

99+ For creating a Better Society ~ an initiative by IIMC and YB*

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21 March 2024

"Beyond Discipline: From Compliance to Community" by Alfie Kohn is a book that challenges traditional disciplinary approaches in education and advocates for a shift towards fostering a sense of community and collaboration within schools. Kohn argues that punitive discipline measures like rewards and punishments only serve to control students rather than teach them responsibility and cooperation.

The key takeaways from the book include:

Moving beyond compliance: Kohn emphasizes the importance of moving away from a compliance-based approach to discipline, where students simply follow rules to avoid punishment, towards a model that encourages intrinsic motivation, critical thinking, and autonomy.

Building community: Instead of relying on punishment and rewards, Kohn suggests creating a supportive and inclusive community within schools where students feel valued, respected, and connected to each other and their teachers.

Encouraging intrinsic motivation: Kohn advocates for fostering intrinsic motivation by providing students with meaningful learning experiences, opportunities for self-direction, and a sense of autonomy over their learning.

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Critiquing traditional discipline methods: The book critiques traditional discipline methods such as punitive punishment, rewards systems, and zero-tolerance policies, arguing that they are ineffective in promoting positive behavior and can even be harmful to students' development.

Promoting empathy and cooperation: Kohn emphasizes the importance of cultivating empathy and cooperation among students through practices such as restorative justice, collaborative problem-solving, and conflict resolution.

Overall, "Beyond Discipline" encourages educators to rethink their approach to discipline and prioritize building a positive and supportive learning environment where students feel empowered to take ownership of their learning and behavior.