

INSTRUCTOR AND STUDENT'S NAME: CONCERN IN EDUCATION

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Dear Editor,

Communication between instructor and students is very important and is a key factor for the success of education. The concern regarding "instructor and student's name" is very interesting. Cooper et al. concluded that "students can benefit from perceiving that instructors know their names and name tents could be a relatively easy way for students to think that instructors know their names [1]." We would like to share ideas and experiences on this topic. In the report by Cooper et al. [1], the results most likely reflect Western culture. Cooper et al. should have been more explicit about the cultural context and should have limited their conclusions accordingly. A more attention to the race/ ethnicity of the students is needed since there might be some significant differences among students from different ethnic groups. Although this might be a part of the study by Cooper et al., the statistical significance might not be judged due to the small sample size. A further similar study should be performed in a variety of cultural contexts to get the final conclusion. The cultural background in our countries might be different from the Western ones. In our countries, the students usually pay respectful to the instructors and do not dare to present the ideas for fear of seniority. In fact, some reports also show that calling student's name can be a stress. According to the report by Geiger [2], "students reported teachers' yelling,

name-calling and put-downs when failing to pay attention" and this might be considered a risk for verbal abuse. In addition, first and last name "racial identifiability" might lead to the discrimination [3]. Foster noted that "mild evidence suggests that racial identity may be salient in predicting undergraduate grades [3]."

In the current culture where students not being comfortable speaking in class is laudable, there should be specific training for helping them to overcome the fear and speak. In fact, speaking is a required skill for professionals. A social skill training to help the students overcome the feeling of discomfort while speaking is very important [4]. Specific training should be included in the curriculum. For example, Shochet et al. suggested providing training in the theater and theatre improvization aiming at enhancing students' confidence [5].

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: None

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