

ROLE OF TEACHERS IN 21ST CENTURY**Ramanpreet Kaur****Assistant Professor, Khalsa College of Education, G.T. Road, Amritsar**

The present paper focuses on the that development of scientific inquiry skills are very much suitable for the current classrooms, the authors stress that as students focus on the process of doing investigations, they develop the ability to ask scientific questions, investigate the aspects of the world around them, and use their observations to construct reasonable explanations for the questions posed.

In ancient days, a teacher enjoyed a very high respectful position and honour. Even the kings used to sit at their feet, due to the nobility of their profession as well as the sacrifice, service and dedication towards their duty. The respect is reflected from the following definitions written in honour of teachers.

- John Adams - (1735-1826 Second U.S. President' - "A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops".
- Henry Brooks Adams - (1838-1918, American man of letters) "I am indebted to my father for a living, but to my teacher for living well."
- Alexander (356-323 B.C., -"The Great Conqueror)- "Teachers who educate children, deserve more honour than parents."

Present Day Teacher Status

The teacher in the emerging Indian Society has a very pivotal role in the social reconstruction and in the transmission of wisdom, knowledge and experiences of one generation to another. Children are the potential wealth of a nation. It is therefore, necessary to realize that the emerging Indian Society can achieve all-round development with the help of the teacher who acts as a powerful agency in transmitting its cherished values.

Now with the increasing complexity of modern times, education faces ever-changing new demands, and mostly teachers have to bear the brunt of the changes. Hence, the teachers need to change their role.

The National Policy on Education (1986) suggests: "The national strategy of education has to ensure the availability of highly educated, trained and motivated manpower for dealing with the

challenges which are inherent in the modernization and globalization of the economy. India has to be able to compete with the most advanced countries in many fields of production to hold its own. hence the inescapable need for setting up and maintaining institutions of excellence at all levels to tap the best talent and nurture it with care and competence".

Role of Teachers in 21st Century

Changes in society's life demand corresponding changes in education and role of teachers in the 21st Century. In order to equip the child to face the challenges of the 21st Century, the teacher needs to perform a number of roles like.

Teacher as a Builder of the Nation

The teachers are rightly called as the "Builders of the Nation". For this the 21st Century teacher has to play the following role:

- The student in the classroom should have neither caste, nor creed and colour.
- The teacher should give them lessons on humility, nobility, discipline, humanism, leadership and love for the nation.
- As a builder of nation the teacher should assume of the role of a statesman and should determine to do more for the nation.
- The teacher has to organize different co-curricular activities like debates, dramatization, discussions etc., for giving actual examples in the real life situation.
- The teacher should develop patriotic spirit and national unity.

Manager of Teaching and Learning

The teacher of 21st Century has to plan, organize, lead and control the effects of all the available new material resources and variables involved in the process of teaching learning in such a way as to achieve stated teaching learning objectives with maximum efficiency and effectiveness.

- By making optimal use of the available resources for the realization of the sated teaching-learning objectives. In doing so, the teacher has to play sometimes as authoritarian role and at other times a democratic leader's role.
- The teacher has to maintain perfect interaction with the students in all situations.
- Possess effective communication skills to transact communication effectively.

- Aware of the latest innovations, researches and experience in the field of education.
- Involve himself or herself in experimentation.
- Utilize the appropriate teaching learning strategies, methods, facilities, teaching aids etc.

Teacher as a Protector of the Environment

In order to justify that title the teacher has to play the following role:

- Should create awareness about the environment.
- Should not only impart knowledge about environment pollution but also change the behaviour of the students so that they are able to reduce pollution by adopting health habits.
- Take active part in tree plantation.
- Take active part in keeping the school and the community clean and green. Should arrange excursions to foster love for the nature.

Teacher as a Community Leader

The teacher should act as an agent for modernization and development of the community. The teacher should give proper guidance to the community members. As a community manager the teacher should be able to utilize the local resources available in the community for the development of the school. The 21st century teacher has to work as a social worker by organizing programmes in non-formal and adult education awareness in health hygiene, population issues, environmental challenges etc.

Teacher as Promoter of Education Technology

The modernization has affected the educational system too. There has been a great explosion of knowledge during the last few decades. In a traditional society, the stock of knowledge was limited and grew slowly. The main aim of education was interpreted to be the preservation of this accumulated treasure. But in modern society, knowledge was limited and grew slowly. The main aim of education was interpreted to be the preservation of this accumulated treasure. But in modern society, knowledge in every subject is cumulative, so that as each year passes, there is more to be learnt. One of the main tasks of education in a modern society is to keep pace with this advance in knowledge. In such a society, knowledge can't be received passively. It is something that has to be actively discovered.

Teacher as Promoter of Emotional integration

The emotional integration of the Indian people is a challenge that cannot be ignored. Clarity and compassion must be practiced if they are not to remain catchwords and empty phrases. Integration touches all points of national life and depends, in the final analysis on the type of education given to our young people in schools and colleges. And the entire programme of emotional integration through education primarily depends upon the teacher. In this context, the teachers of 21st Century have to play their specific roles as under

- Setting ideal examples of emotional integration through their personal behaviour, ways of thinking and doing things.
- Presenting historical facts in an impartial manner.
- Appreciate the deeds of honesty and patriotism of great persons belonging to all communities.
- Emphasize the need for unity in all allied lessons.
- Explain the importance of interdependence of different regions and states.
- Inculcate a rational attitude.
- Treat all students equal irrespective of caste or color.

Teacher and Global Citizenship [International Understanding]

Modern scientific means of rapid communications-the radio, television and telephone have conquered both space and time. In the words of P.E. James, "An industrial society by its essential nature is global in its scope and international in its needs. If it is to survive it must draw upon all the world's resources and all the world's people must share its benefits. Our way of living is dependent on the coordinated economic activities of distant people. This is the concept of one world, of one community or interdependent people."

So teaching for world understanding should pervade the whole educational programme the attitudes of the members of the staff, curricular and co-curricular activities and experiences of the school.

Teacher as a Character Builder

The teacher has to foster moral qualities through the following:

- Organization of various curricular and co-curricular activities.

- While teaching the different subjects like languages, Social Studies, Science etc.
- Demand certain standards of behaviour from the students.
- Development of ethical values like honesty, empathy, peace, justice, kindness, co-operation among students should form a part and parcel of the duty of every teacher.

Conclusion

Thus new technology and strategies are essential to satisfactorily solve the new problems created by factors like growing school population, heterogeneity of pupils in schools, divergent and even conflicting needs of the learners coming from different socio-cultural areas their rapid development of new information and their expanding curricular and social changes arising from modernization.

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