DEVELOPING STUDENTS' ATTITUDE LEADING TOWARDS A LIFE-CHANGING CAREER

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ABSTRACT

It is the role of the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to shape the values and character of the university students to prepare them in a life-changing professional career in the future. Knowledge and skills are significant aspects in every line of work but possessing the right attitude binds together all the positive thoughts leading towards the achievement of personal and professional growth. Several student programs and activities would address the needs of building the right marker of success in the quality of graduates that academic institutions yield year after year. This article provides several attitudes that would trigger positively the behavior of the students to become aware of the significant objectives of their college activities that would serve as their training ground leading towards their goal of achieving excellence. Looking forward to their future is the best way of honing their line of thinking and strengthening their feelings moving towards a commitment to quality.

Keywords: Attitude, commitment, employment, leadership, optimism

INTRODUCTION

Everything seems valuable and rational to people who maintain their thoughts and feelings within the border of positive attitude. Attitude is a very complex and unique concept, which integrates multiple properties and has different domains (Zhang and Campbell, 2010; Kususanto, et al, 2012). It is a tendency to believe in a certain way or to experience particular feelings in various situations (Miranda, 2008). It drives the behavior to take action on what they wanted to achieve. It also defines the character or personality of the people through the quality of their performance and outputs. Students' attitude can be observed through their behavior inside the classroom on how they listen attentively and participate actively in the discussion.

The teachers monitor the students' performance through implementing the curricula designed by the curriculum developers who are the people in the middle management being supervised and controlled by the top university officials who provide conducive physical facilities and organize how the student services shall be delivered to the customers. Everyone is involved in shaping the values of the students towards an end of achieving the character and wisdom of a champion. The universities have important roles in developing the quality of graduates they produce who could make enormous contributions for the welfare of humanity.

Students must realize the importance and objectives of having knowledge, skills and attitude which are significant in their future employment. But beyond the end result of acquiring those purposes at the end of their college years is the essence of the detailed process on how they obtained proficiency and expertise in certain course or lesson; how they widened their critical and analytical thinking in solving complex mathematical problems; how they formulated solutions and decisions to a given case for analysis and how they developed the

right attitude towards the accomplishment of all hardships and trials of college education just to prepare themselves in a more challenging corporate world.

DISCUSSIONS

Maintaining Positive Outlook

Developing positive mental attitude of the students in the early years of college would provide them greater opportunity as they step-up to higher year level of studies to broaden the scope of their responsibility and maturity to be more confident and independent. Many first year students are ill prepared for the demands of an academic study process in technical domains (Böttcher et al, 2012). They still need to adjust to their environment and nature of studies. Therefore, teachers must consider the early stage of students' being freshman because they are still trying to make themselves ready to whatever challenges that would come along their journey. Non-stop motivation and encouragement must be given to the freshmen as they develop the power of true wisdom.

Negativities and destructions may come in unexpected consequences but well-mannered students learn how to go back in the normal mood of optimism. Do not allow negative feelings to live in the senses longer than a day because it would later affect work productivity and interpersonal relationship within colleagues. Responding to many gossips is just a waste of time but take some criticisms as constructive challenges as much as possible. Send messages through proper channels or persons concern not to anyone not part of the incident. If problem exists, be proactive through contributing immediate solutions to the crisis because it is a strong weapon against the burden of bigger distress.

Doing beyond what is expected of someone to perform is a great sign of dedication. Learning to extend few minutes or hours in the school library to finish assignments is one way of developing attitude of working outside office hours to accomplish more outputs. Having an initiative to perform extra duties and additional responsibilities towards an end of producing valuable results is an indication of an efficient employee and good mark of true effectiveness and competence.

Achieving Excellence through Competence

They must learn the real value of competence in achieving excellence while maintaining credibility outside the boundaries of their strengths and weaknesses. They must learn to compete not with others but to compete with themselves. They have to defeat their own fears, worries and anxieties. They need to win the battle between their own doubt and faith. Learning to accept defeat through joining in any form of competition is one good quality of recognizing certain weak points on their capability to stand out. Enhancing these points on how to make it firm would lead to a better learning of self-discovery.

In the study conducted by the group of Daniyal et al (2012) found out that according to the students involved in any kind of sports, participating in dramatic and other literary activities positively affects their academic performance. Therefore, students must always be encouraged to join curricular and extra-curricular activities related to academics, cultural and sports competitions that would provide them the sense of engagement that they contributed something or participated in the realization of either individual or team goal.

Exercising healthy competition must always be observed in the work environment but if others cannot wait their turn to be recognized, let them face the consequence of being

impatient. Great rewards are neither being asked nor requested. These are being worked hard through providing consistent quality outcomes of most valued commitment.

Establishing Priority and Commitment

Commitment to accomplish a certain task within the specified period of time must be strongly acquired by the students in submitting their school assignments, activities and projects. Getting things done as priority with quality through working it out with sincerity leads to an ideal output that could inspire others to do the same of setting their own priorities and sticking to it until completion. Setting personal deadlines prior to the given date of submission is a good sign of time management. Devotion to live in a trouble-free environment is an indication of harmonious atmosphere of interpersonal relationship with co-students and teachers in school. Students can still have quality hour with their friends and family members if they put everything on its proper places and time.

As early as college years, they must be knowledgeable about how to balance their responsibilities between school work and family. It is a good practice to let them finish all the assignments during their spare time at the library and enjoy the rest of the night or weekends with their love ones.

Continuing Education

Students must also learn the value of continuing education. Education and training are critical to the future of a profession (Adams, 2002). The success of a profession is dependent on its members being able to adapt to the changing environment and knowledge explosion (Piper, 1991; Adams, 2002). Faculty members are also responsible in enlightening the minds of the students regarding the benefits of having obtained higher degrees than baccalaureate. Therefore, encouraging the students to enrol in Master's degree programs related to their respective fields of specialization would provide them better opportunities for higher positions in the company.

There were continuing education centres that mainly organize activities for the society in the fields that have gained importance on the improvement of individuals with a view of career building, improving professional knowledge and skills, achieving new skills and supplying individual development needs (Arsla, 2008). Most graduate schools are offering classes during weekends that cater to the needs of the working professionals. It is better right after graduation while they are seeking for possible companies they wanted to work with, they may also try to look for universities that offer master's degree programs. The key to human resource development is education (Thote and Rathoure, 2013). Therefore, at the end of two years of studying, another degree has been bestowed upon them that they can use for promotion and other career advancements.

Practicing Punctuality

Before the students learn how to be punctual in attending classes, teachers must do it first. Students adjust to the environment and people that can possibly influence their attitude towards punctuality. Teachers must be consistent on their attendance that will serve as good training for the students to value the time they need to wake up early and catch up the first lesson in the morning without being late. That habit will later become their routine until they join the workforce of professionals.

Keeping the Right Direction

There are simple set of rules and regulations to follow inside the university premises and staying along the right course of action would lead them to a more productive school life. Understanding and applying whatever is written in the Student Code is a sign of being good law abiding citizen. Universities must strictly implement the school policy and ensure that everyone is aware of all these policies and clarity of every rule is achieved. The objectives of having this set of regulations must also be clearly stated and disseminated so that everyone will not complain about it. This is one way of exercising their rights and freedom in an institution confined with only some imperatives to keep in mind. Training themselves not to violate one of these policies in their entire college years in the university is a proof of giving respect to the Alma Mater and having exemplified self – discipline. In line with the kind of discipline that the students demonstrated, it would not be hard for them to appreciate the essence of company policies.

Valuing Communication

Communicative competence involves knowing not only the language code, but also what to say to whom, and how to say it appropriately in any given situation (Zhan, 2010). It is the ability to send messages which promote attainment of goals while maintaining social acceptability. Competent communicators attempt to align themselves with each others' goals and methods to produce a smooth, productive and often enjoyable dialogue (Jelisaveta, 2009). Employers are always looking for graduates who are good in both written and oral communications. Therefore, students must be able to transform their feelings and thoughts to useful ideas and opinions that would lead the organization to progress. The graduates must also learn to adopt the culture and communication climate of certain establishment in order to build worthy interpersonal relationships.

Building Blocks of Leadership

Leadership, communication skills and financial training are the most important training requirements as revealed in the study of Gho et al (2008) on how engineers become Chief Executive Officer. Leaders in government and industries have been called for new graduates to mastery the employability skills such as communication skills, teamwork, problem solving and decision making skills (Yusoff et al, 2012). Learning to lead through employing proper communication to the members would keep ideal students to go further than what they can imagine. Building relationship and mutual trust with a fervent hope of having benefit of satiated honesty and integrity would direct every carried out action of the people around the organization into a meaningful closing stage of any program of activity. Learning to collaborate with the team and showing proper care and respect to each member would tighten the connection between cooperation and unity of thoughts. They learn not only to speak convincingly but more than to listen and appreciate the value of every single contribution of the members of the team.

Leadership development is an integral part of the educational program of college students (Posner, 2012). Different university activities would sharpen their potentials of becoming supportive members and leaders of various organizations. Instructors/professors should learn to trust students, provide frequent feedback, and make students feel recognized for empowered behavior (Gill, et al, 2011). The roles given to them would define their identity regarding the worth of what they can share as part of the team. So that, as they leave the portals of the university, they would also be active components and ingredients of any growing business industry.

Research has found that employers consider that students need the necessary practical and negotiation skills, tolerance for uncertainty, knowledge and eventually real-world preparation. Furthermore, employers are seeking university graduates who can show creativity, remarkable and future-oriented thinking, technical expertise and the ability to adapt to change (Batool et al, 2012).

Living the Future with Passion

In setting realistic goals, consider reasonable timelines to make it happen and learn more about things how to live with the future through bringing all these dreams into certainty with self-motivated passion and perseverance. Gain a wide range of experience because it will not only provide a basis of knowledge but can reveal interests in particular fields that can provide motivation towards a career path (Gho et al, 2008). People can have high performance that will satisfy their needs partially while giving attention to the quality of work life can increase employee motivation and increase the performance of employees (Jofreh, et al, 2012). Discovering the power of love towards work and putting much effort to keep that compassion alive after all, it would bear a sense of ownership to all the fruits of hard work.

Demonstrating enthusiasm and interest to know more about their work denotes that the employee is willing to be trained in a particular field of work. If employees are regarded as major sources of change, creativity, learning, and innovation, which are critical factors to the success of organizations (Beheshtifar et al, 2012) therefore, students must realize the importance of how to adjust with the technological revolution and retooling of proficiency is necessary to learn more creative skills. Academic institutions must also be very resourceful in making co-curricular activities that would develop either cognitive or affective domain that could be useful as qualification of the graduates for their employment.

CONCLUSIONS

University officials, faculty members and employees from top to bottom of the organization play an important role in the development of students to become complete package of model future professionals. Through their thoughts, actions and services on how they dealt everyday with the students are concrete channels of conveying informal lessons outside the classroom. Whatever they hear, see and feel from their environment are all sources of learning, may it be cognitive, affective or psychomotor. Everyone must be very particular and sensitive to the needs of each student. Through making the students feel satisfied to all the services being given to them is something enormous achievement for the university because it is a remark of commitment to quality education. Preparing the students to a life-changing career with the right attitude towards work is an ultimate role of HEIs while maintaining humility and integrity. It never ceases to achieve its completion until such time that the graduates are making great contributions not only for themselves but also for the community at large.

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