

Survival of The Fittest and Teacher- A Torn Asunder

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ABSTRACT

This paper focuses on the current challenges of teachers and self-consciousness of teachers. The present scenario of teaching-learning process is becoming heuristic and extensive in dimension. In this type of teaching-learning situations, only capable and fittest teachers can survive. But it is also a fact that modern teacher is becoming intellectually outdated and psychologically unfit and loss his self-consciousness due to social, economic and professional pressures. Lack of harmony between teaching profession and financial needs in this materialistic world has hit him deep inside and make him nothing less than a torn asunder. Only a path of knowledge and perfect training illuminated with professional skills and human values will lead him to true growth and development and make him professionally fittest and psychologically sound. The potential role of professional colleges in teacher preparation and professional development is the basic need.

1. Introduction

A teacher has professional knowledge and skills gained through formal preparation and experience. Teachers provide personal caring service to students by diagnosing their needs. Teachers plan, select, use methods and evaluation procedures to promote learning. The process of teaching includes understanding and adhering to legal and legislated frameworks and policies; identifying and responding to student learning needs; providing effective and responsive instruction; assessing and communicating student learning; developing and maintaining a safe, respectful environment conducive to student learning; establishing and maintaining professional relationships; and engaging in reflective professional practice. This process must be free of discriminatory practices and should contribute to the holistic development of students who are actively engaged, responsible and contributing members of a democratic society. The educational interests of students are best served by teachers who practise under conditions that enable them to exercise professional judgment. Teachers have a right to participate in all decisions that affect them or their work, and have a corresponding responsibility to provide informed leadership in matters related to their professional practice.

2. Teacher- a torn asunder

A teacher's responsibility is great. A teacher sacrifices his family life to help students succeed. A teacher's typical day involves being at school by 8.00 am. He/she works through until 3.00 pm and then do planning and marking, sometimes working till midnight. This is not sustainable.

Today, Teacher is deprived in awareness of self and is becoming psychologically unfit and nothing more than a torn asunder because of:

- Struggle with financial needs
- Over work load
- Faulty educational policies

- Pressure of Teacher Eligibility Tests (which cannot test teaching aptitude)
- Official/ professional pressure
- Unsatisfactory social structure (negligence of value education system)
- Loss of status of the teaching profession
- Pressure of privatization of education
- Weakened social status (fighting with the self)

Besides the above pressures faced by teachers, now a days, teachers end up feeling guilty that they are not doing enough for students because of overcrowded classrooms. In many schools, class consists of more than 40 students and it is much harder to form decent relationships with them and know their needs, including their strengths and weaknesses. Marking also suffers with larger cohorts as teachers have to mark their students' work regularly and it is not possible in case of overcrowded classrooms.

In private institutions, teachers have to do clerical work also. They don't have time to think and analyse their teaching. At home, teachers have their family responsibilities. During this very busy schedule of the whole day, they have to perform their role in social circle also. So they are expected to fulfil the expectations of the students, authorities, family and society. If a teacher cannot fulfil these expectations up to some extent, then a huge amount of physical, psychological and social pressure is waiting for him.

And because of these pressures, teacher has started giving more importance to the worldly things and going away from nature and his self. Modern teacher has no time to talk with the great personality i.e. the self.

3. Survival of the fittest

An intellectually updated and psychologically fit teacher can survive among these pressures and return successfully. Teacher has to perform many duties because the present scenario of teaching- learning process is becoming very busy:

Satisfying the curiosity of all students	Adventurous journey through teaching	Following psychological principles	Establishing and maintaining professional relationships
Developing a safe and respectful environment conducive to student learning	Teaching learning process		Providing effective and responsive instruction
Creating heuristic environment			Evaluation procedures designed to promote learning.
Caring service to students	Diagnosing students' needs	Planning, selecting and using methods	*.....

*..... Leaving scope for the students to proceed independently.

So we can say that the present scenario of teaching-learning process is becoming heuristic and extensive in dimension. In these teaching-learning situations, only capable and fittest teachers can survive.

If we are talking about teacher's consciousness towards his self, life and society, then he is lacking in this area also. Human consciousness is the most important human quality and advanced event in the history of evaluation. It is related to feelings of self-awareness and self-existence. Consciousness is not programmable. A teacher is a special creation of God. A teacher is a biological, social and intellectual being. Teacher's qualities justify him as superior, enlightened, psychologically balanced and advanced race over living species.

Teachers' Qualities are:

- Consciousness: belief in self-existence
- Emotions: intrinsic feeling like happiness, joy
- Motivation: force governing his actions
- Creativity: generation of new idea and object
- Decision making: selection of an alternative

It is clear that in the present time, teachers are lacking in these qualities that is why they feel pressure and lacking satisfaction.

4. Recommendations

Government policies should be planned by keeping in mind the root of educational system i.e. teacher. Centre government should create some pressure on state governments to give salary packages according to the recommendations of Pay Commissions.

Teachers should create other areas of income to satisfy their economical needs. Today, the pocket of a middle class

man decides his mental, physical and social status. So the proper planning and budgeting of income and expenditure is must.

As a teacher, don't let your hobbies fade away. A teacher must have time management ability. He should spare some time to have a talk with himself one in day.

Pre-service teacher education should train the teachers to handle the difficult situations and maintain psychological balance. In-service teacher education through seminars, conferences, extension lectures should develop the ability to create harmony between materialistic needs and psychological or spiritual satisfaction.

For attaining psychological satisfaction and relaxation, teacher should practice the Indian norms of life- **simple living and high thinking**.

For this, Sri Aurobindo Ghosh (*Bases of Yoga*) mentioned four practices:

Quiet is a condition when there is no restlessness or disturbance.

Calm is still, unmoved condition when no disturbances can effect- it is less negative condition than quiet.

Peace is a still more positive condition. It is a sense of settled and harmonious rest and deliverance.

Silence is a state in which there is either no movement of the mind or vital or else a great stillness which no surface movement can pierce or alter.

So it is recommended that only a path of knowledge illuminated with professional skills and values will lead to true development of teachers and enrichment of teaching-learning climate. The potential role of professional colleges in teacher preparation and professional development is the major need of the time.

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