

# THE ROLE OF A TEACHER IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN CHANGING TIMES.

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## ABSTRACT

The modern teachers have a very vital role to play in imparting the latest knowledge to the students to enable them to face the challenges of the competitive world. The present study emphasizes on college teachers and college students relating to higher education. College teachers can provide practical knowledge and encourage students towards self-employment. In the rapidly changing economic situation, there is a need to focus on skill development among the young students. Make-in India is a new concept which has induced the higher education to concentrate on skill development. This campaign was launched to encourage companies to manufacture products in India only. So this has in turn compelled higher educational institutions to produce skilled young manpower to cater to the changing needs of the industries searching for required skills. This responsibility is the responsibility of college teachers working in Higher educational institutions. The new role of a college teacher is unquestionable. In the changing times, the college teacher is required to support all stake holders of the educational system such as the students, the parents, the society and the governing bodies. The Globalization has posed so many challenges before the teacher. He has to play multi-roles as a friend, guide, philosopher, facilitator, controller, and organizer instructor and so on. He has a vital role to play in molding the individual development of a student in the present globalised era.

**(Key words: higher education, the role of a modern teacher, cope-up, global society, make-in-India, skill development)**

## 1. INTRODUCTION:

The noblest profession on the earth is the profession of a 'teacher'. The very crucial role of a teacher is shaping the future of a country. Undoubtedly, a teacher is the strength of any country. The students regard him as their role-model. A teacher is indispensable for an educational institution and a country as a whole. Today's teacher is the principal motivating force of transformation of democratic society. He is the key player who significantly influence the student community and strengthening then to build a healthy society. An efficient teacher no doubt transforms the people who are said to be stigmas in the society(Akhila Vijayan,2012)

There has been a mention even in history of ancient period. He was called 'Guru in those days. Dronacharya, Bheeshma, Parasuram are the model examples for teachers in Indian epics called Ramayana and Mahabharata. If we take the present reference Dr. Radhakrishna stands as a model for the students. He is also regarded as the

teacher of teachers. In the modern educational scenario, the teacher not only imparts knowledge to the students but also acts as a designer of the future life of those young minds. The modern teacher is required to understand his own role and responsibility with a great degree of patience. Today, a teacher to be successful in his endeavor, should have passion towards his profession and proficiency over his subjects and sufficient ability to understand his way of teaching, teaching methodologies, approaches and valid evaluation methods. Moreover, he should also be capable of understanding the psychology of his students and skillful in motivating them towards their goals. A teacher who is accountable for a pupil with specific needs is responsible for designing, supervising and assessing the educational program for the student. In this article, the author has tried to answer some crucial questions and portrays vital circumstances on the basis of his observations since who has been working from so many years in the college education.:-

1. Does the existing education structure meet the expectations of the educational establishment, society and the challenges of the modern scenario?
2. What is the specialized role of a teacher in the globalised era-Indian perspective.
3. Is there any special way of preparing teachers to work in colleges?
4. What is the role a college teacher in this 21<sup>st</sup> Century?
5. What are the issues of Higher-Education at present?

## 2. GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

1. To analyse the role of a teacher in the changing education scenario.
2. To understand the challenges before a college teacher.
3. To study the effectiveness of a teacher in molding the students in changing times
4. To study the overall impact of college teachers in higher education.

## 3. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

India's higher education is second largest education system after the USA, in the world. The development of higher education is presenting a picture of light and shade. It has been discovered that there is a massive production of graduates. But there is a lack of employability. It is rightly viewed that in the garb of quantitative success, there is a qualitative failure in higher education (Zeenat.S.Shafi, 2001). The problems of higher education must be properly tackled to respond to the educational needs of masses. In this backdrop, the concern is now to peep into the real role of a college teacher to bring about changes in the system. Today's teachers are still not confident of deal with with the challenges of the modern fast developing world. The author desires to depict the procedure of college teacher's advancement in Karnataka and also assesses the impact on the principles and quality of college work. The main aim of the author in this article is to analyze the complexity of professional preparation of college teachers and also attempts to answer the question how the work preparation of teachers should be to be successful in dealing with the challenges of modern education system and also the challenges from the society. The author desires to reply to another crucial

question that who has to support the teacher and what type of support he is to be given while accomplishing his task especially of motivating the students to enable them to cope-up with the challenges of the global society.

#### 4. METHODOLOGY:

Since the study is descriptive in nature, the study has been conducted based on the secondary data from various journals, articles Ph.Ds (Published and unpublished), reports of various scholars and universities. Analysis has been made on the basis simple table and respective graphs wherever found necessary for the present study.

#### 5. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION:

##### 1. Does the existing education structure meet the expectations of the educational establishment, society and the challenges of the modern scenario?

There is a great responsibility on the part of the society to make investment in education and arrange for the proper training to those teachers who are capable of meeting the demands of the stakeholders of the education system like focusing on the personality development of the students along with their academics and winning the confidence of the parents who extremely depend on the teachers for their children and the society which is expecting the qualitative citizens for building healthy society. The modern college teacher should prepare his environment that will allow him for the adaptation to the constantly changing situation in the best possible way. In this background, as profoundly expressed by Beattie (1995) Graham and Pelps (2003) 'the ongoing growth of teacher's knowledge and skills, both in the form of structured training and self-governing training, which aims at improving teacher's practical skills and abilities is immensely important. There is a scarcity of qualified people in certain disciplines especially Information and technology. It clearly indicates that no due importance has been given to the programmes that are required by the world of work. The major reason for the low-standard of education and lack of relevance of the programmes is ill-equipped universities and colleges.

##### 1. What is the specialized role of a teacher in the globalised era-Indian perspective.

Globalisation has been an element of social public discussion (Elizabeth Helen Essary,2007).Therefore, it has a direct bearing on the endeavors of the educational institutions. Every teacher is required to have a pedagogical training.. The globalization forces the Higher educational institutions to prepare the students to act approaching social roles and especially for valuable performance in a modern democratic society with particular focus on the labour market. It is a challenge on the educational institute to prepare the students with appropriate knowledge and skills which must be recognized as understanding the reality with personal experiences and emotional reactions with the surrounding world of objects and specific situations.The higher education has a great role to play in designing the curriculum for boosting the skill development of our proposed young human resource. Reportts have indicated that only 11 % to 12% of the total workforce is getting some kind of skill-training. Our country, India has been facing a severe shortage of well-trained and skilled man-power. This is due to the skewed

education system prevailing and also existing infrastructure is irrelevant to the requirements of the industries today.

## 2. Is there any special way of preparing teachers to work in colleges?

Is there any specific way of preparing for teaching to fulfill the roles and tasks as discussed earlier.? Is there any training for teachers to enable them to tackle their tasks in their profession.? As a linkage of the education system, a teacher understands the structure of the college system and communal relations and the mechanism governing the system. The teacher should know the challenges he has to face while exercising his duty based on the individual levels and stages of education. So, it is necessary to make the teachers clearly understand the education mechanism and the responsibilities to be held. On the analysis of the profiles of the different teachers working in colleges and in universities it is found out that most of the teachers don't have any preparation for their work. They are unaware of their tasks and obligations. They are not so confident of defining their requirements which they should focus on. Furthermore, they are not aware of the regulations of the educational policy of their own country. In addition, they don't have any idea about the education system existing in other countries of the world. Today, we rarely come across such teachers who are capable of generating innovative strategies and methods of teaching and who keep on progressing their methodological skills. The majority of the teachers are lacking a very efficient procedural preparation and excellent skills of making use of the technological teaching resources. Though there are excellent talks about the advancement of skills and abilities of teachers, they don't have full awareness of their own level of procedural work and needs in this respect and also they are usually not able to handle the basic college records (class register, grades records, etc) The teacher should adopt various innovatives in their teaching method such as Role-plays or demonstrations which long-lasting effects. Another strategy to make the teaching effective is Story telling. It is an art and if the teacher tells message-oriented good stories, then the teaching will be more interesting and it draws attention of the students.

## 4. What is the role of a college teacher in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?

The 21st century role of a teacher can be portrayed as below:

1. A teacher should act as a facilitator to the students to prospect for the future.
2. He should also act as a creator of productive class room environment to inculcate the relevant skills
3. He should be the controller of the class room. He has to be the center of focus and thereby inspire students with their expertise.
4. He, as a prompter should encourage the students by tactfully pushing them when they literally 'lost for words'
5. He should act as a good organizer by directing the students what they should do next. This role of a teacher is very vital and the very success of many activities rely on good organization.

As a great director, teacher transmits the knowledge, experience, skills and abilities from one generation to another generation through the students' community. The primary task of a teacher is no doubt to teach or impart

knowledge to the students but at the same time he plays multi- roles as a friend, philosopher ,guide, facilitator,controller,organizer,architect parent and so on.

## 5. What are the issues of higher education at present?

India's higher education is second largest education system after the USA, in the world. The development of higher education is presenting a picture of light and shade. It has been discovered that there is a massive production of graduates. But there is a lack of employability. It is rightly viewed that in the garb of quantitative success, there is a qualitative failure in higher education( Zeenat.S.Shafi,2001). The problems of higher education must be properly tackled to respond to the educational needs of masses. In this backdrop, the concern is now to peep into the real role of a college teacher to bring about changes in the system. Since independence, there has been a remarkable changes in the growth of higher education. During 1947 there were only 18 universities in India. Now it has grown up to 230 including 40 deemed universities. Still there are some crucial issues:

1. Quality of higher education is still to be standardized
2. Relevancy in programme designing is ignored
3. The higher education is not in line with the educational needs of the masses.
4. It has not done anything to about 38% of the people who are living under the poverty line
5. No accessibility of valuable education to the remote areas of the country
6. Funding option for the students is rather limited.

In conclusion we can say today's teacher desirous to be successful in his endeavor, should have passion towards his profession and proficiency over his subjects and ample ability to understand his way of teaching ,teaching methodologies, approaches and valid evaluation methods. For this proper teacher training programmes have to be designed in higher education. But as of now ,there is no structured mechanism of teachers' education for college teachers. On ground of educational tasks in the contemorrays world, this is becoming extremely serious and shocking. The new role of a college teacher is unquestionable. In the changing times, the college teacher is required to support all stake holders of the educational system such as the students, the parents, the society and the governing bodies. The Globalization has posed so many challenges before the teacher. He has a multi-roles to play as a friend, guide, philosopher, facilitator, controller, and organizer instructor and so on. in molding the individual progress of a student in the present globalised era.

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