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Teachers as a social engineer and backbone of society

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Abstract

The teacher is the spiritual and intellectual father of the students. A teacher should be energetic, enthusiastic and equitable towards the students. He should be creative and imaginative in arranging the different available means according to the needs of the students. A teacher walks on a tight rope between the reality of today and the anticipation of the tomorrow and distant future. Teacher's role in education is multi-dimensional. He is not a facilitator of learning but also a motivator for students. The teacher is considered as the architect of nation and a classroom manager. He is an educational leader and decision maker who directly affects and indirectly influences the students. A teacher plays a key role in the society growth, as they help to shape the mindset of nation. In the emerging Indian society, the teacher act as a social engineer and the useful social worker. He maintains good relation with parents and other members of the society because these relationships indirectly help children to face the challenges of the society. Teacher is the backbone of society who can mold the personality of a student as per requirements and as per the latest need of the society.

Keywords: Social engineer, backbone, multi-dimensional

Introduction

"The teachers place in society is of vital importance. He acts as the pivot or transmission of intellectual traditions and technical skills, from generation to generation and helps to keep the lamp of civilization burning" *S. Radhakrishnan*.

Teacher is the power, which leaves its impact on the coming generation directly and indirectly. The teacher is the educational parent of the child. In the educational development of a child, his role is more than that of the parent's. He is undertaker of the great task of educating the child. Child looks to him for knowledge, wisdom, manners, morals, inspiration and enlightenment. The word 'teach' is derived from an Anglo-Saxon word 'Taecon' meaning 'to impact', 'to instruct', 'to train', 'to make aware of'. In other words, when a person who has knowledge in any field tries to pass on his/her acquired and accumulated knowledge to any person who is ignorant about that kind of knowledge and needs that knowledge it is an act of teaching. It is as old as human civilization. Since the evolution of man and society, the act of teaching has been evolved in various forms. Man has been teaching so many things to his off springs such as to live a social life, learns social, spiritual and moral values, earn livelihood, lead family life soon and so forth. As such man has continuously been preparing the youngsters to live in society purposefully and cohesively.

In ancient days, a teacher enjoyed a very high respectful position and honor. In ancient time even the kings used to worship their teacher, due to the nobility of teaching profession as well as the sacrifice, service and dedication towards their duty. The respect is reflected from the following definitions written in honor of teachers.

According to Manu, "A teacher is the image of Brahma."

According to Alexander, "Teacher who educate children, deserve more honour than parents."

According to Swami Vivekananda. "The true teacher is he who can immediately come down to the level of the student, transfer his soul to the student's soul and see through and understand through his mind. Sucha teachers can really teach and none else," Abdul Kalam once said, "A teacher is a beacon light that acts as a light house to guide the students in the sea of life. A teacher's life is a living message for his students to work hard in the service of the country."

According to John Adams, "A teacher affects eternity, he can never tell where his influence stops."

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Therefore, it can be said that the progress of human society and country depends upon teachers. It is only the teachers who crosses the national and geographical frontiers and marches forwards towards world establishment and progress of the human race.

Multi-dimensional role of teachers

Teachers from the nucleus of any system of education. They are one of the main pillars of the society, responsible for educating people for different occupations. There is a proverb that 'no system of education can raise above the level of its teacher'. If education is the fundamental institutions of any society, the teacher are center to any school, college or university. No programme of educational reforms can be implemented without the willing and active cooperation of teachers. The school without teachers in like a soulless body, the teacher is the spiritual and intellectual body. He leads the student from the darkness of ignorance to the light of the knowledge and helps to keep the light of civilization burning. Teachers greatly influence the intellectual, emotional, social, moral, cultural and spiritual development of the pupils. He turns pupils from animosity to specialized human beings. He is the arbiter of nation's destiny. The areas of his role start from his main function of teaching and pass through the school and community to reach national and international boundaries. Teacher's role can be summed up as under-

- 1) **Teacher as nation builder:** The teacher is considered as the architect of a nation. He is concerned with the man-making process. The future nation depends upon the type of citizens trained and educated today in the schools. In addition to imparting knowledge to them, he promotes national character and consciousness. Teacher inculcates national awareness through school activities, promotes national integration and national cohesion.
- 2) **Teacher as Facilitator of Learning:** The teacher is one of the most important factors who facilitate in developing learning among his students. The teacher acts as a facilitator of learning in the following ways-
 - **Provides conditions of leaning:** Teacher do not force the child to learn. He simply provides such conditions that lead the child to achieve learning.
 - **Helps in self-study:** Self-study is the best method of learning. Only an efficient teacher can make a child to do self-study and to encourage his learning.
 - **Provides new information:** Teacher gives the child vital information about the subject matter, leaning material, textbook and other curricular activities.
 - **Helps in discovery of learning:** Knowledge means to know, the discover or to explore. According of Swami Vivekananda, "Leaning is the process of discovery of knowledge within the mind". The teacher facilitates this process of discovery of knowledge. He helps pupils to visualize facts in new lights and thus, help him to discover knowledge.
 - **Provides guidance:** Teachers guide their pupils to proceed to the way to achieve successfully leaning. It is an important duty of the teacher to give educational, vocational and personal guidance to the needy students. In this way, the teacher is the most influential person who can help the child to learn in the right direction. He is the friend, philosopher and guide of the learners. He equips the child with new knowledge, new information and help to modify their behavior.

- 3) **Teacher as the most vital factor of education:** The well-equipped teacher is a supreme factor in education. The teacher is concerned with the quality of education. In the words of Prem Kirpal, "A significant change in the educational process is governed by the extent of his receptivity and initiative." The whole structure of education depends upon his training, his educational qualifications, his devotion, competence and efficiency. Prof, Humayum Kabir rightly stated, "Without good teachers, even the best of system is bound to fail and with good teachers, even the defects of a system can be largely overcome." An effective teacher learns continuously and communicates the relevant knowledge to his students. The national education commission (1964-66) was of the view that, Of all the different factors which influence the quality of education and its contribution to national development the quality, competence and character of teachers are undoubtedly the most significant. Thus, the teacher is considered as the most vital factor in the system of education.
- 4) **Teacher as a citizen:** Teacher is expected to produce children who will make useful citizen. He cannot mould children into good citizens until he is himself an exemplary citizen who thinks clearly, cooperates with others, is full of patriotism, and believes in internationalism and in an advocate of brotherhood of man.
- 5) **Teacher as a superior guide:** At the back of every great man, a good teacher is there who kindled enthusiasm, fostered confidence and guided him to the way of progress. A conqueror of the stature of Alexander the Great said, "I owe my birth to my father but life to my teacher." In addition, the poet Kabirdas, out of Guru and Govinda, preferred to bow to the Guru since it was he who had shown him the way to 'see' Govinda.
- 6) **Teacher as a motivator:** The teacher is a source of motivation and inspiration for the students. His behavior should not induce fear among the students. He must present a true model before them. He must establish intimate acquaintance with every pupil, nobody should feel neglected. Abnormal, problematic and backward cases must be given special attention and care. He should listen to them with patience, try to solve their problems remove their difficulties and motivate them.
- 7) **Teacher as classroom manager:** Classroom management and discipline are two important responsibilities of a teacher. Success in teaching depends largely on classroom management, for effective teaching classroom, management is necessary. Therefore, besides mastery of the subject matter and teaching skills, the teacher must have adequate knowledge of classroom management.

Teacher is the social engineer & backbone of society

The teacher plays an important role in today's emerging Indian society, in social reconstruction and in transmission of wisdom, knowledge and experiences of one generation to another. The teacher acts as the social engineer and the useful social worker. As a national integrator he is the backbone of society. The teacher constructs the society and plays an important role in upholding the traditions, ideals and values of the society. He stands as an outstanding figure

among the illiterate and semiliterate families as he is their friend, philosopher and guide.

In almost all the progressive and leading countries of the world, the teachers played their role successfully and brought about prosperity and progress to the society. As a social engineer, the teacher actively shared the responsibility for reconstructing a social order, the values and traditional beliefs of which are being eroded by the surge of new ideals and practices. A teacher is not only a custodian of a nation's values but is also an architect par excellence of new values. The globalization is affecting the economy, culture and information, internationalization of relations, mobility of individual communications and media. Globalization in the 21st century calls upon the teachers to change their roles to meet the future demands of the society.

The teacher is the backbone of society. As we know that society is a dynamic entity, which has its own political, economic, cultural and religious ideologies. It provides more and more opportunities to individuals to develop their various powers and capacities. In the same way, good teaching is not everybody's cup of tea. In fact, only those individuals who are endowed with certain specific physical, intellectual, social, moral and emotional qualities can do this work. Teaching job requires great responsibility in the society as compared to any other job. Teaching is a spiritual process, which establishes relationship between one brain and other. In fact teaching is a profession that teaches all other profession. It has an impact on the growth of society. Teachers should actively participate in the social activities in a positive way. Teachers play active role in social reform, which is a progressive manner to change the society for the better of mankind. Teacher and social change are related as body and soul. As the very thought of body without soul is futile, in the same way any social change without teacher is mere figment of imagination. A teacher can initiate and promote social change only when he knows the needs of society as well as the nature and direction of social change. The teacher should mould the process of social change in such a way that it is acceptable to all people. Since early times, teacher had cooperated society whole-heartedly in bringing about desirable social change. It is why the teacher is known as a social engineer and backbone of society. It is left to them to perform their roles to the best of their abilities and capacities.

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