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*Chief Editor*

**Dr. S. Sabu**

Principal, St. Gregorios Teachers' Training College, Meenangadi P.O.,  
Wayanad District, Kerala-673591. E-mail: drssbkm@gmail.com

*Co-Editor*

**S. B. Nangia**

**A.P.H. Publishing Corporation**

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# Classroom Management: A Transformative Exercise

Dr. Vini Sebastian\*

## ABSTRACT

Teachers spend half their energies in classroom management rather than searching for new technologies and methodologies in teaching. A peep into this problem reveals that in most schools teachers are ill equipped with what they must do with their children when they go out of hand. Every teacher has some personality skills that helps her manage the class. One such skill identified in this paper is assertiveness. Each style of leadership has some extent of assertiveness and could possibly have a relationship with the classroom management style—the authoritarian style, the authoritative style, the laissez faire style and the indifferent style. The paper examines a study which attempts to ascertain this relationship.

**Keywords:** Classroom management style, Assertiveness, leadership styles.

## INTRODUCTION

According to John Holt, a teacher is more like a gardener, tending, nurturing and providing the right environment for the flower to blossom. Thus, what schools need are not conventional 'teachers' but 'educators' who share with, care for and grow alongside with the child, making the educational experience a pleasurable and enriching one. Teachers concentrate mainly on covering the portion. Most parents complain that teachers hurry up with the portion and children have to then resort to extra tuitions that disturbs their recreational time. Due to the extra tuitions children feel bored in the class as the portion is already covered by the tuition teachers. Thus, it affects the child's readiness to learn. No amount of reinforcement will help for an already learned chapter. This caused disturbance in the class. It is possible that all children do not avail of the tuition and are totally dependent on the teacher. But due to the difference between the "haves" and the "have nots" the teacher will not be able to manage. The law of effect also does not work here as the experience provided in the class is not satisfying for the child. All this leads to classroom disturbance which hampers the classroom management.

What is classroom management? **Classroom management** refers to the wide variety of skills and techniques that teachers use to keep students organized, orderly, focused, attentive, on task and academically productive during a class. Teachers while engaging in classroom management use three styles of management – *authoritative, authoritarian, laissez faire styles*. The *authoritarian* style of classroom management values obedience instantly, sets rules that students must not break, strict punishment and learning is mostly by imitation. The *authoritative* style of classroom management focusses on a more rational manner of disciplining, participative style of leadership and transferring responsibility of the behavior and the consequences onto the pupils themselves. This makes the students efficient in problem solving ability. The *laissez-faire* style is the hands-off approach, where

\*Associate Professor, St. Xavier's Institute of Education, Mumbai.