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Gen Z Teachers

Dreams and Challenges

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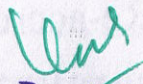
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Adaptability of Teachers for Gen Z Learners

Mercy Johanna S., Assistant Professor of English, St. Xavier's college of Education (Autonomous), Palayamkottai.

Introduction

Technology is simply part of the fabric of everyday life, rather than a tool we use. Gen Z students are born into technology. Gen Z is the first generation to grow up with internet access, computer games and smart phone typing. Some members cannot remember a life without them. This generation may be well on its way to becoming the best educated generation. Gen Z students prefer a completely autonomous and independent approach to learning. Previous generations lived through the computer and internet revolutions, when they knew only a world of high-tech opportunities. Gen Z students have little or no memory of the world as it existed before smart phones.

Gen Z Traits

Gen Z teachers are much more likely to welcome the benefits of technology, as they are with its daily presence in their lives and the help it can provide. It might be hard to believe, but Gen

Z includes students from elementary school to college. According to the Pew Research Center, Gen Z were born between 1997 and 2012. They differ from the post-millennial generation in how they learn, grow and function in the classroom. Let's explore some key Gen Z traits and find out how the teacher can adapt to these traits in the classroom.

1. Gen Z Students are True Digital Natives

Gen Z is truly the first generation that doesn't know life without technology. For this population Google, Instagram and smartphones are not just practical tools; they are an integral part of life. Gen Z expect to be connected to the world and to be able to access information at all times. This also transformed into education. Gen Z students want instant feedback on homework, just like they do on social media. They also aspire to autonomy in their education. Students want to make decisions about what they learn and how to demonstrate their knowledge.

How can Teachers Adapt?

It is not possible for teachers to distance students from technology, but to consider their usage of technology. The teacher can use it to provide information and engage them.

Here are five tips for teaching digital natives:

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Use Educational Software: There are many technological tools that can simplify the teacher's job and keep Gen Z students engaged. In addition, the teacher can use the software to create everything from interactive presentations to educational games.

Start a Conversation: Long lectures aren't the best technique for Gen Z students. The teacher can try a variety of teaching methods to keep the class moving.

Use Images: As with lessons, large blocks of text may lead the students to lose engagement. The use of tables, graphs and multimedia can make the material more memorable.

Maintain Office Hours Online: For students who are used to contacting people online immediately, sending an instant message will likely be more effective. It is also more efficient for parents of young children to contact them directly rather than making a formal appointment.

Provide Motivation: Gen Z students are used to constantly update news feeds and expect only the most relevant information. For this reason, explain them right from the start why a lesson is important and how it is applicable in the real world.

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2. Gen Z Students are Different

Gen Z are the most diverse generation to date. Nearly half are racial or ethnic minorities and are continuing their education at higher rates than previous generations. Most of this generation also believes that diversity is good for society and is more willing to side with those who speak out against inequality.

How can Teachers Adapt?

It takes effort to recognize and interact with different individuals. But educators need to take additional steps to support a diverse student population. Here are four envisage learning tips:

Explore Culture: By understanding the social interests, goals, and thinking patterns that influence the culture, the teacher can better identify personal biases and recognize the value of cultural context.

Strive to Understand Other Cultures: The teacher should go beyond the surface and aim to understand how students' diversity affects the way they see themselves and the world around them.

Think Carefully about Language: Language and dialect are the key elements of culture. By examining how words are used,

the teacher can learn to communicate with the students in more meaningful ways.

Use a Variety of Books and Materials: The teacher can help students identify the incorporation of multicultural literature in materials and foster intercultural understanding.

3. Gen Z Students Experience High Rates of Depression and Anxiety

This generation experiences something more serious. The total number of adolescents with depression is increased by 59% between 2007 and 2017. This includes academic pressure, high rates of perfectionism and a lack of adequate sleep. All of this is to say that there is a high probability that the teacher will encounter a student with a mental illness.

How can Teachers Adapt?

Teachers can do a lot to support students struggling with mental health issues. The International Board of Credentialing and Continued Education Standards (IBCCES) offers six great techniques that can help educators to teach Gen Z students at risk for depression:

Working with Students: The teacher should try to engage Gen Z students individually rather than using an authoritarian

teaching style. The teacher must be sensitive to the fact that their emotions can influence the learning of their students.

Use Techniques that Focus on Positivity: The teacher can use strategies that focus on empowering students rather than their bad behaviour and try to verbally empower them and regularly review the ways students show growth.

Accommodation: Educators can give assignment extensions, break assignments into smaller chunks and offer help for the students to create study plans. They can also encourage students to help each other.

Set the Stage for Success: The teacher can help students by breaking the curriculum into frequent phases for students to celebrate meeting state standards. This gives them the confidence they need.

Consult with Experts: Mental health staff employed by the institutions can provide counselling, connect students to other services and work with family members.

Take a Course: Learning from expert educators can help teachers apply evidence-based research to teaching. Some courses may even show the teacher how to create a safe place to talk about mental health.

How to Teach Gen Z

In the classroom, Gen Z teachers must be prepared to adapt to the way Gen Z tends to learn. It will take some tweaking, especially for teachers used to traditional teaching methods, but there's nothing revolutionary about it. All of these tips are fully accessible to teachers in any setting. It's about flexibility, patience and a commitment to compromise.

Deliver Assignments in Multiple Formats: The mentor should consider providing assignments in multiple formats. This will suit Gen Z who prefer the digital format as well as those who work best with traditional pen and paper and will also consider implementing appropriate video into assignments. To go even further, the teacher can create assignments where the students themselves can choose to submit them in different formats.

Allow Personal Devices in Class: For Gen Z young adults, allowing personal devices in the classroom is a way to give them their own school security 'blanket'. Cell phones are the new Blackberries. The students use their devices to record lectures, take pictures of the whiteboard or use mobile productivity apps to learn better.

Customize Lessons: As noted, Gen Z expects personalized content. That doesn't mean the teacher has to email them using

advances have both positive and negative effects on Gen Z. On the positive side, an abundance of information is at their fingertips enabling Gen Z to broaden their knowledge and be proactive in their learning. On the other hand, too much screen time can worsen feelings of isolation and lead to underdeveloped social skills.

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Mobile Mania of Gen Z and its Effects on their Social Life

Sujitha G., M.Ed. Scholar, V.O.C. College of Education, Thoothukudi

Antony Vinolya S., Assistant Professor of History, V.O.C. College of Education, Thoothukudi

Introduction

In the past ten years, there has been a sharp increase in the use of the internet, which has revolutionised communication. Studies have been done on how internet programmes, which have grown quickly during this time, affect typical users' social and psychological lives. Mobile phones are now widely regarded as indispensable tools for interacting with others. People use them to make calls to family and friends, send text messages, access the internet, play games, listen to music, and unwind. Young folks are more likely than others to use smart phones.

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