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The ability to motivate oneself and those around a person is a crucial skill in life. Motivation acts a driving engine and a source of strength to make a person to persist at doing something or pursuing a goal. It is through motivation that an individual elicits and holds on to a given conduct. The difference between those who quit doing things in life and those who hold on to the end will depend on their motivational levels.
In the movie stand still, the teacher Escalante, defies all odds and decides to introduce calculus at the school. The other staff members are skeptical of the idea, but he holds on to the idea since he had a sense of a driving force. His biggest motivation was the group of students that had expressed interest at doing algebra even after failing basic math. The motivate him to try and help them learn math and so he pushes for the idea until he is allowed to try it out. It is as a result of his motivation and determination to teach math at the school, he does not consider the history or the views of the critics to the idea.
A motivated individual can change and shape their destiny as well as the decisions that they make. All one needs is that extrinsic motivation to support the intrinsic motivation. As is the case in the movie, the students were total jokers and naughty at start. However with the coming of Escalante as the teacher in math, he expressed so much confidence in the students that they began seeing the value in themselves. The attitude of losing is transformed to a winner’s mentality. In a short duration, so many of the students enroll in the calculus class and eventually a majority of them pass.
Internal motivation is also always stronger than the external motivation. This is because internal motivation comes from within an individual and is not determined by any external factors. On the contrary, external motivation is determined by the environment or other people. In the movie, those students that took it up to themselves to pass and change the formality of mediocrity are the ones who went through to pass the final examinations. Students that had to be pushed by the teacher dropped along the way while other failed the test. The fact that Escalante took the idea of starting math classes at the school as his personal responsibility and was motivated from within is what helped him to withstand the rebellion, rejection and threats he faced as he struggled to make it a success.
Motivation may be as in an effort to minimize pain or an undesirable occurrence or could be so as to enhance the positive or rewards that a person is getting. All these factors will motivate a person either to end pain and anguish or to succeed more. In the movie, the students are more motivated to prove to the other staff that they are not less intelligent nor are they stupid. In fact, when they pass the exams, some supervisors doubt the results, and they request the m to re-sit for the paper. The students agree to take it so as to prove that they are also capable and not the under dogs any longer.
All successful individuals at a given field have been proven to be motivated to attain the desired goals. A demotivated person is more or less of a non productive individual. One must conceive what they want if at all they are ever going to get it. As is the case in the movie, it takes the step of changing the student’s attitudes and then motivating them to change their mindsets. They become self aware and capable of telling what they are capable of undoubtedly. It also took the motivation of the teacher to be able to surpass all odds and give a chance to the students.
Motivation is therefore, a strong empowerment to an individual to attain their goals. It is this motivation that enables one to bear whatever that comes on a person’s way.