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THE PROFILE OF A GOOD TEACHER

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Abstract: Good teachers are one of the most important groups of people in society. Without good teachers actively interested in moulding human characters, no nation can reach the summit of progress, both materially and intellectually. Their beliefs and ideas are very useful for the future success of their students. A good teacher is devoted to his sacred profession and conveys those fundamental thoughts and ideas to his students, which can even change the course of a civilization. Passivity and indifference are foreign to his nature. His relation with his students is very amiable. Real learning is obtained when the excellent and harmonious relation between a good teacher and his students takes place. A good teacher's attention is always directed towards the discovery of novelty. He is consciously aware of the abilities of his students and his own position in society. He should learn the methods of teaching and how to deal with the students and also the materials of learning. A constant urge for guiding his students in different situations wells up in him. Thus a good teacher is the emblem of a blossoming plant. Above all a good teacher is a positive force, inculcating in himself a confidence, which can offer fruitful teaching.

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Introduction

A good teacher is a fine specimen and a supreme example of indefatigable vigilance. His speed and brightness are conspicuous and therefore he appears to be swifter than all other workers who are engrossed in nation building activity in the country. A sophisticated refined gentleman; he is characterised by graceful behaviour and pleasantness of manner. He puts into use the profuse amount of time and effort in solving the problems of those who are in his elaborate care.

Who are good teachers: According to Bertrand Russell, 'Teachers are more than any other class the guardians of civilization'. No teachers should, I think, feel proud and complacent hearing such an apt connotative comment though it is a fact that there must be in teacher the promise of something greater than what he actually performs. Besides, the approach to this eulogistic remark is purely personal and unquestionably applied to such teachers like Socrates, Aristotle, Gazzali and Russell himself. So here a good teacher has nothing to boast of being overconfident; for this sort of wide assessment is damaging and can easily give birth to a mistaken idea about the whereabouts of a teacher's stand. Why? because, civilization is very wonderful and complex having a vast kaleidoscopic panorama where flows various spectrums of cultures and knowledge. So it can never bank on the sincere efforts and work of one group. And a good teacher is not too far to pose himself as a believer in all such exhaustive and definitive definitions. But he can demand that he is doing something positive for learners and society. A good teacher responds to so many a generous

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purpose in a big way. Indeed, he is monumental. He is always endeavouring to uphold those beliefs and ideas that are strikingly true to life. For his pupils, he is a strange route to progress via successes and at times unexpected failures.

Students from age to age: In ancient times, students, better term to be applied to them as disciples, were trained up and educated by teachers who were mainly the source of information and theoretical knowledge. These disciples were generally above adolescence. But these days students from the early stage of childhood to the full grown youth attend institutions for acquiring knowledge even “ a man learns from cradle to the grave”. And unlike the sole source of learning in ancient times, the sources of learning now-a-days save educational institutions, are homes, information providing centers, workshops, scientific apparatus, activities in nature and above all five sense organs and even the ten little human fingers in which are positively inherent inconceivable and tremendous capacities and abilities. The proper use of all these can make a human being a full -fledged student who also approaches teachers to learn as how to progress his worldly life and mental environment.

Functions of good teachers

It is true that a good teacher performs his duties with unremitting devotion, sincerity and strict professional integrity. The volume of work he is supposed to perform is heavier than the professional duties and tasks of any other official in the country. Therefore, a good teacher is not faithful to his normal duties only; at times he creates duties for himself. So, when a teacher is on the campus, he is found moving on his own orbit at a measured rate. He also excels in team-work. He may not be popular, but he is a devoted servant of a sacred profession that is above all other earthly things and evaluation.

A good teacher is morally superior. As soon as he enters the campus which is a microcosm, he combats evil, dispels all wicked designs that thwart progress and feeds and nourishes all that are less vigorous. When he gives birth to an idea, as he is prone to novelty, he is pretty much aware of the fact that cruelty begets cruelty, goodness engenders goodness. True, moral degradation brings disappointment very slowly but surely, ultimately letting a permanent nihilism come to pass. As a result, the total life of the nation suffers appallingly. A good teacher is not a pedant, or pedantry does not constitute his whole identity, rather it only touches the fringe of teachership. He is a moral psychologist who also exercises his good influences on the moral conduct and intellectual growth of his pupils. As a catalyst he tries to maintain his existence in too complex a situation and remains unaffected. A truth seeker, he wants to shine through the apertures of all sorts of prejudices and topical controversies, So where a considerable number of workers who are regardless of their professional duties and shirking responsibilities are tearing up the photographs of the society and educational environment, a good teacher is making attempts to preserve the negatives.

Qualities of a good teacher

A good teacher likes to cultivate the Ethical culture. His moral life is guided by Ethics that apprises and teaches the whole duty of man. In view of this, a good teacher who is both academic and extra-academic thinker and worker is conscious of his personal Ethics. As a result, the aim of a teacher is to imbue in the green pupils a sense of Ethical teaching and to arouse in them an awakening that everything good on earth is man's own doing with endless mercy of the creator. Not only this, a good teacher is endowed with human values and all his expert advice and sketches of thought should mould the spiritual life of his pupils. He leaves his undying influence behind and in this sense his teaching career does not provide an ending.

A good teacher must encourage his students' creative expression both in writing and talking. Also, he must be responsible of his students' mental and moral development. The growth of confidence in his students is the outcome of his persistent strivings.

Teacher -student relationship: A good teacher professes his profound love for his profession. At heart a disciplinarian, he is diligent and hard-working. He can never tolerate any negligence on the part of his pupils. Till he remains clear to his own conscience, he does not care for any interference, be it deliberate or spontaneous; fear or favour cannot shake or allure him. At the institution when he is with the taught, he proves himself to be a good guide and the green learners are found bathing under the shower of his warm affection. The moment he punishes a student, the next moment he blows the words of consolation into his heart. A constant source of praise emanates from the heart of a good teacher and all his students are the objects of his pride and admiration. He should be pleased at the idea that teaching is now student-centered.

A good teacher lives 'far from the madding crowd'. On the other hand he is calculating, accommodating and interesting. His harmonious relationship with the taught is very significant; an easy communication between them is the sign of good interaction. Teacher student relationship growing in a superb way is the best method in imparting education and the ever excellent possible way in transferring knowledge and learning by the expert to the novice. This relationship is the gradual outcome of ideal friendship between two concerned groups specially in Universities. A teacher is the elucidator of a student's life's vision and aspirations. Except maintaining an awareness of his own relation with the taught, he must undertake sincere efforts for establishing his students' relationship with books and eternal sources of knowledge.

How a good teacher presents his teaching materials and receives feed-back: The materials of learning are man, nature and world; the learner is also to be made conscious of his own insignificant existence in the universe. A good teacher, with the help of his experiences, presents his teaching materials to the taught in a comprehensible way. A renowned educator holds that a teacher does the services of a midwife whose function is to draw out². Accordingly, a good teacher helps bring all the abilities of his students that fidget and strive inside with a view to coming to life.

There is a popular definition about a good speaker, but I think it can also be applied here, in relation to a good teacher when he is giving a class.

Who teaches, it matters little,
What he teaches, it matters little,
How he teaches, it matters most.

So, an intelligent vivid presentation of a topic offered by a teacher can bring unique results. The manner of presentation will be so lively that its hypnotic art must draw the attention of the students to the lesson being taught. In the class room, a teacher must not stand at a place only delivering his lecture for all the time or before the blackboard like a statue. Once in a foreign country I was being interviewed by a Selection Board for English teachers. I was asked a question, "What will you do when your students fail to understand a particular topic you are explaining to them?" I answered "if this happens, I will draw possible pictures on the blackboard and at the same time I will make the students understand the topic/lesson by gestures, even by acting in the class. It was interesting enough that I achieved successes adopting that method on many a occasion. Therefore, a teacher ought to try to be an artist and an actor.

Besides, a good teacher must approach from the familiar to the unfamiliar, from the known to the unknown from the easy to the difficult. In this way he must proceed throwing problems to the students in order to find their solutions and this, is, in short, the aim of learning.

Methods of teaching

A good teacher should know all the essential and modern methods of teaching and also the things that exist behind the methods of teaching. In order to reinforce learning at every class, a teacher must have lesson plan, based on the scheme of work, whether written or at times prepared by his thought in mind. This plan must include essential skills of learning as listening, reading, speaking, writing, thinking and also feed-back.

In order to impart effective education, teaching aids, especially the visual aids, are required. These are assorted chalk, blackboard, whiteboard, pens, projectors, slides and such other materials that are most required in a particular class where as though a real situation basing on the topic under discussion, will be held. Of the modern and up-to-date methods, motivation and interest are the two significant things for the cultivation of attributes in the students. Above all at the time of teaching, a learner is to be treated psychologically rather than logically.

Results of good teaching

As water on the surface of the earth sinks through the soil, the virtues are instilled into the character of man that is developed in a social milieu. History can teach and build a present character, it is partly true, but a character is easily influenced by the thoughts and actions of a living teacher. A good guide like Plato could change the course of history by building powerful human characters. So, a good teacher whose function as a builder is to give a concrete shape to the personality of his pupils hailing from heterogeneous social background should deposit little by little in their characters, all the essential inspirations and formative influences, that will eventually grow into pillars of firm granite. Character is an anvil on which habits and routines are formed under proper wish and care and the workshop where it is formed is an educational institution and the person who runs this workshop is a teacher. So far I can remember that Ruckert has said.

" Six words there are that plead with me each day,
I ought, I must, I can, I dare, I may ".

And this message should be conveyed to the students by his teacher. Let the essence of the mind of a good teacher bloom into countless buds in the hearts of his students.

Conclusion

A good teacher embarks upon his career with the motto ' to teach and to build ' and I think he is ideal only when he takes active interest in contributing to the fulfillment of these two ends. Indeed, he is divided into two identities, one teacher another builder; or to put it in other words he combines in himself both a teacher and a builder-one is very temporal and concerned with mutability and another is timeless and concerned with permanence. So he is the embodiment of the two conflicting principles of existence. Thus, the image of a good teacher that comes to my mind is a living being that, torn between two sets of positive forces, continually struggles to stand erect with his face lifting to the affirmative look of the nation whose maker are his human ideals.

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