

USING THE TEACHER'S PERSONAL LESSON EXAMPLE IN EDUCATING PRIMARY STUDENTS

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Abstract: This article explores the importance of the teacher's personal lesson example as a pedagogical tool in the education of primary students. The focus is placed on the psychological, social, and developmental factors that influence how children internalize values, skills, and knowledge when they are demonstrated directly by the teacher. In primary education, where students' personalities are still forming and their capacity for abstract reasoning is limited, the teacher's behavior, communication style, and personal demonstration of knowledge become the most powerful drivers of learning. The article also highlights the methodological aspects of employing personal examples, the benefits and challenges of this approach, and the long-term implications for the holistic development of children.

Keywords: primary education, teacher's example, personal demonstration, value formation, modeling, pedagogy.

INTRODUCTION

Primary education represents one of the most sensitive and formative stages in a child's development. At this stage, children are not only learning basic literacy and numeracy skills but are also internalizing patterns of behavior, communication, and problem-solving that will shape their personal and academic lives for years to come. Teachers in this setting therefore assume a role far beyond knowledge transmitters: they act as moral guides, role models, and sources of inspiration. The teacher's personal lesson example is one of the most effective strategies for influencing young learners, because children in the early grades tend to imitate and reproduce behaviors they observe directly rather than those explained abstractly. The principle of "learning by example" has long been emphasized in both psychology and pedagogy, yet in the contemporary classroom, where digital resources and standardized methods dominate, the teacher's direct personal example remains irreplaceable [1].

MATERIALS AND METHODS

One of the fundamental aspects of using personal example in teaching is the principle of modeling. Primary students are keen observers, and their learning often occurs unconsciously through imitation. When a teacher demonstrates proper reading techniques, respectful communication, or enthusiasm for learning, students tend to replicate these behaviors. For example, when a teacher reads a story aloud with expressive intonation and emotional engagement, children are not merely listening to the story—they are internalizing how reading should sound and what kind of enjoyment it can bring. In this way, the teacher's actions speak louder than theoretical instructions [2].

Another dimension of the teacher's personal example is the development of values and social skills. Formal curricula often emphasize cognitive development, but children equally need to acquire empathy, cooperation, honesty, and responsibility. Teachers who model patience, fairness, and mutual respect in daily classroom interactions provide living examples that shape students' moral compass. For instance, when a teacher admits a small mistake and corrects it openly, students learn that honesty and humility are more valuable than pretending to be flawless. This indirect form of moral education through personal conduct is especially

significant at the primary level, where children are forming lifelong attitudes toward authority, peers, and society.

The teacher's example is also vital in building motivation and self-confidence among students. Many primary students face challenges in academic learning and may feel discouraged by mistakes or failures. A teacher who demonstrates persistence in problem-solving, who reacts positively to errors by framing them as learning opportunities, shows students that effort is more important than perfection. Similarly, if the teacher exhibits enthusiasm and genuine curiosity during lessons, this energy is often mirrored by students. Children are more likely to engage actively in class when they see their teacher modeling engagement and joy in learning [3].

From a methodological standpoint, the teacher's personal lesson example can take various forms. In subject teaching, teachers can use demonstration as a pedagogical technique: solving math problems step by step on the board, showing handwriting techniques, or modeling scientific experiments. In classroom management, teachers demonstrate behavioral expectations: greeting students politely, listening attentively, or managing conflicts calmly. In extracurricular contexts, teachers can set examples through participation in sports, cultural events, or community service, thereby extending their influence beyond the academic curriculum. The holistic integration of personal example across these domains ensures that students receive a consistent message about desirable behaviors and attitudes [4].

Nevertheless, the reliance on personal example is not without challenges. One of the key risks is the inconsistency between a teacher's words and actions. Children quickly recognize when a teacher preaches one thing but behaves differently, which can undermine trust and respect. This means that educators must be conscious of their own conduct, emotional regulation, and professional ethics. Furthermore, excessive emphasis on personal authority may limit students' autonomy if not balanced with opportunities for independent learning and critical thinking. Therefore, the teacher's example must complement rather than dominate the child's educational experience, providing guidance while leaving space for self-expression.

Research in developmental psychology supports the idea that primary students learn best through concrete, observable actions rather than abstract instructions. Theories of social learning, particularly those advanced by Albert Bandura, emphasize that children acquire new behaviors by observing models and imitating them. Teachers, as the most consistent and authoritative figures in the classroom, become the central models for students' learning. This underscores the responsibility of teachers to act not only as transmitters of knowledge but also as exemplars of ethical and intellectual behavior.

In addition, the teacher's personal lesson example contributes significantly to the formation of school culture. A positive school culture is not built solely on policies or regulations but on the daily micro-actions of teachers: how they treat students, how they handle challenges, and how they embody respect for learning. In this way, the personal example of each teacher collectively shapes the atmosphere of the entire institution, influencing not just individual students but the broader community of learners.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Another critical dimension of using the teacher's personal lesson example lies in the psychological security and emotional stability it provides for young learners. Primary school children are highly impressionable and often experience anxiety when confronted with new or difficult tasks. A teacher who models calmness, patience, and constructive problem-solving during the lesson fosters a sense of safety and trust within the classroom. For example, when a child makes an error and the teacher responds with encouragement rather than criticism,

students internalize the idea that mistakes are not failures but opportunities for growth. This approach not only reduces classroom stress but also instills resilience and perseverance, qualities essential for long-term educational success.

Equally important is the teacher's role in cultivating responsibility and discipline through personal example. Primary education is the stage at which children begin to understand the concept of accountability for their actions. When teachers demonstrate punctuality, careful preparation, and respect for deadlines, these behaviors gradually become normalized for their students. The teacher's consistency in keeping promises, adhering to classroom routines, and respecting shared rules teaches students the value of order and dependability. In this way, discipline is not enforced solely through regulations but is absorbed as a natural behavioral model through daily observation.

The teacher's example also plays a decisive role in fostering creativity and critical thinking. In many primary classrooms, lessons can become highly structured and repetitive, limiting opportunities for independent exploration. However, when a teacher demonstrates creative approaches to problem-solving—whether by connecting new concepts to everyday life, encouraging multiple solutions to a task, or sharing their own curiosity—students learn that thinking differently is not only acceptable but desirable. For instance, a science lesson in which the teacher conducts a simple experiment while openly hypothesizing and testing outcomes teaches children both the process of inquiry and the courage to explore the unknown. This form of modeling nurtures intellectual curiosity and sets the foundation for lifelong learning.

Moreover, the teacher's personal lesson example contributes to the formation of empathy and moral awareness. Primary students are at a developmental stage where they are beginning to understand the perspectives of others but still need guidance in translating this awareness into daily behavior. Teachers who model compassion—listening attentively to students' concerns, mediating peer conflicts fairly, or showing kindness to those in difficulty—offer tangible demonstrations of empathy in action. Over time, children begin to mirror such behaviors, developing not only academic competence but also strong interpersonal skills and a moral orientation aligned with the values of respect and cooperation.

Finally, the influence of the teacher's example extends beyond the individual classroom and becomes part of the broader school culture. Each teacher contributes to shaping the ethos of the institution through their personal conduct. A collective culture of respect, enthusiasm for learning, and professional integrity is formed when teachers consistently model these values. Primary students, who are still in the early stages of identity formation, internalize this environment as a standard for how education and social life should function. Thus, the personal lesson example of the teacher is not confined to the immediate lesson—it becomes part of a larger narrative that influences the entire educational community.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the teacher's personal lesson example plays a foundational role in the education of primary students. Beyond textbooks and standardized curricula, it is the teacher's conduct, demonstration, and authentic behavior that leave the deepest mark on young learners. By modeling intellectual curiosity, moral integrity, respect, and perseverance, teachers cultivate not only competent students but also responsible, confident, and value-oriented citizens. While challenges exist in ensuring consistency and balancing authority with independence, the strategic use of personal example remains one of the most effective and irreplaceable pedagogical tools in primary education. In the formative years of childhood, when imitation is a natural mode of learning, the teacher's personal lesson example serves as a powerful bridge between instruction and internalization, knowledge and practice, values and behavior.

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