



CHANGING ROLES OF TEACHERS AT DIFFERENT LEVELS

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Abstract

The role of a teacher in society is both significant and valuable. It has far-reaching influence on the society, he lives in and no other personality can have an influence more profound than that of a teacher. A good and visionary teacher can play a prominent role in making bright future of his students. In 21st Century, the role of teacher has become very challenging, complex and multi-faced on account of different explosions, the explosion of information and knowledge. The teacher should be expert in using new educational technology. He/she should be the role model for the students and society simultaneously.

Keywords: *Effective Teacher, New Educational Technology, Role of Teachers.*

Introduction

We each adopt different 'roles' in everyday situations, these roles change with the situation, we all have numerous roles in life. We can imagine those roles as hats that we wear at appropriate times (e.g. Daughter, Sister, Teacher, Employee etc). These roles have "implied" behavior, which we all know. It is this implied social behavior which we can use in drama and dramatic situations to create deeper understanding and meanings. The role of a teacher in society is both significant valuable. It has far-reaching influence on the society he lives in and no other personality can have an influence more profound than that of a teacher. Students are deeply affected by the teacher's love and affection, his character, his competence, and his moral commitment. A popular teacher becomes a model for his students. The students try to follow their teacher in his manners, costumes, etiquette, style of conversation and his get up. He is their ideal. A good and visionary teacher can play a prominent role in making bright future of his students.

The Delors Commission states that, "If it is to succeed in its tasks, education must be organized around four fundamental types of learning which throughout a person life will in a way be pillars of knowledge: learning to know, that is , acquiring the instruments of understanding; learning to do so as to be able to act creatively on one's environment; learning to live together so as to participate and cooperate with other people in all human activities; and Learning to be, an essential progression which proceeds from the previous three."

In 21st century, the role of education has been changed, therefore role of teacher also changed. Education, as understood conventionally, is synonymous to school wherein information is imparted from prescribed textbooks within the four walls of the classroom by a teacher who remains a dispenser, 'future' of the child takes a centre stage and 'present' of the child is excluded. Due to this, education has, for long, remained as an isolated activity which does not encourage children to link knowledge with their lives in any organic manner.

In such a utilitarian and institutionalized system of education, the teacher is a titular head and mere transactor of information, that, too in a prescribed manner. When the system of Education projects schools as centers for 'Teaching' instead of 'Learning', then the teacher is definitely, limiting his role within the periphery of 'teaching'. Teacher is expected to 'Finish' the prescribed syllabi using readymade textbooks.

Traditionally speaking, the teacher assumes a centre stage position as a source of knowledge, as a custodian and manager of all teaching-learning processes.

Reasons for Adopting New Roles of the Teacher

The role of the teacher in present learning society has become very challenging, complex and multi- faceted on account of following reasons:

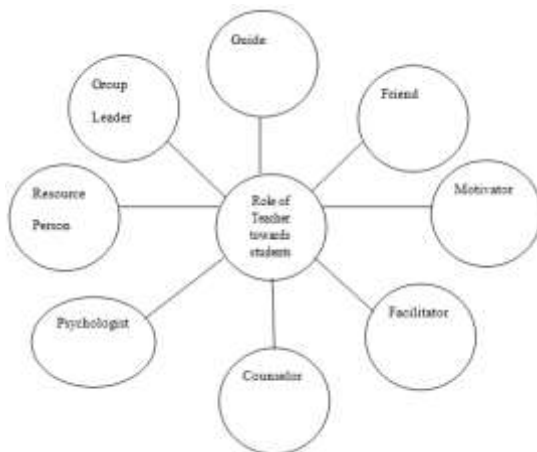
- There is explosion of knowledge
- Explosion of expectations
- Explosion of specialization



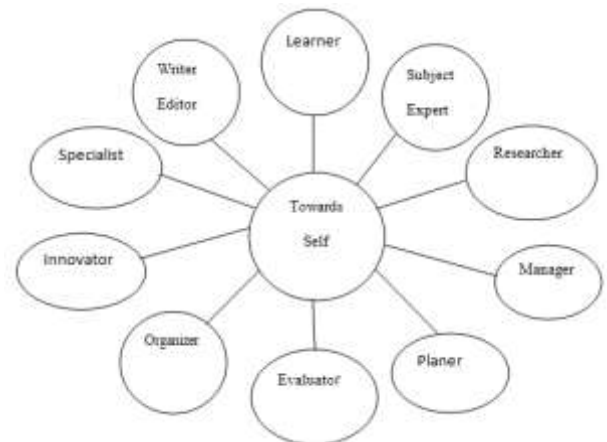
- Explosion of population
- Explosion of Technology
- Explosion of frustrations
- Explosion of problems along with this the problems or challenges pertaining to class/caste/religion conflicts, impact of science and technology and issues of liberalization, privatization and globalization have put in tremendous pressure for change upon education, learner, teaching- learning process and role of teachers.

In 21st century there is explosion of information, knowledge and students of this society has the sea of information on the click of the mouse. Therefore teacher has to play multiple roles such as Guide, Friend, Motivator, Facilitator, Counselor, Psychologist, Resource person, Group Leader. Teacher should be aware about development of own profession therefore he should be lifelong learner. He should be competent to use new technology. Teacher has to play following roles.

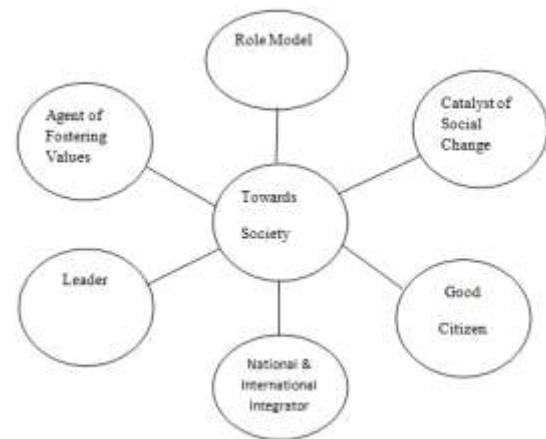
Towards Students:



1.1 Towards Self and Profession



2.3 Towards Society



2. Towards New Educational Technology

2.1 Expert in using Educational Technology

2.2 Facilitator of Computer Literacy

3. Being an effective teacher

To create effectiveness, to become an effective teacher one has to put extra efforts into one's classroom performance. He/she has to have those add on skills & abilities which helps him/her in not only teaching the students but also influence them and motivate them & make them achievers in their life, there by adding a brand to his/her institute by producing achievers.

As we play different roles in different situation, places same way teacher in this society has to play different roles. These roles change according to the nature of work, place and situation. But these roles are inter linked with each other. There is not a water tight compartment in these roles.



The National Curriculum Framework (2005) highlights the key role of the teacher as a facilitator and being supportive to learning in order to enable learners to discover their talent and to realize their physical and intellectual potentialities to the fullest. In this context, the teacher has to play the role of reflective practitioner, one who would follow the constructivist approach to pedagogy. Curriculum would, thus, emerge from the learner needs instead of being predetermined. It also stated that the teacher should be an active agent to aid the child in knowledge construction by acting on his social and physical environment.

What teachers do inside and outside their classroom will substantially help the young, not only to face the future with confidence but to build it with purpose and responsibility.

We can conclude that diversification of the roles of teacher need:

- Attracting more talented and adequately academically and professionally prepared person to the teaching profession.
- Motivation and avenues for continuous up gradation of one's academic and professional competencies.
- Availability of school conditions which ensure optimal and effective functioning of teachers.
- Effective management and organization of educational effort.
- Recognition by the society of the significance of the roles that teacher perform.
- Community support to schooling.

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