

## INNER COMPETENCIES FOR INSPIRING TEACHER: A LITERATURE REVIEW

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### Abstract

*Being a teacher is not really easy. There are steps he must take into account to create successful teaching process. During the teaching process, the teacher focuses not only on preparing and delivering teaching materials, but also on how to organize the students do the class activities individually or groups. However, the teacher also needs to have inner competencies to make his teaching successful. These competencies cover his ability in understanding the truth of learning, knowing the learning principles, getting ideas of the truth of teaching, and finding out his students' character. Improving his inner competencies of teaching continuously will lead him to create smooth teaching process. It will of course give big influences for the success of teaching and learning. The teacher can be a better and wiser person while facing difficulties in conducting teaching duties. Meanwhile, he can bring his students achieve better in learning.*

**Keywords**— *Inner competencies, the truth of learning, the learning principles, the truth of teaching, and knowing the students' character.*

### I. Background

It is undeniable that a teacher is a noble man. However, it does not mean that when someone becomes a teacher, he will automatically be an honor one. There are some ethical codes and morals he must take into account related to this profession. He must be the one who can set examples for the students. He is also to teach his students with his heart and of course it will make him be loved by them.

It is no wonder if a teacher is asked to have at least 5 kinds of intelligence: intelligence, moral, social, emotion, and motoric. Jamal Makmur Asmani (2009:24) explains that a teacher must be intelligent because through the advancement of the technology and the rapid change of the world, the teacher needs to increase his knowledge or skill through learning in his whole life. In addition, Taufik Tea (2009:54) mentions that any advancement occurs basically demands people to learn and learn more to make them able to adapt with the recent situation.

As an agent of change, a teacher is supposed to prepare himself to face difficult situations inside and outside class. He's got to open his eyes widely to search for the teaching methods and strategies to improve his quality and competency. He must be inspiring, creative and innovative in presenting his teaching materials to make the learning atmosphere fresh and effective. For, a teacher has to be able to sharpen his teaching soft skill. No matter if his background knowledge is education or not, it is a must for him to find out things needed which are related to his teaching duties. He can improve and

increase his teaching soft skills by learning through on-line books, trainings, radios, and other sources.

As long as he enjoys his profession, he can increase his teaching soft skills to support his daily duties at work. The teaching soft skills can be considered as the teacher's inner competencies which includes the ability to understand the truth of learning, the learning principles, the truth of teaching, and knowing the students' characteristics.

## **II. The Truth of Learning**

Learning is an active process in which each individu has different and unique learning styles. Taufik Tea (2009:75) describes that everyone learns for his ownself, not for someone else. And, learning is also basically a mental process in one's self. It relates to the use of the brain. In other words, the mental process is known as thinking process which involves the functions of the brain. The process is commonly called 'internal process'.

Human beings are unique creatures that are different not only from their physical but also from their learning ability. The differences in learning ability cover talent, interest, mental maturity, understanding, and intelligence. Everyone of course has his own personality and strength.

## **III. The Learning Principles**

During the process of learning, someone will open his mind to the new ideas, information, and knowledge not only from books or schools but also from his life interactions among others and experiences. Moreover, Taufik Tea (2009:91) says that someone learns something when there is connection between the experiences with what he is learning. He is then able to associate the knowledge and experience he has had with the new materials learnt to make him easy to accept new information. When he learns, he must also be ready physically and mentally to pay full attention to what he's learning so that he can achieve the learning well and finish doing his tasks. One of the most important things of learning principles is that someone learns when there is something to learn. He needs exercises and practices to improve his good habit, skill, intelligence, accuracy, and ease.

The learning activities will of course give him so many advantages in the future life. In other words, when someone learns things, the learning have positive effects on him.

## **III. The Truth of Teaching**

A teacher needs to create a conducive of learning atmosphere to bring his students ready to learn. And, a teacher needs to be good model for them. A conducive learning atmosphere makes the students feel comfortable and feel eager to learn. Meanwhile, they also need a model in and outside class. The model will be from the teacher because he becomes the centre of the universe in their learning process. If a teacher wants to provide example to his students inside and outside class, he needs to follow some guidances given below:

1. A teacher must have brilliant performance

As the one who delivers information, idea, and knowledge, a teacher needs to have brilliant performance to make the students believe that he is the right person to conduct the teaching activities.

2. A teacher is optimistic.

A teacher has to have optimism and spirit in delivering the knowledge to make the class atmosphere full of positive energy. The positive energy will bring the students have spirit to search more about the lesson and get and understand more knowledge that is useful for their daily life and future.

3. A teacher is an open-minded person.

A teacher will not stop himself from accepting suggestion, advice, and criticism because he does realize that those are good to make him become a better and wiser person. And those can make him able to improve things he's got to improve for the success of his teaching process.

4. A teacher is a person who always feels grateful for anything.

5. A teacher sometimes needs to show empathy to the students to build the closeness between him and them.

A teacher acts gently to the students and treats them kindly because the students can be from all parts of the country . The teacher must show the empathy for his students' needs. He must lead them know useful things, treat them gracefully, motivate them, help them anytime they need the help, give them love and attention as if they were his own children.

6. A teacher must discipline him own self.

When a teacher is discipline, the students will honor him.

7. A teacher is the one who understands and masters the materials.

The teaching process can be successful and easy when the teacher understand the materials well.

8. The teacher says things which are matched to what he does.

9. The teacher is a sincere and patient person.

Sincerity in teaching will deliver more knowledge and inspiration to the students. A teacher does not teach his students in order to get things in return. Meanwhile, when he teaches, he must be patient because educating is a long and turtous process. When the students do not understand the lessons, he's got to explain it again eventhough he feels

upset or tired. If they do something bad, he forgives them and leads them back to the right path.

10. The teacher is a creative problem solver.

The limitation of teaching mediums and infrastructures will not inhibit the teacher to be creative. He is the one who can use anything to be useful to support his teaching process with the good result.

11. The teacher must of course remembers his previous teaching material.

Remember the previous teaching material will show the students that their teacher can be trusted.

12. One of the main duty of a teacher is checking the students' work.

By checking the students' work, the teacher can get some inputs about his students learning development. Vice versa, the students will feel glad to know their own learning ability and score. However, checking the students' work is actually really difficult for the teacher because he has to give some of his time, energy, and thought.

13. Announce the answers after the test.

Most students love finding out the exact answers of the test given after they take it. When the teacher announce the answers, the action will fulfill the students' curiosity and can estimate their own scores of the test.

The teacher is the main actor who can build personality, character, moral, and capability of the young generation in one country. The teacher is the one who shows them knowledge, value, moral, spirit, and the world which are still odd for them. In short, a teacher tranfers knowledge and value. He needs to provide examples to his students. Setting examples is really important in order that the students will immediately be successful in learning. On the other hand, there will be negative effects if the teacher can not be good model for them. Some of the dangers when the teacher can not provide examples to the students are:

1. There will be no emotional binding between the teacher and his students. This will of course influence the teaching atmosphere and the students do not feel comfortable anytime the teacher is in class. The situation may becomes worse outside class.
2. The students will pay no attention to the teacher and the teaching and learning purposes can not be reached out.
3. There will be no good changes to the students' behaviour and achievement.
4. The teacher can be dismissed out of the school if the school finds that the teacher bring bad effects to the students and school.

#### IV. Knowing The Students' Character

What must a teacher keep in mind is that there is no student who is dumb. What must a teacher know is that every student has different intelligence types. These types will lead the teacher to find appropriate teaching methods and strategies in order that the students find the study is a fun activity and they feel enjoyable when they enter the class to be involved in this activity. A teacher can combine teaching methods and strategies by knowing the multiple intelligence of his students in class.

The students have their own way of study. It gives much effect on the learning ability which covers talent, interest, mental maturity, understanding, and intelligence. Talking about the intelligence, human has some intelligence types in himself. Some of these intelligence types in one's self can be more active. This is called 'Multiple Intelligence' which expands the theory that somebody has various intelligence types and he can be successful in his life if he can sharpen even only with one of the intelligence types he has. According to Gardner, everyone is talented but has different talent. Fortunately, the intelligence can be developed in whole life.

##### 1. Linguistic

The one who belongs to this linguistics type is good at speaking and writing. The teacher can give class discussion or debate as one of the teaching methods to make this type of student active. In addition to this, the teacher can give some activities in class, take for example: writing email, telling stories, and performing class presentation.

##### 2. Logical-Mathematical

This type of student tends to solve problems logically and scientifically. They love being given class activities like conducting experiment, asking-answering question, concluding inductively and talking based on facts.

##### 3. Spatial

This student will find the learning activity OK when they are asked to design or draw to understand the connection between the space and value image. They are good at understanding pictures, maps, and diagrams and graphs.

##### 4. Bodily-kinesthetic

This type of student thinks through physical movement. Some of the useful activities for this sort of student are dancing, walking, jumping, arranging things, climbing, etc.

##### 5. Musical

When this student studies, he will get the points immediately if he listens to the music or sings a song.

## 6. Interpersonal

This student is very communicative with others. He gets good social life and interaction with others. He has lots of ideas and friends because he's good at working in team and becoming mediator.

## 7. Intrapersonal

Usually, this student feels OK when he studies by himself. He will understand the material quickly in a quiet learning atmosphere.

## 8. Naturalistic

This student can focus on the learning material through his interaction with the nature and get his concentration on the process.

By considering the multiple intelligence, the teaching process can be more attractive for the students and the teacher can give the right methods and strategies of teaching. But, considering the multiple intelligence is not enough to make a teacher have good inner competencies. He's got to know more about the truth of learning, learning principles, and what he has to do when he carries out his duty during the teaching process so that he is able to improve his soft skills as his inner competencies to make his teaching successful.

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