

Chulapol Thanomsing

ALTE 615 Unit 6 Assignment

Book Review

Book Review: Dr. Glasser William, *Control Theory in the Classroom* (1986)

As the criticism of the schools for low student achievement and recommendations to improve it has been offered more or less. According to the report “*A Nation at Risk*”, the National Commission on Excellence in Education recommended that schools need to lengthen both the school day and year, made courses harder and give more homework. Dr. Glasser believes no one knows better than teachers that our schools are not functioning well. He also believes that the change in structure of teaching and learning should be the great way to help the student learning. This book wants to recommend a major change in the structure of how we teach and in the role of the teacher so that they can teach effectively by control theory in the classroom that can help motivate student to learn and increase the number of students achievement. These changes is so-called “*learning-teams*”, should be able to increase significantly the number of students who are willing to work harder in school. The new way is not only good for students but also for teachers as well.

Dr. Glasser suggests that the basic to control theory is the belief that all of our behavior comes from within ourselves. All of our behavior, simple to complex, is our best attempt to control ourselves to satisfy our needs, but the controlling ourselves should be almost related to our regular attempts to control what does on around us. In addition, our past needs that was not satisfied can never be gone back. So, we should not hold past failures against one other if they make up the work now.

The five needs that was said in this books are to survive and reproduce, to belong and love, to gain power, to be free and to have fun. Some of basic needs are often in conflict with one other such as the more power have, even if teachers use it for students’ benefit, the less freedom students have. The five needs relate to everyone, even teachers, it they

do not find their work satisfying, they will never be able to do it as well as they would like. No class can ever be satisfying unless both teachers and students find it so.

In the lesson "*The Learning Pictures in the Student's Head*", Dr. Glasser said students would be interested in learning if they have the learning pictures that are need-satisfying. Everything that teachers and students do is initiated by satisfying picture of that activity which they stored in their heads as a pleasant memory. And also, as much as their pictures may vary, there are no wrong or unsatisfying pictures in their heads. There was no doubt that learning-team was a need-satisfying picture in their heads.

Total behaviors of everyone are action or feeling or thinking that is chosen to attempt to show what we feel at that time is not separate from the other component. Our feelings are separate from our actions and thoughts as we usually do. Whatever total behavior we choose, it is always our best attempt to gain effective control of our lives, which means to reduce the difference between what we want at the time and what we see is available in the real world.

Learning teams are both more access to power and more friendly student-to-student support within their structure. Students can do assignments better than they working alone, but good as this may be, it is not the goal of this model. Dr. Glasser suggest what we need to do is to move to classrooms in which students work together in small learning-teams. If we are willing to make this move, he believes we will have a good chance to succeed in motivating almost all students. It is not easy, but if teachers is willing to make a little effort to set up classes that satisfy this need-fulfilling control theory team model. Teachers are considered managers at least to the extent that they direct their students and use their power to reward or punish them to try to get them to follow this direction.

Dr. Glasser's idea will be most effective if every alternative school utilizes it into their classes. From the power of control theory, I believe that teachers in alternative schools would be able to figure out best or other ways on their own to control of their class

because students will also be much better satisfied with what they are doing in schools. Moreover, this theory is also the part of human psychology that I think it is so deep and difficult that sometimes teachers may not clearly understand it. So, it may take more time to realize all of students' behavior and to satisfy needs in side of themselves.

I strongly believe that the control theory will benefit not only the education system, but also the general work system that have to collaborate with one another. Dr. Glasser's theory helps readers to clearly understand both the behavior of others and our behavior and to find the best way to control it.

I quite believe Dr. Glasser's idea regarding control theory in the classroom will be able to provide more both useful and powerful rational, not only for why so many students in a classroom are not doing well, but also for changing the classroom structure which will lead to them starting to work. Before we incorporate this idea into our classroom, I think it should be utilized in our school for motivating our staff, not only teachers and administrators, but also janitors, drivers, etc as well, to prepare them anything to work and understand students. Then, we will be the strong team that could accomplish in the alternative school work.