

TEACHER EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF SKILLS

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Abstract : Teachers should select and formulate the academic activities that motivate the children to learn, which gradually gets reinforced to make them efficient learners. Teacher education is meant to prepare those teachers which are not only efficient in pedagogy of teaching but also develop lots of thinking, efforts and innovation, enriched learning experiences. It equips them with knowledge and various skills which lead them to a satisfactory life. But the missing link is the lack of installation of values, habits and various skills that can empower teachers to play pivotal role in progress of the nation. Skill based teacher education can work as a bridge fill this gap. Let more and more dedicated good gurus come into the teaching scenario, more than that let more and more discipline be formed and above all let best society be established.

Index Terms - teacher, teacher education, skills, development

INTRODUCTION

The world of parents and the world of teachers have a greater influence on the personality, attitude, behaviour and value development of the child, especially in its formative years. These years of the child spent in the school are extremely ideal moulding age because knowledge and many life skills can be easily installed in them and they can be empowered to have a meaningful and enriched life. A teacher acts as facilitators of good learning and builder of worthy habits, skills and characters. He/she unlike a sculptor has to handle growing, developing human beings with a heart and mind. So, a great responsibility has been placed in the hands of the teachers, which cannot be denied. But the responsibility of making such teachers is comes on the shoulders of teacher education.

Teacher education

Teacher education deals with to the policies, procedures and provision which are designed to equip prospective teachers with knowledge, attitude, behaviour and skills they need to perform the task of teaching to the students effectively. Thus role of teacher education in inculcating all those skills among the prospective teachers which help him/her to be good and effective teachers is very important. In other words, teacher education has been established for the preparation of teachers. It makes such teachers which acts as not only the guide of the student but also a friend and philosopher to him.

Teacher education tries to develop a teacher with following primary functions:

- to transmit the knowledge that has been accumulated over the ages
- to guide the students to assimilate the knowledge, actualize into their life experiences
- to help the young citizens to have better tomorrow
- to help them out to develop all the skills to and their capabilities needed for a happy life.

Thus the role of a teacher is very crucial. He/she need to impart a meaningful shape to the child's life by transforming knowledge and life skills. There are number of skills which a teacher needs to be such teacher which can help the students to develop in a way so that they can live a happy and meaningful life. In brief, Teacher education helps the prospective teachers to encompass teaching skills, sound pedagogical theory and develop professional skills. An amalgamation of teaching skills, pedagogical theory and professional skills would serve to create the right knowledge, attitude and skills in teachers, thus promoting holistic development. But other than these skills teacher education develops many other skills among the teachers very effectively.

The skills being developed by teacher education are as follows:

Effective Teaching skills:

As teacher education focuses on pedagogy of teaching, first function it serves is to develop many teaching skills. Teaching skills are those skills which can help him/her to convey the subject matter effectively. There are number of skills to be a good teacher like:

- Questioning skills
- Explaining skills
- Stimulus variation skills
- Reinforcement skills
- Motivation skills
- Demonstration skills
- Experimentation skills
- Black board writing skills

Self learning skills

'A good teacher is a good learner also'. He/she should have the habit of self learning. As self learning is a skill by itself. Teacher education promotes skill of self learning among prospective teachers. With the command of this skill they make reading a routine of their life which further enhance their knowledge as well as make proper use of the leisure time. It helps to develop following skills while developing self learning skills:

- Lecture note taking skills
- Reading skills
- Review or revision skills
- Reading skills
- Project work skill

Critical thinking and problem solving skills

A problem occurs in a situation in which a felt difficulty to act is realized. It is a difficulty that is clearly present and recognized by the thinker. It may be purely mental, physical and may involve manipulation of data. To solve the problem, one needs some ways which are helpful in solving the problem. Critical thinking refers to the ability to analyze information objectively and make reasoned judgment. It helps to solve the problems comes during getting education as well as in real life situation. A person who can think critically can solve the problems in a better way and take decision immediately and correctly. Teacher education helps its prospective teachers to develop both these skills to deal the classroom as well as real life situations.

Communication skills

There continues to be an emphasis on the ability to communicate. In the digital age, however, we have access to a wide variety of new ways to communicate from video-conferencing to social media. Thus for a teacher it is very important to be good at communication skills. He/she has to deal with many students in the life, so he/she has to know how to communicate knowledge, skills, feelings and ideas to the students. Prospective teachers are trained to be at communication during teacher education in forms of lots of discussions, seminars, allocution, and debate etc.

Technology skills

In the digital age, technology is everywhere. Schools are also adapting to this change. The students required or taught to learn technology efficiently. Moreover, there are many changes in technology at every moment. Thus, need to learn technology is emphasized. Teacher education focuses on learning technology skills also that make the teacher techno savvy.

Soft Skills

Soft skills refer to those interpersonal skills and characteristic traits that describe one's relationship with other people, also called people skills. On the workplace, for a teacher, along with the knowledge and occupational skills, soft skills are also needed to develop so that good relationship between student-teacher can be developed. This relationship then guides the students indirectly that how the relationship with others should be maintained. Teacher education trains the prospective teachers to be good at soft skills like:

- Good manners
- Optimism
- Common sense
- Sense of humor
- Empathy
- Ability to collaborate
- Situational awareness
- Adaptability

Team working skills

Team is a group of people working together to achieve a goal. In this world of competition, we are being self centered and learn to work for self development only. But, human being is a social animal, and cannot live alone. We have to depend upon others for one or other task. Thus need to work in a group as team. To be a good team member some skills are needed. While giving projects and discussions team working skills are developed in prospective teachers.

Global citizenship

Global citizen is someone who identifies with being part of an emerging world community and whose actions contribute to building this community's values and practices. With this era of digital connectivity figurative distances between people are lessening more and more, while global economies binding different nations closer and closer together, it is increasingly difficult for even the most resistant to ignore or not accept that we are all citizens of the same planet and must work together to ensure its continuance as a livable place. Thus teacher education gives the idea of global citizenship via giving examples of global connectivity and many other ways and help the students to understand their place in the world around them.

Fostering Good Habits

Teacher education also open the ways to develop good habits among prospective teachers and hence among the children in many ways. It helps in developing good habits that help in enhancing the life value like:

- Habit of thinking
- Habit of good listening
- Habit of organized self study
- Discipline for practicing a positive living
- Habit of good reading

- Habit of sharing and caring

Life skills

A good teacher helps the students to explore the ways and techniques to make healthy lifestyle choices and optimum physical, social and psychological well being depending on the culture of that specific area. He/she can emphasize different specific abilities and skills to get enjoyment of life through them. The life skills that a teacher can develop during teaching other than the above are:

- Social values and norms
- Knowing the self
- Empathy
- Handling emotions
- Management skills
- Creativity and imagination skills

Conclusion

One of the common criticisms of the existing education system is that it tends to be bookish and detached from real life. Most of the education seems to be focused on mere cognitive skills revolving around rote learning of the content of subjects. But if we want to prepare our children to cope up with the society they live in, teacher must have a reasonably clear idea of skills and abilities that children need to be helped to develop. Teacher education helps its prospective and in-service teachers to have a clear vision about what they are supposed to teach and in which manner they can best develop those skills among the students which can prepare them to be good teacher, good citizen, and above all good person who stimulate many others (students) to be good and lead a happy meaningful life.

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