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Teacher of 21st Century: Characteristics and Development

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Abstract
Educational Technology in broader terms mean to organize the knowledge for the achievement of purposes, or making tool/technique. In this fast changing world, the education plays a major role in empowering students to engage with challenges. The 21st century is rapidly changing one in every dimension of human (economically, socially, technologically). Due to the rapid changes complex problems are faced by educationists, policy makers, managers and teachers as well. Teachers of 21st century have to create students of 21st century with soft skills. The 21st century teachers need teaching skills content mastery as well as integrating teaching with technology. The teacher development programs are much important. The impact of good teaching is increasingly cited as a major determinant of economic well-being of society. A useful & productive system of teacher compensation function as an important lever for attracting well-qualified and highly motivated people to the teaching profession. The quality of teachers determines the quality of education and linked with nation's development. With the emerging technologies, the teaching-learning is transforming from teacher-centered, lecture based to student-centered learning environment. In this I have discussed global characteristics of 21st century teacher as well as with reference to India.
Keywords: teacher development, teacher preparation, 21st century teacher, Indian teacher, characteristics of teacher.

1. Introduction

Let us remember: One book, one pen, one child, and one teacher can change the world.
Malala Yousafzai

In the global education industry, one of the world's top education destination is India. Education is regarded as the acquisition of information or knowledge. The process of education includes the transfer of knowledge, skills from one person to another. The recent advances in technology have affected almost every area of our life: such as the way we talk with one other, the way we work together, learn, teach. These advances became the reason for expansion of our vocabulary, creating new words like Digital natives, Digital immigrants, Digital India, Digital divide and my topic--- Teacher of 21st century.

The 21st century teaching is however a different perspective, learning could never happen the way it is happening these times. Learning happens everywhere, all the time, on any dam topic, assisting any learning style. Now a question is what the "Teacher of 21st century mean".

Great students are the result of great teachers. The student achievement is influence by many factors. The most important influencer is inspiring and informed teacher, so it is significant to have close view on how we train and support beginners, experienced teachers.

1.1. Teacher Preparation

Teacher-preparation programs provide educators with the tools, mentors, hands-on experience which they need to begin their career. These programs lay stress on subject-matter mastery and under the guidance of experienced mentor, pupil teachers are provided with many opportunities to spend time in real classrooms. Like as in medicine, law, engineering professionals have opportunities to learn through examining case studies/histories, participating in internships, best practices, same is the case with teacher preparation programs which allow pupil teacher to apply learning theory in real classroom.

Many universities and colleges are reframing their schools of education to lay stress on content knowledge, use more and more educational technologies, innovative training programs, create schools of professional development with an intention at career switchers and students who want to earn a degree online.

1.2. Teacher-Induction Programs

There is inadequate and uneven support, assistance, encouragement for new teachers. Many times new teachers are allotted most challenging classes and schools with little or no support and supervision. In first five years, almost half of all teachers leave their profession, so special care must be taken to make them available early and satisfactory assistance, encouragement to a great extent when they are being assigned to demanding school environments.

For the successful development of novice teacher, mentoring and instructions from some experienced colleagues is critical. The new teachers learn from practices, analyze their teaching through good introduction

programs.

1.3. Continuous Professional Development

Professional development is training provided to teachers for some time to promote development in all aspects. Professional development for teachers is more than training or classes as it is an agent to change classroom practice. It is important and beneficial for experienced teachers to go through continuous and regular chances to learn from one another. Teachers remain up-to-date on new research on how children learn, new tools & resources, emerging technology so on by continuous professional development. The professional development which is continuous, practical, collaborative, derived from working with learners and understanding their culture.

Research has proved that teaching quality is the important and powerful school-related agent which improve learning and achievement of learner. The schools are important to develop high quality teaching.

The most important way to promote learning and educational opportunity in schools is constructing systems which assist teacher in continuing professional learning and improvement of teaching practice. The systems that effectively assist teacher development include administrator support for professional learning, collaborative, job-embedded feedback cycles so on.

In this 21st century technology is a vital tool to enhance the learning of the learners. Computers are abundant in most schools. In today's education the major concern is lack of technology integration in schools/classroom. Providing students with opportunities to interpret and construct meaning and present data in meaningful ways to their instructors and peers, instructional technology is associated with increased academic achievement and may increase student motivation for school work. (Bell, 2002; National Council for Accreditation {NCATE}, 2008). To use appropriate technology in designing, developing, implementing and assessing instruction is the main goal of instructional technology. Students have greater access to vast information and resources and technology enable students to create meaningful personalized learning experiences even outside classroom.

2. METHODOLOGY

The paper is solely based on secondary data. The different sources of data are journal articles, websites, e-books, reports of various organization and commission, articles published in international, national and local papers etc. This paper will give a brief description of characteristics of 21st century teacher in world and in India.

3. CHARACTERISTICS OF 21ST CENTURY TEACHER

A good teacher can inspire, hope, ignite the imagination and instill a love of learning.

Brand Henry

Teachers of 21st century have to take in account the needs of their students, prepare them to meet the challenges of future. Teacher's work is considered complex and demanding. For creating a high quality professional teaching force, it is important to have high quality professional teacher's development program. The developmental program must incorporate use of technology integration in teaching.

3.1. Learner-Centered Classroom and Personalized Instructions

The days of spoon-feeding have ended now, as students have access to any possible information. It is desirable to give personalized instructions to students as they differ in personalities, goals, aims, needs etc. By allowing students to choose on their own their intrinsic motivation increases and make more efforts to learn on their own.

3.2. Students as Producers

These days students are treated as digital natives and producers of any digital content. Students are laced with recent and best tools, although they seldom use it beyond communicating with family & friends. Every student has expensive devices which have capabilities to produce blogs, infographics, tutorials. Students are still asked to switch off these devices and work on handouts. When students are given opportunity, they can make creative blogs, stories and feel proud to share with others.

3.3. Project-Based Learning

These days' students conduct their research, contact experts, create final projects and share all using devices in hand. They only need guidance from teachers. Students compare information from different sources, give feedback to peers, convey own ideas so on.

3.4. Learn New Technologies

The main requirement for providing quality education is the integrating technology with teaching to create learning environment which fulfill the needs of a group of students. It is useful for students to have own hand on experience. As technology is developing day and night, learning a tool once for all is not an option. The new

technology is new for the beginners as well as experienced teachers.

3.5. Go Global

Today it is possible to have first-hand experience of other countries. By teaching students use the tools in their hands to visit any corner of this world, make us more knowledgeable and sympathetic.

3.6. Be Smart and Use Smart Phones

Students are to be encouraged to view their devices as worthy tools which assist knowledge (not distraction). Teaching students how to find answers they need and to be independent. The benefit for teacher is the personalization, and the freedom for students to access resources. This often encourage individual learning and allow students to choose what their own suitable approaches.

3.7. Blog

Blogging is one of the professional activities. The use of blogs in educational setting produces several benefits. Blog can be used as a platform to post homework, assignments, projects, ask to help, share resources so on. As blogging is purely a writing activity, but it requires reading, reading more books, other blogs, articles so on. It also leads one's own professional development. The blogging promotes critical and analytical thinking, increases access, social interaction with others.

"You don't have to be great to start, but you have to start to be great!" Zig Zagler

3.8. Go Digital

Another important attribute is to go paperless. Today's students are deeply involved in the digital world. Social networking, online games and tools as mobile phones, iPods are everyday use of students. Very often there is digital disconnect in learning environment. One can organize teaching resources and activities on one's own website and Integration of technology take learning experience to different levels. Sharing links & discussing topics online.

Teachers need to make a shift to become mentors, coaches and even artists.

3.9. Collaborate

Technology provides powerful new tools to assist communication beyond classroom. It let collaboration between students and teachers. To make classroom activities resemble with real world by creating digital resources, lectures, presentations, and projects together with other teachers and students. The teacher's plays the role of a facilitator of collaboration between local, national and global communities.

3.10. Use Twitter Chat

The most efficient and cheapest way to arrange one's own professional development, share research and ideas is twitter chat. It is one of the ways to stay updated with current issues in the field. Going to conferences is no longer the only way to meet others or build professional learning networks.

3.11. Connect

Teacher often talk about how helpless they fell when it comes to reach out to students. Technology allow us to connect anyone, anywhere, anytime. It connects with like-minded individuals. Simply connect vis social media: follow, join, ask.

3.12. Build Positive Digital Footprint

Become proficient with technology. Build a positive digital footprint. Living in this time gives us an opportunity to contribute and share our unique point of view. To maintain professional behavior both in class and online helps in building positive digital footprint & describe proper actions for students. Teachers guide students how to use social media, how to produce, publish important content, create sharable resources. The digital literacy is very often defined as 'literacy in the 21-century'.

"A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." Lao-tzu

3.13. Innovate

The main aim behind any innovation in technology is to provide comfort, productivity and better life. Teacher have to expand teaching toolbox and try new applications example replacing textbooks with web resources, teaching with social media. Students love using Facebook for class discussions & announcements. They appreciate new knowledge not new tools. They love new, more interesting & productive ways of using new applications.

3.14. Keep Learning

Day by day new ways and technologies keep emerging. One has to adapt with new emerging technologies and learning them.

Teachers have a vital role to play. Thus, the former president, Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam believes that teachers have tremendous responsibility in shaping the life of an individual. The teacher is the backbone of society.

"The teacher shares the responsibility of reconstructing a society. He acts as a social reformer. Quality teachers for quality education and many events are taking place around the world to promote that ideal from the grass roots on up to the highest levels of government."

UNESCO

Now I can say that educational systems around the world are under immense pressure to use technology to teach the students skills and knowledge that they require in the 21st century. The long experience of teachers with traditional mode of learning, it is challenging to embed technology in teaching learning process. The professional teachers continually develop their pedagogical use of technology to support teaching- learning, curriculum development, assessment and evaluation of teaching-learning. Technology support effective professional development of the teachers. Transformation of educational process has started and moved towards learner-centered learning. The new learning environment can be created without integration of technology, however technology proved powerful tool to help learners to access vast knowledge, collaborate with others, share knowledge.

4. Teachers in India

"Teaching is a very noble profession that shapes the character, caliber, and future of an individual. If the people remember me as a good teacher, that will be the biggest honor for me."

Teaching has become more and more complex and challenging now days. The students' disobedience, argumentation, rudeness level is on the rise while the patience level of students' is decreasing. Due to the modern age stress, competition, availability of so many sources of knowledge like internet, TV series, movies showing violence and so on. As education advances with the help of technology, it becomes very clear that modern teachers are very different from traditional teachers. The teachers are facilitators of the learning. The focus of a 21st century teacher is on student by developing higher order thinking skills, effective communication, collaboration, and other skills that they need in the 21st century. The teachers must develop new teaching strategies that are radically different. The teacher role is of guides and facilitators, not mere providers of knowledge. The students must be engaged in learning and provided instructions using a variety of methods and pedagogical approaches aided with technology.

Technology is just a tool, in terms of getting the kids working together and motivating them, the teacher is the most important. Bill Gates

A 21st century teacher has many characteristics that distinguish him from the traditional teacher.

4.1. Teachers have to think globally:

It is agreed upon that the world has shrunk irrespective of a teacher teaching in local or international schools. As teachers need to develop new generation of learners who think and act globally. So, teacher must include the examples and narratives across the world, apart from familiar realities and daily experiences.

4.2. Teachers have to develop sensitivity towards cross-cultural differences and diversity:

As the students seem to work locally, yet they are connected to the students around the world, un/consciously. So many students likely travel to faraway places having diverse cultural environments, to work there. The capability to manage cultural differences gives them an edge in competitive future workplaces.

4.3. Teachers have to be technologically knowledgeable:

All teachers must continually upgrade their skills particularly technical skills irrespective of their subject area, resource pools, school settings etc. They need to increase their levels with changing technology. I want to quote here A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, "Excellence is a continuous process and not an accident."

4.4. Teachers have to build partnerships and alliances beyond classrooms:

Teachers must enroll subject experts to teach the curriculum so that, learning may be effective and applied to the real world. Such as listening to an educationist lecture in a video clip may help, i.e. substitute to inviting an educationist into the classroom. Opportunities for students, like to meet real-life educationists/scientists/subject experts to whom they can pose questions directly, make an ever lasting impact on them.

4.5. Teachers have to share learning inside the four walls:

The reality and my personal experience is that teachers learn as much from students and vice versa. The teachers

need to accept the importance and necessity of shared learning in classrooms. It challenges traditional classrooms, by making learning continuous process. It endowers new meaning to teaching-learning process and help teachers to accept that learning never stops. Thus, it makes the educational experiences rewarding & richer.
Among other characteristics teacher must also possess the following ones

1. Teacher- learning must be student-centric.
2. The teacher need to use new computing devices while teaching.
3. The teacher has to support the active learning in classroom.
4. The teacher has to create an invitational environment for learning to occur.

I never teach my pupils, I only attempt to provide the conditions in which they can learn.
Albert Einstein

5. The students must be assessed on the bases of performances. That is performance based assessments must be followed by teacher.
6. The teacher should support collaborative teaching.

Technology plays a vital role in developing these characteristics in a teacher. The technology changes constantly and becomes obsolete, but the teacher is constant. They drive the learning spirit among students, day by day, guiding, motivating students to do better every day and make the to realize their dreams.
There is an urgent need that teacher have to work at the extreme limit. Public education itself struggles with big changes in India, from health epidemics to economic issues. The answer to these challenge of improving teachers training have great influence on the student's experiences which they have in classrooms. The States must spend more money to preparation programs and teachers themselves must demand better training.
"If four things are followed- having a great aim, acquiring knowledge, hard work, and perseverance- then anything can be achieved." -
A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

5. Conclusion

Technology has revolutionized each component of society. Teacher is in transition phase due to the rapid change in technology and student's changing values. Teacher can be prepared to use these technologies but handle systematically and analytically. Technology need to be integrated to achieve the best quality pedagogy. The courses which incorporate the teaching psychology of teachers must be incorporated in the developmental stages of pre-service teachers to enhance their learning. They should be educated in supportive and conducive environment in which they expect to groom young students. Pre- service teachers should be able to teach confidently in their domain. Once teacher has an understanding of teaching content, they would never lose that expertise. Today we must have competent teachers who have a new set of resources and techniques. Technological aid is an integral part in effective learning.

I conclude by saying of Dr. Karan Singh, 'We should develop our youth, who is in higher secondary & colleges in such a way so there every activity should be for the progress of the country."

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