

Teacher in a 21st century classroom

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Abstract: Traditional teaching is no longer sufficient to educate students for the 21st century. Teachers need to think about knowledge and education in new ways. Twenty-first century teachers need to be able to think about knowledge as a tool to do things with, rather than an object to be mastered. The focus is on helping students create knowledge, not just accumulate knowledge. It is no longer enough to “fill up” learners with the knowledge they will need for life: rather, learners need to learn how to learn. Acknowledging and dealing with complexity, uncertainty and diversity is also central to 21st century education, as is the ability to think at a “systems level”. If teachers do not have the opportunity to interact with the “big ideas” about what might need to be different in an education system for the 21st century, and why this is important, it is unlikely that there will be real change. Instead, new ways of thinking about education and learning are likely to be squeezed to fit the current system. New innovations will simply be adapted to fit what already happens. The task of the teacher in current era is not just to impart content based conceptual knowledge. Rather a teacher of the day has to deal with net generation who are equipped with information communication related knowledge and skills. In teaching and dealing with such type of generation the teacher of the day needs some special skills. So the image of the teacher has been changed from tradition to transformational. The present research intended to highlight the image of an effective teacher in 21st century classroom.

Keywords: Teacher, 21st century, interpersonal skills, professional skills

INTRODUCTION

Education and Training of the upcoming generation to cope up with the change has become a challenge for the educators as well as the parents. The present research intended to highlight the image of a teacher in 21st century classroom. The qualitative study was done to find out whether the expectations attached to the teacher's role are realistic or not. The demands of current era learner are very high. The main objectives of the study were to explore the needs and attributes of the 21st century and the skills that are essential for the teacher to work effectively in the class. Through the qualitative study some of the needs and attributes of the 21st century learner came in limelight such as curiosity and creativity, rational thinking and problem solving tactics, leadership skills and influence, effective interaction and conversational skills, examining and

manipulating information skills. To present effectively with these students some of the skills of the teacher along with having up to date knowledge were underscored such as honest, efficient, diligent, good communicator and a lifelong learner who is willing to go extra mile. Together with the changes, new *expectations appeared towards our schools*. Nowadays schools need to teach their learners how to gain information and how to select and use them. This happens so quickly that students learn how to use the Internet together with their teachers. Parents are involved in decision-making so they take part in the life of the school. It is no longer enough to send the kids to school in the morning, pick them up in the afternoon. Parents have to have a view of what is happening in the educational institution. The changes that took place in schools have *changed the roles of teachers*, too. In the past teachers used to be the major source of knowledge, the leader and educator of their students' school life. Teachers would organise after-school activities. They used to be the authority in the class and often took over the role of parents. Nowadays, teachers provide information and show their students how to tackle them. Although they are still considered to be a kind of leader in the class, they can be thought of as facilitators in the learning process. They are supporters rather than educators and also advisors towards parents. technology broadly understood has been transforming human life in one way or another for thousands of years. The mechanization of agriculture transformed the global labor market in the first half of the 20th century. But in the computer age, the pace of technological change is very rapid. And when essential daily tools can change in just five years, the impact over longer stretches can be profound. Many experts say that since the 1970s, new technologies, combined with demographic, political, and economic trends, have altered global work and social lives in ways that have significant consequences for today's young people.

Qualities of an Effective Teacher for 21st century

Professional knowledge

Having knowledge of the subject matter is not enough in this field. A teacher is a reservoir of knowledge that can be passed to anyone at any time. Professional knowledge is the awareness of the commitment she/he/has with the students. She/he is the role model for not only the students but also for the society they are living in. She/he knows the character she/he portrays has a deep impact on the student

Personal Qualities

Personal qualities make the teacher stand out in the crowd. The communication skills, the way he/she talks, emotions, honesty, intelligence, reliability, enthusiasm, curiosity and efficiency add beauty to her/his personality and compliment his/her effectiveness. Through these qualities she/she can establish an efficient and mutually beneficial working environment with the colleagues and students. This skill is attained with the passage of time and the experience in the field (Mc Evan, EK2002). Effective teachers liberate themselves from prescribed teaching materials and develop customized tasks for their students. They do not rely upon only the regular teaching methodologies rather they become self-sufficient in efficiently and effectively controlling and handling time to time changing situations.

Instructional Effectiveness

An effective teacher has the ability to teach well; she possesses an excellent degree of versatility along with a lot of experience over her techniques. She applies one teaching strategies on a particular group of students and get the maximum response but at the same time. She is mentally prepared that the same strategy would be a night mare on the other group. She is capable enough to teach one lesson with a variety of methodologies.

Good Communicator

One of the very important qualities of an effective teacher. It is a bit tricky one as teacher gets her/his feedback immediately. This characteristic spreads among the staff members and the management like a jungle fire through students and their parents. As all of us know that communication is not always done through words. The nonverbal communication which is also known as the body language does count a lot. An effective teacher interacts with a child physically and mentally; she/he makes them learn what emotions are by being affectionate with them. She/he is responsible for overall personality development of the children. Their sound intellectual, emotional, physical and social developments are the outcomes of her/his tremendous efforts throughout the teaching- learning process. "A teacher is a complete person within; curious about her students feelings, passionate, sociable, loveable and super comprehensive" (UNESCO 1996).

Willing to go extra mile

Such teachers never think of doing the work they are paid for. They are always willing to go out of the way, put in all of their energies and time. They try to do their best for their students to make them feel comfortable, understand and reproduce what they are taught. Her parental behavior makes her do every impossible thing for her students. Well aware of the psychology of the children she resolves all their conflicts amicably.

Life- long learner

Teaching-learning process is a lifelong process. Along with the students the teachers are themselves learning throughout their teaching career. Good teachers are always in search of the activities that help them in their professional development.

The attributes of 21st century classroom

We need at least seven skills for 21st century classroom. These are:

- Rational thinking and problem solving tactics
- Collaboration across social circles and networks
- Leadership skills and influence
- Adaptability skills
- Efforts and Entrepreneurialism
- Effective interaction and conversational skills
- Examining and Manipulating information skills
- Curiosity and creativity

Skills required for a teacher to present effectively in a 21st century classroom

Managing a 21st century classroom is a challenging task for the teachers. The knowledge with which they graduated to become a teacher has become insufficient now. They need to keep them updated with the fast paced world.

Teaching profession needs a diversified set of skills. Teachers need to have broad horizons to cope up with tremendous era of science and technology. The following holistic and student centered model by Andrew Churches shows the characteristics of the 21st century teachers:

1. Teacher as a role-model
2. Teacher as a motivator

3. Teacher as a facilitators
4. Teacher as a leader
5. Teacher as a co-learner
6. Teacher as an adaptor
7. Teacher as a visionary

CONCLUSION

This article was written in order to highlight the educational trends all of the 21st century. The fast paced world is moving towards development and progress of new technology. After every 15 days a new product is invented and after every 15 seconds a new web site is launched. This is the speed of progression and advancement of the 21st century.

Education and training of the upcoming generation to cope up with the change has become a challenge for the educators as well as the parents. Educators and teachers are keeping themselves abreast with the advancement, expansion and growth. Teachers' competence and educational standards are being promoted to highest degree. Human Mind consists of a set of multiple intelligences (Howard Gardner and et al) namely: Linguistic Intelligence, Bodily Kinesthetic Intelligence, Interpersonal and intrapersonal Intelligence, Naturalistic Intelligence, logical mathematical Intelligence, visual-spatial intelligence, existential intelligence and musical intelligence. Student's mind is a combination of all these intelligences and one, two or more of these intelligences, however are stronger than the others making the student excel in that respective fields.

SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Many national and international organizations are working day and night to empower the teachers of India. There is a grave need to make the teachers aware of the importance of enhancing and improving their professional skills.
- Teachers may attend In service Teachers Training Programs and Continuous professional Development programs. They may realize that it is an essential component of their professional career.
- More programs to improve the quality of the teachers in which their personality development is focused may be introduced.
- Mastery over the subject; ability to adjust and update skills according to changing times; keeping them updated with the modern technology is the need of time.
- Competency is a combination of three things, namely, Knowledge, skills and attitudes. Schools and teachers have to face numerous new changes and challenges rising from their internal and external environment. To enable the teachers keep abreast with the newly arising trends more Continuous development Programs may be introduced.

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