

## **Role of a Teacher and Importance of Character Building in Teaching-Learning Process**

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### **Abstract**

Before taking up the responsibility of helping to shape up the character of students, it is necessary that teachers internalize the definite meaning of character itself. And to do that, they need to make clear the precise qualities, tendencies, approaches and values they would like to instil in the student community as a whole. Further, they also need to understand the current and past behaviour of students and decide on their modus operandi with clear and precise, specific goals. Also, a teacher needs to sensitize the students about the need to build a moralistic character. This is very important as without a clear understanding on the students' part, the efforts of the teacher will go in vain. A teacher needs to make sure that the positive connotations of durable values like integrity, honesty, loyalty and courage are well understood by students. Apart from the classroom, the teacher may also have to consult character building with the parents' community as the home environment plays as important a role as the school environment in shaping up the personality traits of the students. Even though, teachers' role in the character building among students is so far an area little tapped, in the future; as education becomes more personalized, it will be a major facet of the profession. Hence, it is necessary on the teachers' part to understand its contours and bring necessary changes in their approach. The juxtaposition of the various roles of a teacher in inculcating good thoughts and action patterns in students for better amelioration of the present education system has been the dire need. The students' community needs timely guidance from teaching fraternity to build up a sound and noble character and grow. The paper highlights the role of a teacher and the importance of character building among student community.

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### **INTRODUCTION**

A good school master is worth a thousand priests. He inspires the students. A real teacher gets reflection from the students rather than reaction. Modern Teacher is the 21<sup>st</sup> century parent- substitute. He alone teaches who has something to give, for teaching is not talking, teaching is not imparting doctrines, it is communicating. So a teacher must necessarily combine in himself the role of a father, mother, friend, guide and above all living inspiration. Thoughts can be communicated and life is great teacher, says Swami Vivekananda. Our teaching community must understand the responsibility of guiding the students by orienting their character and thought patterns through personal example and self sacrifice. As we all know that character power is the greatest power in the hands of a person. It is to be strengthened at any cost. Character building is best during the student days. Without character, however talented and intelligent one may be, one's education/ life remains incomplete and ineffective. Hence, the role of a teacher in building the sound and noble character during the student days is of utmost importance.

## **ROLE OF A TEACHER**

A teacher is essentially a leader. He has the responsibility of guiding and instigating the thinking process of his wards and is expected to enforce discipline and obedience so that the transfer of knowledge becomes a smooth process. His position as the head of the group is necessary to instill faith in the disciple. Add to this his erudition, power to impress and nobility, and he instantly becomes the role model of the students. Love and concern for the student community makes him an admirable force. The following are the needful qualities that a teacher must possess in order to inculcate obedience and reverence in his group. One must remember that respect is to be earned and not demanded.

Teachers must combine in themselves the leaders' role if they have to get their ideas across to a receptive student group. They need to know the abilities and drawbacks of each individual under their care must encourage him to develop the talents that he already has within himself.

Acquisition of new talents and relating to other individuals in the group positively must also be inculcated. Students must learn to have faith in human relationships and acquire the capacity to appreciate and emulate the good in others.

Students tend to imitate the teachers whom they like the best. The teacher must impress upon them that each individual must grow in his own pattern and imitation will never be accepted as the original. Assimilation of ideas and adding it to one's own individual flavor makes learning an enjoyable process.

The work environment in an educational institution is determined by the leadership style of the management and this determines the culture of the institution, its objectives and goals. These are implemented through the medium of teachers. The teacher has to do an analysis of his own values first and then communicate this to the student community and see that they follow the objectives of the institution.

The teacher should be exemplary in establishing the rules and values that he expects from the student community. For instance, if he is punctual, then the students will also try to be so. Similarly, he must be cautious about his behavior in the classroom, on the campus and off the campus. Ultimately it is the life of the teacher that inspires the students most.

Efficiently in delivering the study material, instigating the students to think independently and organizing various school programmes efficiently are significant. The ultimate part goes a long way in inculcating good work culture in the students' mind. As a teacher if you see any undesirable behavior in your students, it is important that you examine your own behavior before correcting others. Remember, you will always set a precedent whether good or bad.

While acting as a role model, the teacher should constantly reinforce the type of culture he intends to establish through examples from great lives or by procuring or presenting such valuable information from various sources. Of all the most significant are effective communication skills, language skills and the overall impressive personality picture. The dress, body language, and the vision of the teacher convey more than the curriculum enforced through the books.

## **CHARACTER BUILDING**

The first requirement for attaining excellence in life is to have a strong and healthy body. The words of Greek philosopher "A sound mind in a sound body" is well known. Hence a student should regularly do physical exercises to keep his body and mind healthy and

fit. Control of senses is required for the development of intellect and moral values as well.

To study regularly and systematically is the primary duty of every student. He should never neglect or postpone studies, assignments and reading text-books and other good books. There is no substitute for reading good books. Students should learn right methods from his teachers. Mere passing of examinations and scoring good marks are not quite enough. Acquisition of knowledge will expand his mental horizon. The pursuit of knowledge and diligence is of utmost importance for the student community.

Truthfulness and humility play predominant role in building up a noble character. Truthfulness in words, actions and words is important. Truth alone wins and not untruth. Truthfulness makes a person happy and healthy. One must develop the habit of speaking the truth. One should always be humble and speak truth without hurting others. Students should practice truthfulness in their lives.

Every student should owe something to the society by being enlightened citizen. Well-managed, rightly focused and unified collective power is the only way for social well being. An enlightened citizen is a citizen with enlightened sense of doing good deeds to others. He is a responsible member of the society and is willing to contribute to others' well-being. Students should inculcate social amity and responsibility.

#### **CONCLUSION**

To conclude, the role of teachers in building a sound and noble character among student community by exercising and performing their fundamental duties is to be taken utmost care. This is possible only when our education system aims at what Swami Vivekananda has said, 'we must have life building, man-making, character making and assimilation of ideas.' If one assimilates these ideas and makes them the goal of one's life and character, one has more education than any man who has got by heart a whole library. Here it is worth remembering John F Kennedy's words, "Ask not what the country has done to you. Ask what you have done to the country."

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