

**TRUST AND CREDIBILITY OF TEACHERS: A CHALLENGE****Mrs. Tarini Joshi,***Asst. Professor, S.P.College, Pune 30**Scholarly Research Journal's is licensed Based on a work at www.srjis.com*

Teaching is a noble profession. Teaching is an act of making students learn. However it is said that a good teacher does not just teach, but also develops character. It is said that a great teacher holds a hand, opens the mind, and touches the heart. But as surprising as it may sound, the role of a teacher is getting jeopardized by the most powerful tool that a teacher holds, knowledge! It is most ironic that with the age of information explosion, the source of knowledge for students may no longer be their teachers. Now a days, knowledge is readily available, for some, even without a physical teacher. The heart of the traditional education system is a triangle with the teacher, the student, and the content, forming the three sides of the triangle. So why now, you may feel, is the role of a teacher in danger? The reason is the loss of credibility, the trust factor. This credibility helps a teacher build a relationship with the students, making it easier for the teacher to make students understand any concept better.

Education is a man-making process and it implies practicing and ensuring transformation of humans at various levels of socialization. As we know, teacher, student and knowledge, are the parts of the education system. This education system is impacted due to global changes. Education has shifted towards a student-centered approach. Accordingly, the role of a teacher is changing. These changes are because of exposure to knowledge, changes in culture, values, lifestyle, financial conditions, or needs, requirements or priorities etc. This leads to change in perspective towards having education. Students, are also facing the changes, which lead to change in their thirst for knowledge, and tending towards applied education, for sake of not only knowledge, but also money.

In future, the situation will still change. Students have developed their own views and ideas about having education, how education would be, what are their requirements and how teacher should teach them. This will create lack of trust and credibility about teachers. Following are the reasons for the lack of trust and credibility

- **Knowledge** – Due to globalization, exchange of knowledge, exchange of new research concepts, knowledge is adding to various fields and subjects. Due to fastest communication and media, lots of knowledge is available with teachers as well as students. Teachers are tending towards updating their knowledge in respective subjects. Simultaneously students are also exposed to those sources of knowledge. Students tend to ask questions to the teachers regarding the available knowledge. Today's society is knowledge hungry and wants to learn from all sources possible. This means that a teacher is now almost

dispensable. A teacher is replaced with interactive CDs, robots, informal and home schooling, internet, seminars, and the like. This chaos leads to lack of trust.

- **Research** – Teachers need to do research in their subject, and should add knowledge to their subject, by ways of conferences, seminars, workshops, research publications, teachers are doing so. But students are not lagging behind. They are also performing experiments; they are also doing research, attending conferences, and seminars, etc. hand in hand with teachers. So here question arises, what is it different that a teacher can do.

- **Technology** – Technology is growing. Teachers are ready to know about it. But students are always a few steps ahead of teachers, about knowing technology and the use of technology. Here also, student may feel that they know better than teachers. Gone are the days of the carrot and the stick approach where students easily learn everything by face value. Now a student is prejudiced, again due to the use of social networking and internet about how a teacher should be, even without knowing how a teacher is. This is stressful for the teacher. The teacher should also now be worrying about how he or she can incorporate millions of ever changing teaching theories and try and exceed the ever growing expectation of the school or the institution, the students, and the ever demanding parents as well.

- **Teaching methodologies** – New teaching methodologies are incorporated, but teachers can use only few. Few are only feasible to use in the classroom. While students everyday want new things to eat, in new ways. They are getting easily bored in the same way. So paying attention for them is a difficult job.

- **Psychological factors and stress** – Pressure of the global changes ultimately leads to stress. In today's age of information explosion and self learning, it creates pressure on teachers and students. In form of competition, up gradation and updatation, there increases stress on teachers. Similarly they also have to understand the student's psychology and manage student stress, by managing their behavior. But nowadays, to manage the behavior of students is getting worst because of lack of trust and credibility

- **Parents' involvement** – In this age of competition parents want their child to be extraordinary, learn everything. That is why they questioning the institution regarding the quality of teachers along with give them world class education. Parents used to take admission in school by checking infrastructural facilities as well as the faculty, i.e. teachers and their qualification and quality. With a great increase of spending and better lifestyles and more awareness amongst parents, children of such parents are privileged to get more access to knowledge, than an average school or college teacher! Parents want their children, not just to learn what is taught in school, but also to know everything beyond

- **Socio-economic condition** – In India economic status of teacher is not up to expectations. Facilities are also less in the profession. Respect regarding the profession is already low and will tend to be lower in future days because, money is now more important and society is getting divided on basis of financial classes. A teacher has to live up to the expectations, it is important that the teacher now multi-tasks. However, socio-economic conditions, use of social media and the need to be more presentable, have posed a serious problem before the teacher. Even before a teacher has to start teaching, a teacher needs to look professional, compassionate and kind, in appearance. A teacher is judged, by his/her looks even by peers as well as students before the teacher can start teaching. A certain class

of students will lose their credibility in a teacher if they find the teacher shabby. A teacher has to carry a big smile on his/her face.

- **Interdisciplinary approach** – The education system is now a day's moving towards credit systems where students are not restricted to subject mentioned in their syllabus, but now they can choose to have credits of other subjects as well. These results in the students being better informed and the teacher now has to be better equipped and not remain within the boundaries of own subject. Teacher should be jack of all trades and master of one
- **Management** – Teacher has to play the role of a manager, to manage time, prepare plans for the year, manage students discipline, etc. For that purpose, knowledge about managerial subjects is essential. Sometimes, teachers have good subject knowledge, teaching ability, they can use innovative practices and technology, but because of lack of planning, they are unable to make effective communication with students. This also creates a doubt about the teachers' ability in the student's mind, since it affects quality.
- **Colleague and hierarchy interaction** – In daily life, teacher needs to interact with colleagues and subordinates and other management. Teachers have good ideas but to implement he/she needs support from their peers. The relationship between teachers and their subordinates also affects their work and ultimately the students learning.
- **Evaluation** – Teachers have to evaluate students, but there is same way of evaluation for every individual. There is no proper method of evaluation yet developed to evaluate different qualities of individuals. Method of evaluation is not up to the mark and that is why there are chances of biased results which will ultimately hamper students' ability. It creates a doubt about the education system.
- **Innovation and creativity** – Nowadays students everyday want new things. Students have to be fed with new things, attractive methodologies. For that purpose teacher has to be innovative and creative. He has to prepare new apps, games, videos, audios, about their subject, for continuous engagement of the students. This is not at all an easy task.

Points to ponder –

As per the above mentioned points, we came to know that the major factor playing a key role in education is trust and credibility about teacher ability in minds of students. If it is good, then learning should happen without any barriers, or without prejudice. For that we need to focus on the following points-

- **Students' awareness** - Students need to understand that they cannot completely rely on self learning all the time. A teacher can play a vital role in correcting the information that students get, or teaching students to align the information properly. Just because there is a lot of information available, does not mean all of it is relevant or useful. Teacher can act as a guide and develop student skills for effective gathering and using knowledge.
- **Teacher's attitude** – Teachers should keep their egos aside. They should be ready to mould as per the changing conditions, treat the students in an unbiased way, and encourage them to flourish. Simultaneously teachers should develop thirst for knowledge about their subject as well as interdisciplinary studies; they should focus on professional development. Teachers should know all different technologies, be a gadget guru.

- **Feedback system** – Feedback system will allow positive changes in the current condition. Students can think independently about they want and in what way. So we should ask the students about their requirements of a particular subject, new methodologies of their liking, etc. Similarly, feedback also is useful to understand lacunae and misconceptions about education. So it will work like a tool for qualitative development of education system.
- **New learning strategy** – New strategies such as Digital game based learning, Data mining will be useful tools in future teaching-learning process. Along with that co-operative and collaborative learning methods will help to meet the challenges in front of teachers. By changing his/her role, from coach to co-coordinator and facilitator, since large amount of knowledge source, abilities, creativity etc. is with students.

Conclusion –

Teaching can become a highly thankless job if your students are not interested in learning because they are now carrying their mobile phones or laptops in class. It can be a thankless job if the students do not appreciate what you are teaching because they have already learnt that on the internet. It can be an even more thankless job because now the students are just more plainly distracted and find the style of teaching boring. If our education system has to improve, then the trust and the credibility factor towards the teacher has to improve, it is important to make students, teachers, and parents sensitive about the current challenges, and each one can play an important role in making better change possible. Teachers should be able to handle every gizmo like a pro. Students now has the choice and liberty. In future education, the students will become the cornerstone of the education system. So, Student centricity will be the name of the game, and the teacher will be past master of the game!

References –

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