

The Real Scenano of Higher Education

Ms. Tripti Dubey

Generally the word education is used for formal methods of education such as school, college, University. Education system has many stages such as preprimary, primary, secondary schools and colleges and universities. The teacher's role is also differ from one stage of education to another. Teacher's role in primary school is not equivalent to the role of higher education. It is important to keep an eye on the way the teacher try to impart education. The role of teacher are as significant as the role of education. They are the torch bearer who can work wonders by dispelling the intellectual and mental darkness. They are the source of inspirations. The main goal of teachers is to build our youth for future. This poses a special responsibility on the teachers at all fields of education. Dr. Radhakrishnan (1949) in the report of the University Education Commission has aptly observed, "The Teacher's place in society is of vital importance. He acts as the pivot for the transmission of intellectual traditions and technical skills from generation to generation and helps to keep the lamp of civilization burning. He not only guides individual, but also, so to say, the destiny of the nation." (2003, p 89)

A person is born with some learning instinct. Some are gifted with sharp intellect to grasp any kind of knowledge. Some are slow learners where as there are many who are lazy or idle enough as far as learning is concerned. The aim of education should be to motivate and encourage the learners to widen their knowledge. Once they are interested in the learning activity they should also be guided how to produce on the path of progress and thus the teachers play an important part not only in creating a desire to learn but also to sustain learner's interest in the activity of learning more and more. Here comes the need (for teaching) of attracting learners in the orbit of knowledge and to kindle the spark of sustained

interests in accumulating knowledge to the extent of intensity and perfection. Mere superficial knowledge does not take a person to a great distance, there is always a danger of getting exposed, only who have sound and profound knowledge can make a mark on others. So the teachers should avoid the ambiguity and inculcate among the learners the habit of clarity. Teachers should lead learners safely out of the labyrinth of complexities and show him the enlightened path. This task can be done by one who himself/herself has the confidence and clarity of the subject.

Teachers' role and responsibility vary through ages and teachers are required to perform various functions according to the needs and requirements at different stages of education. The functions are: teaching, class management and planning of lesson, evaluation of student performance, research activities, extension activities, motivation, sustaining the interests, psychological impact.

Teaching is the prime responsibility of a teacher in all stages of education, especially in higher education where a great deal of knowledge is given to students. Teaching is a complicated process involving artistic skills and responsibility. Teachers should not only acquire knowledge but also have the mastery in their subjects. There are vital and general principles for teachers need to be followed at every stages of education. These principles are as follow:

- *From known to unknown:* "The past experience serves as the foothold for the new ones." A good teacher must recall the students' prior knowledge and lead them towards newness. Teacher must try to remind known things and let them feel with the subject matter

very familiar and then enable them to move ahead from known to unknown.

- *From simple to complex:* it will be the worst if one teaches direct complex things to their students. Simple things attract student's attention. If we start from complex, will make them aversive. So the teacher should start from simple to complex.

- *From whole to part:* Psychologist here proved that whole approach is superior to part approach. Parts do not give a comprehensive and meaningful idea, however whole develops better and perfect understanding in students.

- *From concrete to abstract:* Undoubtedly a concrete matter much more understood than that of abstract one. A perfect teacher therefore presents facts from concrete objects, activities and examples, Congruently students can clutch the ideas without any hurdle.

- *From particular to general:* teachers should present particular facts, figures and examples first and then proceed to teach the general materials.

- *From empirical to rational:* Direct logical materials are hard to understand. Rational comprehension requires a solid mental ability which cannot be achieved all of sudden. A continuous practice is, in demand for this. So a teacher must try to teach his her students to observe their surround and learn from day-to-day life.

- *From thesis to synthesis:* living practical life makes the mind bright. So a teacher must be so practical that he/she can make students sensible. Theoretical approach will not make students to be intelligent.

Teaching is not one way process. It is not only the transformation of knowledge from one

generation to another. It also has an aim to inbuilt the power of critical and creative thinking in students. As Raja and Fernandes say:

Teaching at the higher education level is required not only to impart in-depth, up to date and relevant knowledge of the subject concerned to the student, but also to develop in him critical and analytical abilities as well as the capability to relate knowledge so received to real life situation.

Education has also been becoming 'learner and learning centered' instead of being 'teacher and teaching centered'. The whole emphasis has been given on the way a teacher teaches. If a teacher uses various methods and techniques, he can better transform the knowledge to the next generation. No single method can be used all the time and with all subjects. And all these methods and techniques demand creative efforts. There are some techniques like audio-visual programmes, radio, educational TV programmes, maps, charts, flash cards etc. should be used in teaching to make learning active and easy.

Class management and lesson planning skills are very essential for teachers and all teachers should acquire such skills. Before going into the classroom, teachers should go through the syllabus, make unit plan how to teach, use proper and appropriate methods and techniques so that students can get the whole idea about the subject concerned. But this is not enough. Assessment of students is the process which tells their performance. As The NPE, 1986 has stated, "assessment of performance is an integral part of any process of learning and teaching. As part of sound education strategy, examination should be employed to bring about qualitative strategy/

improvements in the education." (1986, p. 24)

Besides teaching, teachers are involved in research activities. Research activities may help teachers not only in generating knowledge but also gives a scientific bent of mind and self-confidence in a particular field. It is being realized that teachers of Higher Education cannot do justice to their role if they are not adequately involved in the day to day social problems. Extension activities therefore have been taken as an important dimension to the teacher's role. By participating in the developmental activities the teachers may help to achieve the goal of developed nation. Most of the time teachers are the role model of their students. They motivate students to achieve their goal seriously and sincerely.

Higher Education vs. Hire the Education

There are two concepts as far as education and especially higher education is concerned, some learners really want to enhance their ability to cope up with latest trends of knowledge. On the other hand there are many who just study for the sake of getting degree or certificate or testimonial to grab a suitable lucrative job to earn their livelihood. It is the second category of people who try to *hire* education to go higher on the pyramid/ ladder of success. They apply different tactics to rise in life. Education for them is only the means to go ahead on the path of material progress.

Education should aim at imparting values and the aim of higher education should to enrich the quality of a human being to rid him off all kinds of impurities and imperfections. It should not misguide him for being calculative and manipulative. Therefore, instead of hiring for one's material progress, the learners as well as

teachers should ensure higher qualities and values in all persons to go for higher education. The aim of higher education should inculcate nobility besides giving more and more knowledge. But now a days, corruption has taken place in all walks of life. And education system could not remain untouched from it. Consequently, education has become a business. People are buying and selling the degrees. Students do not come in the class and spend most of their time in canteen or doing another work. The absence of students makes teachers happy because they need not to enter in the class room. Nevertheless, students get first class result. Their knowledge is not according to their standard. This is the ground reality of higher education system. Students sometimes get degree of masters but when they are asked any question regarding their subject, they even do not know the ABC of their subject in which they are masters. So in present time people are earning their degrees. That's why the quality of education is being declined.

Education should aim at variety, clarity, precision and perfection. so, everyone should have some idea about the need of the hour. Instead of being jack of all trades, in or a person should not try to learn many things at the same time which is mostly in progress in present time. People are earning many degrees at a single time. They should concentrate on being perfect in the work which they are doing at a time. Sometimes students of higher education do not choose their course according to their wish. Parents compel them to study what they want and by doing so students do not maintain their interest in their course and they do not get perfection in their course which they have to choose for their profession.

Conclusion:

It is realized that as India had a golden past and a very rich heritage in the field of education. There were 'Gurukulas', which were run by a great scholars known as a 'Guru.' Education, at that time reached on its peak. But the whole system was disturbed by invaders and made education fragmented. The resources of knowledge were; Holistic Vedas, Upanishada, Epics etc. Rishis used to impart knowledge. The goals of education were; all-round development of humanity, self-realization, social obligation, preservation of knowledge, tolerance and self-control. Nalanda, Takshashila, were the great sources of higher education. These universities had international reputation. Later on Mughal came and affected the education of India. In this period the standard of education was pulled down. When Britishers came in India the education system got a vast change. Now the aim of education was to produce the class who would be Indian in blood and colour but English in taste, morals and intellect. But now-a-days the system of education is fully changed. Our education system has great improvement in the field of technology but in contrast it has loosened the values in which we were pioneer.

Today in India, education has become mere the means of employment. People are busy in making money. So the main goal and role of teachers should be to encourage students to move forward and make them learn our precious values.

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Asst. Professor
Dept. of English
Jain Vishva Bharati Institute, Ladnun

