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## The Role of a Teacher in Moulding the Personality of the Undergraduate Students

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### **Abstract:**

*When prospective teachers are asked, “Why do you want to be a teacher?” The response is commonly, “I want to be able to make a positive difference in the lives of my students”. Many of these teachers continue to say they also want to be effective teachers who will be remembered fondly by their former teachers. Some want to be better teachers and emulate their teachers who taught them. These statements highlight the importance of reviewing and analyzing students’ prior educational experiences for insight into the effective and ineffective attitudes and actions of teachers because the destiny of the nation is shaped in the classrooms.*

*Teachers have the opportunity to leave an indelible impression on their students’ lives. There is potential in every student, and a teacher’s attitude and actions can leave lasting impressions. Teachers need to be risk takers by being themselves and by trusting their students. They also need to create independent individuals so learning is more likely to take place. Effective teachers genuinely care, like, accept and value their students. These teachers will demonstrate kindness, share responsibility, accept diversity, foster individual education and encourage creativity.*

Kothari Commission on Higher Education has rightly pointed out that the destiny of a nation is moulded in the classrooms. That means that the students are the real architects of the nation. Rajaji has expressed the same idea metaphorically. In his view, young boys and girls are the bricks used for the construction of the nation. If the bricks are good and baked well, the national edifice will be strong and sound. So the teacher should act as a good mason and make sound bricks that are used in the national construction. Viewed in this perspective, the teacher has a major role to play in moulding the personality of the youth and help laying strong foundation for the development of the nation. Thus, the teacher is not only an intellectual mentor but also a spiritual guide to the taught.

A teacher should endeavour to mould the personality of the students and to motivate them to take part in building up of an equitable society wedded to the Gandhian ideal of ‘wiping every tear from every eye’. Professing great ideals and holding high aspirations are not enough: translating those ideas into purposeful action and time bound programme is needed. The first step is to set realistic goals and to commit oneself to those aspirations by heart and soul. Some of the goals a teacher should pursue in his vacation are as follows.

1. A teacher should try to inculcate in his students the great values and ideals enshrined in the Indian culture and heritage.
2. So as to wean the youth from the grip of superstition and obscurantism, he should make every effort to develop scientific temper in them,
3. A teacher should promote the democratic spirit among the students, not merely in the affairs of the governance of the state but also in the interpersonal relationships in everyday life.
4. He has to drive home to the students the need to protect the environment from degradation and depletion.
5. A teacher should make the students to realize their social responsibilities such as Literacy Drive and AIDS Awareness Programme.
6. He has to instill the work-culture in the minds of the youth that come in contact with him.
7. The youth should be exhorted to respect the law of the land voluntarily, without any external imposition.
8. A teacher should encourage the youth to develop independent thinking and the ability to question.
9. Every teacher should pursue the goal of transforming India a Knowledge Society. Hence he should try his best to motivate the students to acquire the computer knowledge and skills.
10. Finally, a teacher should make the students to transcend the national prejudices and to cultivate the global perspective.

The teacher should never be content with routinely teaching the prescribed lessons. Within the constraints and limitations imposed by the academic schedule, he has to rope in several additional-inputs, extra-curricular and co-curricular activities so as to enrich the knowledge and experience of the students. One should always keep in mind the fact that text is only a pretext. A lot more is needed to develop the all-round personality of the students to prepare them to live a purposeful life. Here is an action plan to achieve the set goals.

- Inculcating awareness about Indian culture and heritage

India is an ancient country with rich culture and heritage. From the time immemorial, India has maintained cultural contacts with several countries, both in the east and the west. The world at large has drawn great sustenance from the Wisdom of Vedas and Upanishads and the Gita. The cherished values of the Indian culture are the love of knowledge, tolerance and renunciation and its main trait is “Unity in Diversity”. A teacher should imbibe in his student’s thwsw time-tested values of Indian culture through the regular curriculum and also through the supplementary instructional methods such as guest lectures, seminars and symposia.

- Developing scientific temper

While giving importance to the values enshrined in the Indian culture and heritage, equal weightage has to be given to modern science and technology in the curriculum. A teacher should impress upon the students that science is not at all a contradiction to religion and spirituality. Therefore a teacher should strive hard to drive away superstitions from the mind of the students and inculcating in them the scientific temper by arranging special lectures by reputed scientists, researchers and teachers of science.

- Instilling democratic spirit in the students

Democracy is a leading political ideology of the modern age, which emphasizes the spiritual equality of all. The democratic spirit in the real sense presupposes the elimination of caste, creed and status. A teacher should make efforts to ingrain this spirit of equality among the student community and thereby bring attitudinal change in the youth. The students, thus trained in the democratic values, would, in turn, pave the way for establishing an egalitarian society.

- Need to protect the environment

As the global citizens and stake-holders of the beautiful planet, we have great responsibility in protecting the environment from pollution and degradation. We are morally bound to handover to our future generations the clean and serene environment intact. With this aim in mind, “Eco Clubs” should be started in schools and colleges so as to spread awareness among students about the need for controlling the environmental pollution.

- Developing social awareness

As future citizens, students have got certain social responsibilities, which they should not neglect. The chief among them are the prevention of corruption, Literacy Drive and AIDS Awareness. Under the aegis of the NSS and NCC units of the colleges, special camps should be conducted during the vacation and on the public holidays in the nearby villages to spread literacy and public and personal hygiene among the rural masses.

- To develop work culture

A teacher should strive hard to teach the young men and women the value of work culture. They would be made to realize that work is worship. There is a false notion among the youth that manual labour is less valuable and dignified in comparison with the intellectual labour. By organizing “shramadan” and field work periodically, the students should be involved in the physical labour and in the process they have to be taught the value of the dignity of labour.

- To make the youth respect the law of the land

One dangerous trend among the modern youth is that they have scant respect for the law of the land. They often flout the traffic rules, examination regulations and would not hesitate to cause public nuisance. A teacher should try to persuade the students to scrupulously follow the law by organizing orientation classes with the help of the legal experts, social workers and police officers.

- Developing individuality and independent thinking

The objective of education is to develop independent thinking and promoting individuality. A teacher should make sustained efforts to make the students to think creatively and independently. Thereby he can avoid the possibility of the youth becoming the carbon copies of their elders and teachers. For that purpose debates and group discussions should be arranged and students should be provided an opportunity for free and frank expression of ideas. The teacher should encourage the students to raise questions in the course of the lecture and try to clarify their doubts.

- To promote the concept of Knowledge Society

Knowledge is power and information is the key for development. Information technology has, of late, emerged as the basic input for national development. It provides national and international connectivity for the purpose of trade, commerce, communications, education and healthcare. Information technology helps societal transformation and wealth generation. So a teacher should encourage all the students to acquire the basic computer skills apart from the regular courses.

- Cultivating the global perspective

Indian seers have always visualized the concept of “Vasudaiva Kutumbam” ( the whole world is one family). Thus, the Indians long ago adopted the globalization concept, which the moderns are trumpeting the day in and day out now. Teachers should impress upon

the youth the need to transcend the narrow minded national prejudices and cultivate the global perspective by conducting occasionally the literary meetings and conferences bringing the experts in various fields of academic discipline from outside.

Thus, by implementing this action plan over a period teachers should endeavour to make this country a superpower in the years to come. They should also help creating dynamic leadership among the youth who “dare to dream and strive to achieve”.

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