

Super Teacher

Anonymous

This story is about my colleague Ms Kausar. I was the principal of the Government Girls Higher Secondary School in Mohmand Agency when we first met.

When I joined this school as a principal I asked the Director for three months' time to clean up the school of all the trash and to raise the standard of education in the school. Within 6-8 months, my students had secured the top three positions in the matric exam. I never had a bossy attitude towards my team. If the grass needed cutting, I had no qualms about picking up the hoe and cutting it myself. This set a good example for everyone to follow. And of course I had the support of teachers like Ms. Kausar.

Ms. Kausar had done her Masters in Urdu. She taught Urdu to grades seventh through tenth. She had a heavy work load, yet her notebooks were always regularly and immaculately checked, a rare practice in most government schools.

Several faculty members came from Peshawar and Charsadda and would often miss the morning assembly, but never Ms. Kausar. Not only was she very punctual, but she also hardly ever took any days off. She only missed school if she had to visit Punjab.

Ms. Kausar was a powerhouse of unlimited energy. If we were notified of sudden visits from the Directorate, she would rise to the occasion and organize everything. She would do the compering on stage functions. On one such important visit when the Governor NWFP was the chief guest he specially appreciated her spontaneous and simple style and wanted to know who *her* teachers had been.

Once such a visit was announced and the school had to be decorated to welcome the guest. Ms Kausar stitched colourful flags overnight to adorn the school.

Sometimes she would get tears in her eyes. This was when she felt unappreciated for all her effort. “No matter what I do, it will still be those teachers who flatter the seniors who will get ahead.” She would say wiping her eyes. I would comfort her saying how God would reward her through her daughters. Sure enough, her daughter topped in the school in the grade seventh exam.

I would often ask her how she managed her work and her duty to her family and if she may be neglecting her daughters. She would say in a resigned manner, “After doing all this at school, I have little energy left. I want the reward from God.”

This super teacher’s attitude towards her students was very warm and accessible. Students would share their personal problems with her. If a student was straying off the right path, Ms. Kausar was the person who could handle it with love and firmness. Students who would not listen to anyone would listen to Ms. Kausar if she would stop talking to them out of hurt and anger. Only because the students loved her too.

Ms Kausar and I are not colleagues any more but we are still good friends.

The author of the story is a school principal from Mohmand Agency in FATA