**Competition for high grades seriously limits the quality of learning at all levels of education. (***Mahsa Hazrati – homework* 3)

There is a widely held debate on whether competition among students in different levels of education is deleterious. While the author asserts that at any level it circumscribes learning, I am of the idea that competitiveness can act as a driving factor in training, provided that students know how to deal with it, and seek it as an opportunity rather than a threat.

I think that the competition can be a double-edged sword for kids, and it depends upon how they are taught to face it from an early age, the time when parents and elementary teachers instill the be-the-best mentality in us. Unfortunately, a great number of parents place an unnecessary pressure and stress on children to get good marks at school, and be the best among their peers, which dictates them that losing is not an option; so that these little kids have to put a lot of effort just to satisfy their parents. Worse yet, when they cannot perform up to these dictated standards, and feel the consequent denial from their parents, they end up losing their self-esteem, feeling disappointed and being demotivated, resulting in their poor educational performance. Added to this, these parents are not aware of their children’s talents, and dictate goals which are not in commensurate with their abilities and interests, and therein lies the rub. This is why most of their effort does not pay off, and they suffer from failures.

These parents and teachers, however, must teach their children to learn from these failures, practice perseverance, and know that the more they try, the better they would get. This approach would also prepare kids for the adult-life, which is fiercely competitive and requires to circumvent the desire to give up when things get tough. Simply put, we compete in every part of our lives, be it job, education or partner; therefore, we need to experience the frustrations of competition and learn how to overcome them. If not, we would focus on the outcome only, and crumble with each and every failure in our lives. Additionally, it would be better if parents convey the message that children’s value is not about higher grades or winning in a competition, and they are loved unconditionally, no matter how they score in a given exam.

On the other hand, competition can be a constructive factor for high school and university students, provided that they know how to compete. These students are mature enough to be aware of their talents and are able to set attainable goals for themselves; so that, being in a competitive setting drives them towards studying more and trying their best to achieve their goals. Desire for better grades would motivate them even more if the idea of competing is instilled correctly in these students, and know that when they perform poorly in an exam, they must consider their weaknesses and try to make improvements in those areas. Otherwise, they would also end up feeling disappointed, just as school children would, which may lead to aggression, greed, and hostility among students in the long run.

In conclusion, competition can be highly destructive for students, if the parents raise them with the win-at-all costs culture, disregarding their talents and interests. However, it can be constructive if they know that there are invaluable lessons to learn from failures and it is a chance to detect their weak points and surmount them.