



REDEFINE THE ROLE OF TEACHER IN INDIA

* Dr Anjali Arora, Scholar, M.A., B.ED., Ph. D (Education),
University of Jammu, J&K
Email: dranjaliarora@yahoo.in Phone: 9419279700

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ABSTRACT

Teacher is a nation builder. People ranging from layman to philosopher praise the teacher as a mason who builds the structure of society, the students being the bricks and mortar of the future. The ancient India gives very high place to the teachers. India gave the great glory to the teaching profession because of the voluntary poverty, selfless service, high scholarship and pure moral and spiritual conduct of the teachers. The world today is rapidly changing and so in India, new goals are being set up and new techniques are being devised in order to achieve readjustment of society but to keep up also with the changes that are being made continuously with techniques of education. The changes that took place in schools have changed the roles of teachers, too. In the past teachers used to be the major source of knowledge, the leader and educator of their students' school life. Nowadays, teachers provide information and show their students how to tackle them. We cannot apply techniques or systems which were relevant thousand years ago to a technological society as of today with totally different horizons. . Knowledge can be acquired from anywhere; but education without teacher is like body without soul. Today we need to redefine the role of teacher. We need to bring changes in our teacher education programmes so that better teachers can be provided to India.

Key words: *glory, new technology, mason, technological society, horizons*



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Dr .A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, the former president of India, “the whole purpose of education in a country is to develop and enhance the potential of human resource and progressively transform it into a knowledge society”. To fulfill this purpose of education, teacher has a very significant and non-replaceable role.

The UNESCO international commission on education for twenty first There is a phrase ‘as is the teacher so is the child’ According to UN, “education is a process which draws out the best in man with the aim of producing a well-balanced personality”. Education has a very significant role in developing an individual to the level of perfection by drawing out the best citizen from him. Teacher is an inevitable part of the social system, called school, who delivers lectures to students. In the wider sense, a teacher can be defined as anything or anybody which influences another and make a change in his intellectual, moral or physical level. The personality, character, and attitudes of a good teacher can influence and inspire the young people. In molding the future of a child, the teacher has remarkable role. People ranging from layman to philosopher praise the teacher as a mason who builds the structure of society, the students being the bricks and mortar of the future.

In ancient days it was believed to be a successful teacher one must be yogi or a saint. as he has to manage the group of students so they need to control themselves.. He is also termed as ‘torch bearer’. Like the light of a torch expels the darkness, the teacher with the help of his knowledge removes the darkness of ignorance.

Teacher has always been known as the store house of wisdom. He transmits all his knowledge and pupils store it into his memory. Teacher has absolute authority. He is eminent in knowledge, possesses a holy character, free from the evil practices and greed for wealth. He is considered as the knowledge bank and spiritual leader. In ancient days a teacher was known as GURU or ACHARYA means a person who sets-up standards his personal life to follow. He used to be very strict with himself. Teachers in ancient period were held in high position by the society. Even the kings and rulers paid respect to them. The kings and rulers were often approached their teachers for guidance and advice, since they were the true benefactors of society and trustees of common welfare. There are many examples in history for the decision taken by the rulers according to the

advice of teachers. Alexander, the great, praises his teacher Aristotle for the knowledge and advice given to him in time. He says “my parents give me birth; but my teacher gives me life”.

In the ancient period teacher was considered as a symbol also; a symbol of truth, beauty and purity. Ancient India revered teachers as the ‘Param Brahma’. He is the creator-creator of ideas and ideals; he is the preserver-preserver of truth and justice; he is the destroyer-destroys both intention and deeds of evil. The ancient India gives very high place to the teachers. India gave the great glory to the teaching profession because of the voluntary poverty, selfless service, high scholarship and pure moral and spiritual conduct of the teachers. At that time religious and spiritual factors were predominant in the choice of teaching careers. But in the modern age, it is almost deteriorated to merely getting a job. The status of teacher in ancient India was very high. He was the legendary Guru, the dispenser of knowledge and caretaker of his students. From the very ancient times teachers have been honored as builders of nation. They are the real architects of nation.

NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE OF TEACHERS IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM

Education is a lifelong process and without the help of a teacher it will be incomplete. According to the national policy on education (1986), “no society can raise the standard above of its teachers”. Stressing on the need for quality teachers’ the American president Obama commented as, “the single most important factor in determining a student’s achievement isn’t the color of his skin or where he comes from, but who the child’s teacher is”. Development of human resource is the work of a teacher. Education has to develop the spirit of service, social sensitiveness, moral character and cooperation in the student. This is possible only with the help of teachers. To create a positive approach and attitude in an individual teacher is a must. Every people need education for their career growth. A classroom comprises of many students with different potentials and possibilities. The teacher provides knowledge to all these students and in this way he prepares future teacher, lawyer, doctor, politicians etc. Thus teaching is the mother profession of all other professions. Some of the great teachers were the cause of revolution in political and industrial level. In the words of Henry Adams “a teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops”. Teaching is recognized as one of the most challenging and respected career choices, absolutely vital to the social, cultural and academic health of our nation.

Changing Education system

The world today is rapidly changing and so in India, new goals are being set up and new techniques are being devised in order to achieve readjustment of society but to keep up also with the changes that are being made continuously with techniques of education. The education system has been changing rapidly. Schools now have been lifelong learning centers. The educational environment is not confined to the classrooms but instead extends around the world. we are facing a world in which communication and information revolution has led to changes in all spheres: scientific, technological, political, economic, social and cultural. To be able to prepare our young people face the future with confidence purpose and responsibility, the crucial role of teachers cannot be overemphasized. In India online education is booming where one can learn any subject in free and massive online courses are available. While online courses can make high quality online education available to anyone for the price of an internet connection they also have potential to displace humans, with all that implies for teachers and students.

Changing role of teachers

The changes that took place in schools have changed the roles of teachers, too. In the past teachers used to be the major source of knowledge, the leader and educator of their students' school life. Nowadays, teachers provide information and show their students how to tackle them. Although they are still considered to be a kind of leader in the class, they can be thought of as facilitators in the learning process. If we focus on the teaching process, we still realize that there are a great number of changes in this field as well, and all of them have an influence on the role of teachers. Curriculum design is a task teachers have to be prepared for, although the present generation of teachers has been growing into making up syllabi for years. Another difference between the past and present tasks of teachers is represented by the technical background they need to be able to use and handle effectively (computer, photocopier, power point, projectors, etc.) Instead of teaching chalk face, they need to be an information technology expert, a technician or/and a photocopy master. One of the biggest challenges for teachers is that their role in the school management has also changed. The school needs them as individuals, who can make decisions and cope with the stress of the changing world of schools. At the same time teachers need to be able to work in teams, co-operate with

colleagues and parents. A teacher has to generate that energy in oneself and handle it in one's work of educating children. A teacher has not only to instruct but also to inspire the students. One of the biggest challenges for teachers is that their role in the *school management* has also changed. The school needs them as individuals, who Can make decisions and cope with the stress of the changing world of schools. At the same time teachers need to be able to Work in teams, co-operate with colleagues and parents, they have to write projects to gain money for the school programmes. This overload of information also means that the teacher now has to compete for the students' attention. Since students are inundated with so many stimuli, they may quickly tune out a lesson if it doesn't appear relevant. Therefore, the focus of education today should be on the personalization and application of relevant knowledge rather than simply filling them with random facts. Yet, the focus of most classrooms still involves the "data dumping" mentality. To prepare our students for the world of today and tomorrow, the role of the teacher has to meet the needs of current culture. It is true that we cannot apply techniques or systems which were relevant thousand years ago to a technological society as of today with totally different horizons,

Modern Teachers

Many teachers today are encouraged to adapt new practices that knowledge both the art and science of learning. They realized that their most important role is to get to know each student as an individual in order to comprehend his needs, learning style, social and cultural background, interest and abilities. The most respected teachers have discovered how to make students passionate, participants in the instructional process by providing project based, participatory, educational adventures. Now the fundamental job of teaching is no longer to distribute facts but to help children to learn how to use them by developing their abilities, to think critically, solve problems, make informed judgments and create knowledge that benefits both the student and the society. The effective educator of today has to understand the importance of making education applicable to the lives of the students. Students have to understand the world in which they will live and understand how to survive and thrive in aware of the power of these entities to persuade and manipulate their decisions and possibly even their beliefs. This innovative educator of today utilizes authentic relationships and

relevant teaching to connect education with the real world. The effective educator understands that part of her responsibility is to help the students become educated consumers.

The science of teaching requires content knowledge, organization, management skills, and detailed planning. The art of teaching is not about possessing an outgoing personality, but making connections to students, parents, as well as connecting the curriculum to the real world in a relevant manner. Thus the 21st Century teacher creates and maintains intentional relationships with her students, parents, and colleagues for the sake of tomorrow's success.

DIFFERENCES ROLE IN INCLUSION OF PUPILS WITH LEARNING

Inclusion of pupils with learning differences is a stepping stone to achieve the goal, 'universal education'. It involves changes and modifications in the content, approaches, structures and strategies. Inclusion assumes that all children are part of the regular school system. It demands high level of teaching competence and organizational changes. The background of inclusion is as follows: people have a negative outlook to such children. So most of them kept at home itself and parents do not get any kind of support from the community to raise them. The key element in inclusion is teaching and the role of teachers in inclusive setup. Inclusion will become realized only if teachers are aware of the nature of the situation and ready to commit for it.

Modern teachers follow "teach however you can" approach. The goal being that knowledge should be available in plenty. If the student does not get it... that's for them to work out and improve. Teachers are available whenever and however a student feels comfortable. The modern student teacher relationship is not defined by obedience and acceptance but by questioning and analysis. Acceptance may or may not follow the relationship is of understanding each other's requirements and coming to terms with each other's expectations. The new set of students has all information, if not wisdom at the click of a button, they test, verify and often question what a teacher says in the classroom from facts available on the internet.

In the new approach of education, teachers have to function as a facilitator of learning. The teacher has to motivate the students and encourage discussing and debating. The teacher has to interact with them but the interaction has to follow the children as a whole. Techniques and methods like laboratory work, field trips, discussions, seminars etc should be developed among students with the purpose of producing good interaction among them. As a facilitator of learning teacher has to maintain control in the classroom and has to create a positive environment in classroom. Teacher should enable the students to maximize the potential of their formal and informal learning. He had to make him familiar with the great diversity of space, resources, technology etc.

CREATOR AND PROVIDER OF KNOWLEDGE

The three essential things for classroom teaching are (a) know how-subject knowledge (b) do how-teaching skill(c) transfer how-communication skill. Education involves not only the providing of information but also the creation of knowledge. Everyone has the ability to build his/her own knowledge. The moment one becomes a teacher, as a fresh starter, he opens a new pages in his/her own life. Honesty, transparency, sincerity are essential ingredients and equipments of a teacher: a ceaseless desire to learn from all quarters, to recognise one's limitations, to own one's responsibilities towards students, to the parents of the students who have entrusted their children to him. These are certain concerns which need more attention than they have received so far. Knowledge is different from wisdom. A teacher becomes wiser, he has something to give when he is successful, not only to the student community but to the whole society. That way teacher in the olden days occupied a highly influential position.

TEACHERS ARE AGENTS OF CHANGE

Teachers have crucial roles to play in preparing young people not only to face the future with confidence but to build it with purpose and responsibility. The new challenges facing education – to contribute to development, to help people understand and to some extent come to terms with the phenomenon of globalization, and to foster social cohesion – must be met

from primary and secondary school onwards. The importance of the role of the teacher as an agent of change, promoting understanding and tolerance, has never been more obvious than today. It is likely to become even more critical in the twenty-first century. The need for change, from narrow nationalism to universalism, from ethnic and cultural prejudice to tolerance, understanding and pluralism, from autocracy to democracy in its various manifestations, and from a technologically divided world where high technology's the privilege of the few to a technologically united world, places enormous responsibilities on teachers who participate in the moulding of the characters and minds of the new generation.

Conclusion

No machine can replace teachers. Even in the period of de -schooling and e-learning teacher is a must. Knowledge can be acquired from anywhere; but education without teacher is like body without soul. Bill gates comments about the pivotal role of teachers as "technology is just a tool; in terms of getting the kids together and motivating them, teacher is the most important".

The paradigm shift is from teacher dominated classroom practices to that of partnership between

the teacher and the learners and their peers. The key role of educational institutions is reflected in a variety of initiatives taken to transform the nature and function of education-both formal as well as non-formal. Universal accessibility to quality education is considered essential for development. This has necessitated improvement in the system of teacher education so as to prepare quality teachers. Development and changes in education have affected teacher education necessitating review and reforms. It demands understanding with investigative minds, assimilating the required transformations, accommodating and responding to the universal needs. We also need to train teachers with new perspectives as the outer world is in the classroom and schools are opening to the world. Today is the time for inclusive education which leads to demand of special teachers/educators and we all are aware of the fact that there is scarcity of special educators.. So a balance should to be maintained for better

results. It has been recognized that teacher education program should be structured and modified in a way that enables them to respond dynamically to the new problems and challenges in the field of education, then only teacher can help in national development. Reflective practice to be the central aim of teacher education; Student-teachers should be provided opportunities for self-learning, reflection, assimilation and articulation of new ideas; Now it is the right time to improve our teacher- education to provide teachers who are suitable for modern digital India.

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** Corresponding Author: Dr Anjali Arora,*
Scholar M.A.B.ED. Ph.D (Education), University of Jammu, J&K
Email: dranjaliarora@yahoo.in Phone: 9419279700