

CHANGING ROLES OF TEACHERS

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ABSTRACT

*In our society whereas in other professions, a particular job has to be performed at a time; in the field of education, the teacher has to play various roles simultaneously like **Goddess Durga**. This teaching profession is already known as the mother of all profession which teaches all other professions. As teachers are regarded as the backbone of our society, therefore a huge responsibility lies on their shoulder. With the changing demand of the society, with the changing nature of our educational system, various roles have been emerged with the role of teacher. When we are talking about teacher, the role of a mentor, a resource person, a guide, a psychologist, a counselor, a motivator and so many roles are concurrently coming into our mind. That is why the teacher is compared as **VIBGYOR**. The teacher not only gives knowledge to the students, but also inculcates the sense of nationalism, civic sense, spirit of freedom and moreover the true essence of humanism. A teacher invests his all savings on his students to make them an **asset** of future society. Like a lighting candle, teacher always enlightens the way of golden future.*

Keywords: 1. VIBGYOR 2. ASSET 3. EDUCATION FOR LIFE 4. TEACHER

Introduction:

"The quality of a nation depends upon the quality of its citizens. The quality of its citizens depends not exclusively, but in critical measure upon the quality of their education, the quality of their education depends more than upon any single factor, upon the quality of their teacher."

-The American Commission on Teacher

Education

Each profession occupies a specific role in society, like, doctors heal, engineers design, soldiers protect us from enemies and keep our country united and peaceful, so on. Teaching, however, stands out as a summative entity. At a preliminary stage, '**Gurus**' deliver knowledge and inculcate the magnificent faculties of communication, decision making and awareness of social responsibilities. Later, in life, no matter which field we choose to pursue, we again turn to teachers for training. These crucial responsibilities of inculcating knowledge, kindling inspiration and encouraging creative thought are all vested in the teacher. His/her role encompasses that of an instructor, friend, role model and confidant. That is why, from the very primitive stage of civilization, it is said that "**Teaching is a profession that teaches all other professions.**"

Teachers play a key role in the education and society. Sometimes in our life, we meet a special person who leaves everlasting impressions on our minds. He may have said or done something that really touches our souls. We will probably never forget that person because we owe the most part of our identity to him. Without him we might never have become the persons that we are today. He may have been there for us when we were immature. He may have helped us to understand and learn better. He has motivated us to achieve greater achievements.

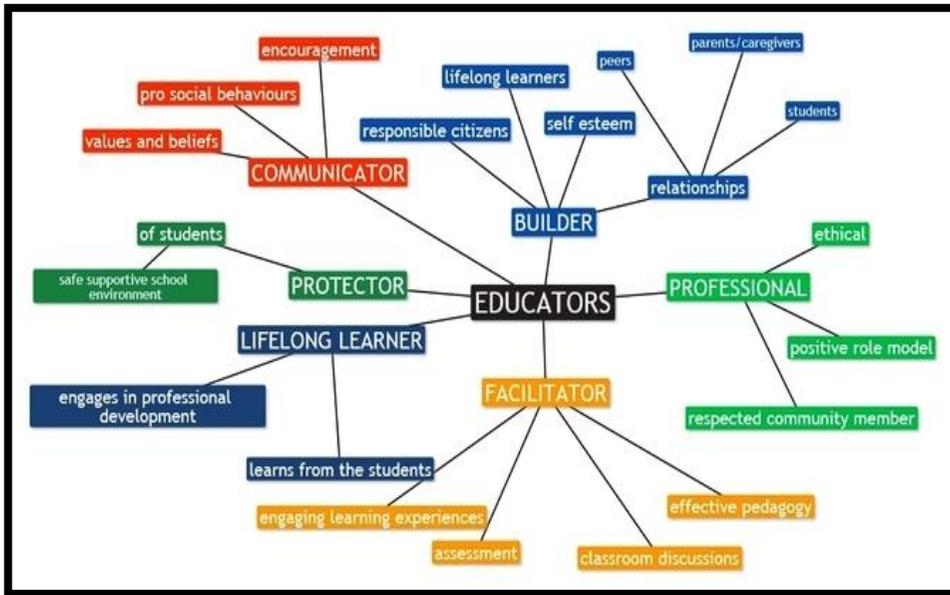
Teacher is the one who plays an important role in our lives. He imparts us good knowledge so that we could become successful in our respective lives. He not only informs us about subject related knowledge but also shows the right path which leads us to success. A teacher is a compass that activates the magnets of interest, knowledge, and wisdom in the pupils.

A true teacher is a reward of God. He is like a candle – it consumes itself to light the way for others. Teachers are theoretically the designer of nation.

According to Nelson Mandela, education is the most powerful weapon through which we can change the whole world. In this 21st century, where we are constantly moving towards new thoughts, new innovations, new trends of lifestyle, the role of every responsible citizen has also been change with these changes.

The effect of these changes has been tremendously resulted in the role of teachers. In the primitive stage of our educational system, the Guru was supposed to distribute knowledge among the disciples and make them a responsible human being. But gradually with the passage of the time, the roles of modern teachers go vivid and vibrant.

Now apart from the knowledge provider, the other roles of the teacher can be cited like below:



The responsibility of a teacher is not ended within the class hour. Inside the classroom, outside the classroom, inside the institution or any other place— the roles and responsibilities of the teacher just changes its dimensions according to the environment.

In 19th and 20th century the teacher is defined as “**Friend, Philosopher and Guide**”, who leads a student to strive for the best in his life. But in recent times these dimensions have more expanded. Now when we are going to define the roles of a teacher, we must have to cite the following points:

A Teacher is:

1. A mentor:

In academics, mentor is often used synonymously with faculty adviser. As a mentor, the main role of a teacher is to promote and facilitate learners’ all round development. A mentoring relationship develops over an extended period, during which a student’s needs and the nature of the relationship tend to change. A mentor will try to be aware of these changes and vary the degree and type of attention, help, advice, information, and encouragement that he or she provides.

2. A leader:

A leader always leads the precise way and provides correct direction to the followers. In our educational system, our teachers also play this role. As, in now-a days, we majorly focus on the child and their psychology, therefore it is also very important to direct their thinking towards a right and positive way. As a student, the learner always faces some problem where he needs a proper guidance from an experienced person, and at that point, the role of a teacher turns into a leader, who leads the student towards the right way.

3. A role model:

A role model is a person who inspires and encourages us to strive for greatness, live to our fullest potential and see the best in ourselves. This is the ever-lasting role of a teacher where the attitude, ideas and overall personality of a teacher is being adopted and followed by the learner for lifetime. We learn through them, through their commitment to excellence and through their ability to make us realize our own personal growth.

4. A coach:

Great coaches develop players’ inner skills and so as the teachers also. As a coach the teacher always tries to extract out the potentials of the learners by constant practice. Teachers here help the students to achieve their goals of live.

5. A therapist:

To teach someone, or to become a friend of a student, the teacher must have to read the mind and psychology of learner. Here lies the role of a therapist. To become an inspiring teacher, he/she must have to understand the pupil and provide necessary mental treatment to students for their psychological recovery.

6. A disciplinarian:

Discipline is life; it is the behavior that contributes to proper attitudes and characteristics towards a systematic and successful life. As it is the responsibility of a teacher to inculcate the civic sense among the students, therefore, to make them civilized the teacher has to play the role of a disciplinarian.

7. A curriculum planner:

Now-a-days we are more focusing on the issue of all round development of learners. Without a proper curriculum, it would not be possible to provide proper nourishment to the students. Therefore, a teacher needs to plan the curriculum besides teaching according to the mental age of the learners.

8. A researcher and data collector:

A teacher has to update him/ her so that he/she can provide relevant knowledge according to the changing trend. Apart from that teacher should always seek for the unanswered questions so that the teacher can inspire the learners to have a viewpoint of a researcher. Hence the teacher has to transfer himself to a researcher and data collector time to time.

9. A controller:

In academics, the teacher has to control the whole class and direct the learners into a specific direction. At this time, teachers are in charge of the class and the activity as controllers to manage the students and class, and keep control.

10. An organizer:

In academics, as an organizer the teacher organizes students and tells them what to do; give them information, tell what they are going to do, put them into pairs/groups, close things down etc. in the new trend of education, where the education is basically activity-based, the most difficult task for a teacher is to organize the students to learn something new by themselves.

11. A prompter:

As a prompter, the teacher allows students to work on their fluency. That is to say, they leave students and let them work things out for themselves. When the students got stuck at some point or get threatened by some situation, the teacher, as a prompter, encourages the students to think independently and develops their individuality along with self-independence.

12. A tutor:

It is quite similar to the role of teacher. According to the personal needs of learners, when a teacher gives instruction and solves their problems outside the classroom, then the teacher turns into tutor.

13. An observer:

Teachers observe what students do so that they can give them useful group and individual information. Basically to assess learning, to give feedback and to judge the success of the learners the teacher has to turn him/herself into an observer.

14. A resource person:

In this sense, the teacher's role is the same as the role of ultimate source of knowledge. However, when students are supposed to work on their own, the teacher should be prepared with his stock of knowledge and innovative ideas as resources to his learners.

15. An assessor:

As an assessor, a teacher's job is to assess the students' work for their betterment. According to Harmer (1983), as an assessor, the teacher does two things, that is, correcting mistakes and organizing feedback. Harmer insists that correcting should be gentle. Gentle correcting involves showing that incorrectness has occurred, but not making a big fuss about it. Organizing feedback is an effective way to assess students' performance so that they see how well they are doing. When organizing feedback, it is very discouraging for the teacher to be critical. Rather, we encourage teachers to focus on students' success or progress so that a success-oriented learning atmosphere can be created.

16. A visionary:

Imagination is a key component of the educator of today and tomorrow. They must see the potentiality of every emerging tools and web technologies, grasp these and manipulate them to serve their needs. The visionary teacher can look at others ideas and envisage how they would use these in their class. The visionary also looks across the disciplines and through the curriculum so that the teacher can give a bright future to the students.

17. A counselor:

In the role of a counselor, the teacher is trying to get intimate with the problems students, realize the nature of the problem and provide possible solutions. Apart from that, the teacher here, also, helps the student to realize his/her potential to solve it. Counseling works on the principle that every individual, if guided

properly, can realize the strength of self to solve problem of self. As a result, a teacher does not have always to give solutions.

18. A risk taker:

Teacher does not mean they know everything. They must take risks and sometimes surrender themselves to the students' knowledge. Even sometime teachers have to take risk about what his/her students can do or to what extend the students can go far.

19. A planner:

One of the most crucial roles of a teacher in this 21st century is as a planner. As a planner the teacher has to plan the whole teaching-learning process for a day-a month-a year. Teacher has to plan the curriculum, the units, and the effective teaching procedure and by using his/her visionary power, the teachers also have to plan the future of the learners also.

20. An ICT designer

In this 21st century, the teacher has to play the role of an ICT designer also. In this digital era, where the use of ICT in education has reached to the level of extend, the teacher has to develop various technology oriented learning designs so as to make the teaching-learning process more fruitful. Therefore as per the demand of the situation, the teacher has to change his/her to an ICT designer.

The role of teacher in the educational set up is very important. It is beyond argument that teacher is the backbone of the society and they have to play multi-faced roles within a single frame according to the need of their students. He represents whole of the society in school which is a sub-society or mini society. The citizens of tomorrow are his students and the future of the country lies in his hand. Therefore the teacher has to play endless roles like God to keep our society blessed, enriched and heavenly. Truly, the teacher is like the VIBGYOR in the endless sky of education.

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