quality teacher is the instructional strategies they have. Generally, great teachers aim to develop critical thinking abilities of their students. Also, great teachers can increase learner engagement. It is true that engagement in the

learning process can foster comprehension. Active participation in learning can facilitate understanding; thus, active participants can learn better than passive participants. In addition to the features mentioned above, content knowledge is at the core of excellent teaching. It is not easy to meet the requirements of teachers with inadequate content knowledge. For that reason, it should be noted that content knowledge is one the basic elements of quality teaching.

3. Conclusion

Teacher commitment is a crucial factor in determining the quality of education. Committed and passionate teachers play a vital role in shaping the future of society by imparting knowledge and skills to students. They enhance student learning, foster positive teacher-student relationships, inspire students, improve their own performance, and contribute to society. However, several challenges such as burnout, lack of support, and low pay can affect their commitment to education. It is, therefore, essential to recognize the importance of teacher commitment and provide support to help teachers overcome these challenges. It goes without saying that teachers with commitment and passion have great potential for excellent teaching and help their students achieve their goals.

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