



CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR A TEACHER IN EDUCATION

Padmavati Vasanttrao Phutane

Ph.D. Student
Dept. Of English
Shivaji University Kolhapur

Abstract

Education plays an important role in moulding the character and personality of an individual. Teachers form the nucleus of any system of education. They are one of the main pillars of the society, responsible for educating young people for different occupations. Teachers' role in education is multi-dimensional. In this age of information and technology the role of teachers has grown immensely. In this context the teachers has to face many challenges. Some of them are discussed in the present paper, eg. use of technology, expansion in the role, students unrest and indiscipline etc.. Also some opportunities are discussed, like, to be an adapter, innovations, research in education etc.

I. Introduction:

Education plays an important role in moulding the character and personality of an individual. Education is a process of human enlightenment for the achievement of a better and higher quality of life. Education is a process of human enlightenment for the achievement of a better and higher quality of life. A sound and effective system of education results in the enfoldment of learner's potentialities, enlargement of their competencies, and transformation of their interests, attitudes and values. Recognizing such an enormous potential of education, all progressive societies have committed themselves to the "Quality education for all".

Development of any society depends upon the dynamic nature of its education system. If the education system were dynamic, futuristic, and challenging, it would lead to the development of the society and vice-versa.

II. Meaning of Education:

Etymologically, the word 'education' is derived from some Latin words which are explained as under:

1. Education - The act of teaching
2. Educere - To lead out or to draw out
3. Educare - To bring up, to train, to nourish
4. Educo - To lead forth, to extract out

Thus, education implies:

1. Act of drawing out
2. Act of extracting out
3. Act of leading forth
4. Act of leading out
5. Act of teaching
6. Act of training

III. Place of a Teacher in Education:

Teacher forms the nucleus of any system of education. They are one of the main pillars of the society, responsible for educating young people for different occupations. There is a proverb that 'no system of education can raise above the levels of its teachers'. If education is the fundamental institution of any society, the teachers are centre to any school, college, or university. No programmes of educational reforms can be implemented without the willing and active co-operation of teachers. Several thinkers had discussed the role and the place of the teacher. Some of them are as follows:

Dr. Jakir Hussain: The teacher is indeed, the architect of our future.

Dr. Radhakrishnan: The teacher is like a candle which lights others in consuming itself.

John Adams: The teacher is a maker of man.

H. G. Wells: The teacher is real maker of history.

Thus, teacher's place in education is very crucial. He plays many roles, like, teacher as Nation builder, as an architect of the society, as backbone of society, as facilitator of learning, as motivator etc..

IV. Globalization and Education:

Globalization is taking place in every section and education is no exception to it. Globalization has been identified with a number of trends. These include greater international movement of commodities, the development of technology, organization, legal systems, exchange of educational programmes and infrastructures etc.. Use of technologies such as the internet, communication satellites and telephones, spread of multiculturalism and better individual access to cultural diversity through assimilation, greater international travel and tourism knowledge and technology, westernization of cultures, information of exchange etc. are some integral aspects of globalization. Globalization has brought changes in the field of education too. Quality education is considered as a mark of improved living conditions. With the continuing development of information technology and globalization there is a increasing need for high intellectual persons, and high performance employees in the nation In this context the teacher's responsibilities are more.

V. Challenges for a Teacher:

Globalization is creating a fast paced, competitive environment through technology and communication, which education system must keep up with coming generation otherwise new generation cannot be capable to cope up with current issues and challenges. In this context the responsibilities of a teacher are increased. A very competent and potential kind of teacher is required to carry all such responsibilities. The teacher should ensure that the learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed for the successful life. While fulfilling such demands, the teacher has to tackle with some challenges. Some of them are as follows:

1. Competency in technology:

It is expected that education technology should be used by teachers to increase learning outcome. Teachers have to be competent enough to use technology effectively so that learners also can be motivated to use such technology. But due to lack of training, practice or confidence most of the teachers find it difficult to use technology. It's a challenge for them to be innovative in teaching to make learning effective.

2. Expansion in the role of teacher:

Teacher plays roles like a nation builder, facilitator of learning, motivator, classroom manager, risk taker, communicator etc.. It's a challenge for a teacher to play all these roles ideally. It may create a burden on his mind and may lead to frustration if s/he is not able to follow these roles effectively.

3. Unemployment and instability in job:

At present, the condition of fresh teachers is not so good. The major problem they face is unemployment. There are various reasons of it, e.g. selection procedure, less vacancies and comparatively more teachers etc.. Instability in job is another major issue. In private education institution most of the time teachers are discontinued. It's a challenge for a teacher to start again. In such conditions how to be active and innovative is a challenge for a teacher.

4. Students' unrest, frustration and indiscipline:

Due to social changes the whole scenario is changing which affects the minds of our learners. Most of the time they blindly follow the culture of developed countries. Most of the time, their behaviour doesn't suit our cultural manners. It creates a kind of unrest among the students. Most of the time students ask questions like, "Why should we learn? Do we get a job? Look at outside, how many educated are unemployed then what's the use of learning?" In such a condition a teacher has to play a very crucial role to motivate the learners and to explain the real aim of learning. It's really a challenge for a teacher. Even the teachers also find it difficult to manage the class when the learners behave rudely or show disrespect towards teachers and education. It has become fashion among the learners to break the discipline and make fun in the class. Their careless attitude is really a challenge for a teacher. Being a teacher, it is his/her duty to channelize the youth. In such a condition, teacher has to pay more attention to find out various techniques so that the learners should get more interest in learning.

5. Facilitating Knowledge:

Teacher has to be facilitator of knowledge. He/she should equip the learners to acquire the knowledge through various channels, using multi senses. He/she has to be aware of the latest experiments in education and the outcomes of the researches in education. He/she has to update the knowledge to be able to do justice with the learners. To upgrade oneself is not a easy task. It requires a lot of devotion and hard work. For a teacher, it is really a challenge.

6. New approaches in teaching:

New approaches in teaching are mostly learner centred. Teacher is expected to be communicator in classroom. He/she has to conduct various activities in the classroom. It provides the learners opportunities to get engaged which can help them to resolve their problems and construct their own understanding of principles and concepts. The teacher has to always keep the expected outcome activities in focus and thus create relevant and interesting activities for the learners. To be constructivist is really a challenge for a teacher.

7. Self- improvement:

Teacher's role in the teaching is expanded. He/she has to perform various duties, like organizer, examiner, etc.. He/she gets less time to improve self-skills. But the present education demands versatile, competent and confident teacher. It is really a challenge for a teacher to fulfil all expectations while carrying all responsibilities.

Thus, these are the challenges which a teacher has to face. To overcome of these problems the teacher has to acquaint the content knowledge, curricular knowledge, process knowledge, and pedagogical knowledge.

VI. Opportunities for a Teacher:

The changing role of a teacher has opened new opportunities to widen the horizons of his/her knowledge..These are as follows:

1. To be an adaptor:

Teacher must adapt dynamic teaching experiences. There is a scope to adapt the curriculum and to teach it imaginatively. As an educator he/she can apply different learning styles. He/she can make teaching style inclusive of different modes of learning.

2. To be a technology oriented:

A teacher can use educational technology effectively to increase learning outcome. He/she can also motivate learners to use technology. Proper use of technology in teaching may result into effective and interesting learning.

3. To be an innovator:

There is a lot of scope for a teacher to be innovative in education. Teacher's innovative ideas in curriculum and syllabus design, implementation of them can help to achieve the objectives of education. The teacher should think and conduct various activities to promote better learning. There is a scope to be innovative in such activities.

4. To be a researcher:

There is scope to do research in education. The teacher can do research in the areas like policy issues, curriculum issues, evaluation systems, classroom practices, training strategies, value inculcation, school-community relationship, technology mediated education, quality in education, interactive education etc.. The outcome of the research can enhance teacher's teaching and education.

5. Mobility of a teacher across the world:

There is an increased demand for Indian teachers in many countries. Teacher needs to be trained to be competent in the global market.

6. To be an active educator:

Teacher should introduce students to their world, and inculcate in them a sense of their own power to create change in the world. Teacher should not just transmit knowledge to students but should instil in students a sense of their place in the larger world, and urge them to be active participants in it. To achieve this, the teacher has to be active and innovative. There is an opportunity for a teacher to develop good citizens for the nation.

7. To be a source of new information:

A teacher can become a source of new and current information. He/she can give vital information about the subject matter, learning materials, other curricular and co-curricular activities. By updating self knowledge teacher can use it to make learning more interesting which can help to achieve the goals of education.

VI. Conclusion:

Thus, a teacher should know the learners very well, so that he/she can impart the knowledge in right direction. The 21st century learners are characterised as collaborative, adaptive immediate and instant, require instant gratification etc.. The teacher should prepare himself/ herself to handle such a new generation. The teacher should be student centric, holistic, visionary, and risk taker. To conclude, we may say that the 21st century teacher has to face challenges but the opportunities are also waiting to enrich the field of education with various experiments and innovations by a teacher.

References:

National Seminar on Innovations In Education For Knowledge Society

1. Aggarwal, J. C. (2011), *Teacher and Education in a Developing Society*, Vikas Publishin House: New Delhi.
2. Ali, Lokman. (2012), *Teacher Education*, APH Publishing Corporation: New Delhi.
- 3 Kishan Ramnat,nm,(2011), *Global Trends in Teacher Education*.
4. Nikose. R. L. (2012). *Teacher Education Issues and Challenges*, APH Publishing Corporation: New Delhi.
5. Pandey, R. S. (2009). *Education in Emerging Indian Society*, Agrawal Publications: Agra.

