

Teacher as a Nation-Builder

By

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As a Japanese proverb says, “**Better than a thousand days of diligent study is one day with great teacher**”, as the books give information about others, while the teacher first makes you meet yourself, know your strengths and weaknesses and inspires you to create opportunities and fight obstacles for self-development in particular and national development in general.

The primary responsibility of combining the inherent talents of the students lies with the teachers; a good teacher is a personality-builder, a society-builder, and a nation-builder, **said the President of India, Ram Nath Kovind while presenting the National Teachers Awards 2021 to 44 teachers on the occasion**, symbolises that higher authorities even today acknowledge the role of teachers.

The above statement is not a topic of discussion but a topic of acceptance as a fact. From times immemorial, there are various examples that highlight how the ideal teacher or Guru, as called in ancient times, has turned out the battles declaring the victory of disciples. Teacher is a provider of knowledge and wisdom, with the ability to mould learners’ minds making them best citizens and creating a solid foundation for the well-developed strong nation.

We all will agree that teacher’s role and responsibilities change as per the level of education and the age of student starting from an innocent mind just like a blank page with rough edges that need to be sharpened, polished and filled with golden words and thoughts making that learner transformed into innovative, honest and rational leader working for the nation.

At the primary level, that is till the age of 10 years, the teacher’s play a basic role of orienting an innocent mind to the prevailing concepts, providing knowledge and inculcating values. Here teaching and value orientation may be in 80:20 ratio. In the secondary and higher secondary education level, i.e., from the age of 10 to 16 years, teacher makes the student a knowledge bank with lots of concepts taught for future application along with high level of values including honesty and patriotism, making the ratio as 60:40.

But as a learner enters in college for higher education, i.e., from the age of 16-23 years, the teacher works as a facilitator taking them from known to unknown, igniting their minds to understand and work on abstract concepts from concrete information leading them to the path

of research and innovation for national development. They learn social values and their mentors (teacher's) changes their attitude, increase their acceptability, make them aware of their hidden talents and traits and elevate them to the heights of idealism with the proper blend of skills and management. These moulded citizens are the real nation-builders whose concrete achievements change the rank of the country from the lower position to the top.

Thus, ideal teachers are role models much more important than the parents and peer's role and with their perseverance, love and motivation, they turn the success tables, bringing out the best and hidden heroes of the nation. A qualified, competent and dedicated teacher is enough to work as a change agent. He/she can be a catalyst to bring about a 360° transformation converting an under-developed or developing nation into developed nation.

However, nowadays it is observed that due to materialism, the scene is really opposite where the teachers are under-qualified and underpaid. Privatisation touching all the fields has made even education field open for profit-minded private players. Unfilled vacant post and contractual appointments have polluted this profession to a great extent resulting in loss of nobility. The dignity and respect of teachers shows a falling trend making the value inculcation process also a challenging task, keeping the two ends of teaching-learning devoid of experiencing the epitome of perfection, as far as cognitive development and logical reasoning are concerned. Apart from digitalisation, various other imposed duties like examination, activities, elections, documentation, census etc. have worsened the scenario killing the instinct of real teaching making teachers mere administrators rather than effective ambassadors of knowledge.

An over-burdened and dissatisfied leader can never produce markable and perfect results. Still these silent warriors continue to toil and shed their sweats to complete all duties without sacrificing the character building of their students. A heartfelt gratitude and a real salute to this teaching community who continues to play their role in nation-building inspite of the change in the outlook of the society towards them. Though the digitalisation has touched all walks of life, but the fact cannot be denied, where the **Google stops, teacher walks**. Digital resources provide lots of information and confuse the learner, while the teacher facilitates high realms of learning by providing basic conceptual knowledge in the very simple terms adopting the method that suits the capacity of the learner and then delimits cognitive ability by listing out

references that can help him/her to gain extra knowledge on the subject making the young minds apply these concepts practically.

So, to conclude it can be said that reconsidering policies to ensure teacher's dignity, with focus on their core roles rather than giving them additional workload, proper payments, constant training, encouraging their professional development in line with digital progress can really help to bring back the days where teachers like Dronacharya produced disciples like Arjun and Yudishtar that won even the battles of Mahabharata with very less Pandavas army as compared to Kaurvas troops.

Lastly, I would sum up with my words:

**A noble profession giving identity to all,
Teaching the values, ceasing character fall.**

**Losing their dignity and respect, competing with gadgets,
No training, no promotion, high expectations and low salary packets**

**Saluting you teachers toiling with sincerity,
Handling additional duties with effectiveness at parity,**

**The policies should be reviewed to sustain their dignity and respect,
Undoubtedly their role in nation-building will be enhanced with sure impact,
will be enhanced with sure impact.....**