

CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN THE CLASS ROOM

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ABSTRACT

Conflict is a part of normal life. It may arise in the class room some times between students and some times between the teachers and the students. It may be positive and constructive as well as negative and harmful. Since there is a scarce literature and research available on the application of conflict theory particularly in the class room environment, the paper may divert attention of the researchers to make further contributions resolving conflict in the class room. Being a university teacher my focus of attention is the possibility and outcomes of a conflicting situation in a class room of post-graduate students who are above 20 years of age group. The paper includes a formal introduction, conflict as defined by eminent writers, the classroom as a social system and establishing a healthy emotional climate in the classroom. There is a research study of 30 students of M.P.A final team. The study reveals the possible sources of conflict in the class room and something about resolving such conflicts. There is a list of research findings with few suggestions. In the end there is a brief conclusion. I hope this paper may help both the teachers and the students as well as the general readers knowing and developing a useful technique of conflict management.

INTRODUCTION

The study of conflict and conflict resolution in whatever setting may be the most significant and rewarding study of the modern age. Increasing population and rapid change can only mean more frequent interpersonal encounters, and more frequent interpersonal encounters can only mean more conflict. A small group created and institutionalized by human society for its self preservation and future development is the classroom. Yet conflict in the classroom is avoided by teachers who are untrained to deal with interpersonal conflict. Having an experience of 16 years post graduate teaching in university I personally feel that an open conference is far better than a cold war which may explode later on in verbal abuse, classes boycott, fights, strikes and other such intense results.

As a result of avoiding conflict in the classroom the student learns only to avoid dealing openly with conference, certainly carries it forward into his adult life. In practical life he lacks the useful skill and knowledge to deal with a