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# THE PIVOTAL ROLE OF LECTURERS IN FOSTERING STUDENTS' SUCCESS

**YAASMIN FARZANA ABDUL KARIM**

As a lecturer, you will play an important role in determining student success at the varsity level. At UiTM, the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) offers a short course titled "How to Be a Successful Student," specifically tailored for first semester students pursuing both diploma and degree programs. Despite this, some students continue to lag behind their peers, a concern shared by both the management and the parents. Lecturers are more responsive to students' needs than parents, and they have the power to significantly influence their academic development. This makes an intense lecturer-student relationship much more suitable, or even required, for lazy, weak-willed university students with poor time management. Lecturers need to understand that they matter and must intentionally create a learning environment.

One of the first and most important steps a lecturer can take is to create an engaging learning environment. This includes using interactive pedagogical techniques, such as preparing for discussions, group work, or hands-on learning. Similarly, lecturers can use technology, such as online platforms and multimedia resources, to create a lively learning environment with virtual labs. In addition,

lecturers should create an inclusive learning environment that encourages discussions and questions from students. However, a lack of resources and learning environment quality can have consequences for the effectiveness of teaching and learning. These development environments allow teachers to teach more at the level of strengths and offer students a greater degree of personalization and space for experimentation in activities that are relevant to them or where their current goals lie.



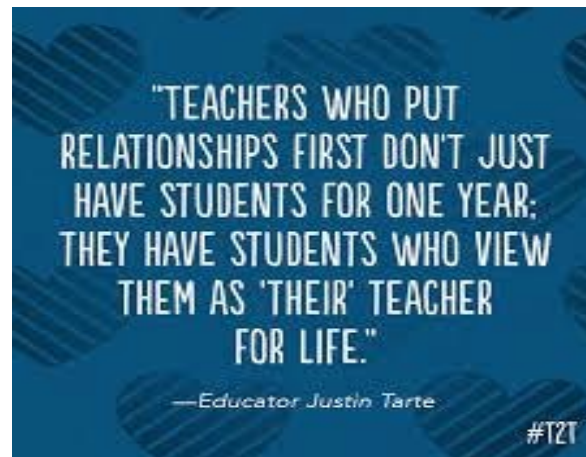
Picture 1: Lecturer - student relationship

Students mostly need help in navigating the path. It starts with a thorough syllabus of course objectives, grading expectations, and crucial dates. Similarly, regular and constructive feedback on assignments or exams is also necessary to make students aware of how much they have gained up until now and in what areas they are lagging. Additionally, it is crucial for students to have the ability to interact with lecturers through office hours or other ongoing support mechanisms that clearly specify the time and method of engagement. Nevertheless, novice lecturers may find themselves so overwhelmed with the transition to their new roles and responsibilities that they become unable to wholly concentrate on guiding students through their learning experiences. Therefore, universities should create professional development opportunities for lecturers to address this challenge, equipping them with the necessary tools and high-impact competencies to support student success. The training center in UiTM, the Institute of Leadership and Development (ILD), offers a vast variety of courses to assist the lecturer in facing the teaching challenges.

Another significant role of a lecturer is to instill critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Lecturers can design higher-order assignments that force students to analyze, think creatively, or apply the detailed concepts in a different context. We give students more freedom to explore topics beyond the syllabus through independent research and encourage them to participate in debates and discussions, enabling them to appreciate diverse perspectives on

a topic and develop their own perspectives. While online learning can present disengagement and limited social interactions, its interactive elements provide solutions to these issues, which bridge the in-class gap.

Another emphasis, which is as important as a student-friendly atmosphere on campus, is creating an environment suitable for student retention. In this regard, educators should be aware of the academic and personal challenges students encounter when pursuing subjects involving major state-of-the-art technologies. They should then be able to provide these learners with appropriate support or connect them with an expert. Some students require assistance in transitioning to online instruction and gaining mental health awareness through courses such as stress management. Furthermore, educators could provide guidance on work-life balance, including time-management tips that are crucial for both school and extracurricular activities. At the level of a university, instructors are key players for students; recognizing and coming up with ways to help involve, maintain, and enhance undergraduate empowerment can be territorially transformational. That is where the academic advisor role comes in.



Picture 2: A famous quote

Lecturers also play a crucial role in assisting individuals in their career and personal development. Mentorship coaches can also enroll students on this platform, educating them about career paths, internships, and academic growth opportunities. Organize networking events to introduce industry professionals to students and previous alumni, aiming to broaden their perspectives. Workshops on employability skills, such as resume writing and interview techniques, adequately arm students for the demands of life after university. Yes, it

is a challenge, but caring lecturers also impact the lives of their students academically and personally.

And last but not least, educators are fundamental to lifelong learning. Once students embrace variety and embrace it, they will not only be able to apply it in post-graduation work environments, but they will also become lexicographers of fresh perspectives, which will spark further ideas for their personal growth. Connect this to practical applications or current events, and the enthusiasm for independent learning will surge. Furthermore, cultivating a growth mindset encourages students to view challenges as learning experiences rather than hindrances. This suggests that a lecturer's impact on students' success does not stop at delivering content. The process of establishing an effective teaching and learning community, providing instruction guidance for students, and incorporating critical thinking exercises into the workload are all crucial steps. As mentioned in Surah Az-Zumar 39:9, "Are those equal, those who know and those who do not know? Those endued with understanding receive admonition."