

# Committed Teacher: Teacher Commitment and Dedication to Student Learning

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Received Sept 11, 2017

Accepted Oct. 10, 2017

## ABSTRACT

*Committed teachers are characterized by their commitment to achievement of their students. Commitment is an essential element of effective teaching. Committed teachers are concerned with the development of their students and they deeply struggle how to keep students' learning. They cultivate students' curiosity and interest in learning. Committed teachers recognize and effort to fulfill their responsibilities to their students. Teachers, who are engaged in their profession and committed to students and their learning, play a crucial role in development of students.*

**Keywords:** Commitment, cultivate, responsibility, achievement, Student Learning

## Introduction

Passion generates commitment and commitment motivates and inspires the teachers. It is a inspiring factor that affects teacher performance. It drives the teachers for a better student accomplishment. Passionate teachers create an effective learning environment and increase learning potential of students. Passion leads to creativity; so, committed teachers have the ability to think and produce new notions in an easy way. Committed teachers are dedicated to their schools and a super education achievement is an outcome of this commitment and dedication.

## Teacher Commitment and Dedication to Student Learning

"Those who feel the call to teach, who sense teaching is a profoundly meaningful part of their life, have a passion for teaching" (Garrison, Liston, 2004). Commitment is defined as: "a strong inclination or desire towards an activity that one likes and finds important and in which one invests time and energy" (Carbonneau, Vallerand, Fernet & Guay, 2008.). Committed teachers are someone in love with a field of knowledge, deeply stirred by issues and ideas that change our world, drawn to the dilemmas and potentials of the young people who come into class every day.

Teachers' commitment and dedication to students and learning are the most important factors in the development of passion for teaching. Passionate teachers are fiercely devoted to their work and greatly inspire their students. Fried (2001) supporting this idea states that there is a strong connection between passionate teaching and the quality of student learning and explains the reasons as:

1. If students know that teachers get immersed in their subjects and sets high standards for students, they take their studies more seriously. At this point, teaching ceases to be a job done by force, and turns into an inspiration for students.
2. There is little chance of building a relationship based on respect and trust between teacher and student unless a collaborative learning environment and willingness to take risks are not created.
3. Students will not have motivation to learn as long as they do not have a clear idea of how to apply things they have learnt to their own lives.

Passionate teachers know that it is their role to encourage students for an active learning and concern themselves with promoting students' intellectual and moral development. Teachers with passionate, work with enthusiasm, their dedication and commitment increase, and they believe in the importance of their job. "There are strong empirical grounds for believing that teachers can and do make a difference and that consistent high quality teaching, supported by strategic professional development, can and does deliver

dramatic improvements in student learning". Commitment to teaching contributes to teachers' behaviors, attitudes, perceptions and performances (Thapan, 1986).

Fried (1995) states that teacher passionate can be seen in three different areas.

1. Teachers may be passionate about their own subject knowledge.
2. Teachers may be passionate towards events developing in the world.
3. Teachers may have a passion for children.

Education researchers list some characteristics of committed teachers and principals for their organizations as (Balci,1993):

1. Teachers constantly should talk about developing teaching approaches
2. Teachers and principals should continuously observe each other's performance, and evaluate their own performances through these observations.
3. Teachers and principals should together supply education materials
4. Teachers and principals should help each other with development of teaching approaches.

Teachers who have commitment to school display such attitudes as: being proud of the school he works for, evoking a desire to work harder, being interested in the future of the school.

Fried (2001) lists ten basic characteristics of a passionate teacher as:

1. He/she likes working with young people, and takes an interest in knowledge and ideas
2. That students lack knowledge and skills cannot be an excuse to decrease his feeling of compassion for them.
3. He/she cares about students
4. He/she is aware of world issues, and current events in the classroom and effectively reflects them in his works at school
5. He/she is serious and has sense of humor.
6. He/she tolerates absurd and meaningless things that students exhibit in their behaviors but at the same time critical and very attentive to manners that students must have.
7. He/she avoids condemning ideas of unpopular and young people and attempts to create a culture of mutual respect.
8. He/she takes risks; therefore, as much as any person makes mistakes but derives lessons from mistakes rather than ignore them.
9. He/she endeavors to establish and maintain a learning environment where students can learn from their mistakes.
10. He/she takes his missions seriously and reflects his ideas and beliefs clearly.

### Conclusion

Committed teachers are the key factors who make great changes in students' lives. Passion contributes to teacher's motivation and performance. These teachers are the creators of emotional environment in the class and school. Their behavior is observed by their students and their behavior effects can help to develop good habits of learning of their students

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