



Parents Development Seminar Series

Its Rationale and objective

CITE believes that education starts at home and in the upbringing and education of children, the highest authority lies with family specifically with the parents. The role of the family and the school in the education of a child requires a good relationship. As it is said, however, one cannot give what one does not have. Being in the lower income bracket and with minimal education, the trainees' parents are only able to impart the little that they have to their children. Cognizant of this reality, CITE sees to it that together with their sons, the parents also undergo an education program. They attend the various VALUES-education activities designed for them at CITE every month. As the students earn their diplomas after three years in school, the parents earn their own diplomas as well. Both the parents and the school set out the same objective – to form the student.

When the trainees are accepted into the program, their parents are made to understand that they are responsible for their children. In order to discourage the attitude of dependency, they are asked to give their own counterpart. Thus, through a symbolic offering, parents regularly give whatever they can afford. Some give monetary donations. Still, others offer their services for the upkeep and maintenance of the center.

CITE and Parents Partnership (Guiding Principle)

What makes CITE education a successful program is the close relationship between the class advisers and the parents of the students. It is a union more than a partnership; it is a lasting friendship that goes beyond the academic concerns of the students involved.

Our monthly parenting conferences allowed us to reach out to the parents and talk to them about their sons' overall performance. We also get to know our students more from the parents' perspective and widens our understanding why students behave the way they do.

As advisers, when parents begin to open to us, we get that Very Important Person (VIP) pass to come into their lives. We partake in the parents' pride because their son is on the top of his class, for example; or, we share the sorrow of a parent whose son's misconduct or poor grades have broken his heart.

All class advisers would say that their encounters with the parents are more refreshing than with the students. They have come face-to-face with parents with real problems the world could not contain. They sing the same overture of giving their best to their children, but the tune later varies to the tapestry of harsh poverty and family conflicts. Sometimes, advisers get caught in crossfire between a warring father and son. But most of the time, the advisers become the ties that bind them ensuring a healthy and open relationship.

At the end of the day when all is said and done, the adviser knows that his job does not end in a parents' conference or in a resolution of a conflict but remains to be dynamic *in loco parentis* for as long as the doors are remained open for us.

In CITE, The first hour of parenting seminar will be dedicated to the class advisory where an adviser brought up concerns regarding his students' performance. The next hour will be dedicated for case study where parents broke into facilitated small groups to share their insights regarding a case under discussion. Case studies provided an invasive way to draw information from parents and served as a preview of the plenary discussion. That being mentioned, plenary discussions culminated what was discussed in small groups. Parenting speakers from EDUCHILD (*Education for the Upbringing of Children*) provided insights to the parents, reaffirmed values, and corrected wrong impressions.

Importance of the Parents Formative Activities:

1. Seminars are organized primarily to help parents help their children
2. Be reminded and gather insights/inputs to carry-out our duties and responsibilities as parents
3. CITE Way of Education: Close partnership between parents and school (Our guiding principle)
4. Parents' positive attitude towards these activities is important. It's their avenues to learn.

Parenting Seminar Topics:

1. Advice to Parents
2. Balancing Family and Professional life
3. Character building
4. Common Teenage problem
5. Education in the faith
6. Essence of Manliness
7. Excellent fathers
8. Family and Society
9. Family and the School
10. Forming the adolescent
11. Guidance of parents to young professional children
12. Marriage – a natural institution
13. Mass Media and the Formation of children
14. Risky Behavior
15. Role of parents in the Education of children
16. Sanctification of ordinary work (Teaching of St. Josemaria Escriva)
17. Teaching the Faith in the Family (Teaching of St. Josemaria Escriva)
18. Teaching Professionalism by example
19. The Difficult Years
20. The Situation of the Family in the World Today
21. The world of Entertainment and our Christian life
22. Work and Fun