

TUTORING THE TUTORS

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***Abstract:** Tutoring a tutor helps in strengthening the skills and expertise of the tutor. It is rightly said that the development of a country is in the hands of the youth. A child spends most of his/her time in school under the tutorage of the teacher. The need for the development of teachers is indispensable. Only when a teacher is armed with requisite skills and knowledge he/she could make a difference between teaching-induced learning and self learning. The sources for attaining knowledge are wide spread. In the present era, at the tap of keys, knowledge can be gained. This actually makes the work of a teacher redundant. It is therefore imperative that a teacher stay abreast of the developments and innovations in his area of expertise to keep himself worthy of his profession and to gain the respect of his/her students. Moreover, it is not enough just to know certain information on the subject, but one should possess an in-depth subject knowledge to be an effective teacher. Teaching is an art. Imparting or transferring of knowledge entails in developing a skill. This skill can be acquired, if not inherently present.*

Teacher development is indispensable. Learning is a perpetual action. Knowledge is a vast ocean which cannot be encompassed by any one individual. It requires a lot of in-depth study and systematic hard work to own at least a handful of that knowledge. A teacher should develop a life-long learning experience in order to cater to the rapidly changing scenario in the teaching arena. Having a research bent of mind is also essential for a teacher. Teachers should be able to lead their students to one corner of a room so that they are able to discover the other three corners for themselves.

Moreover, it is not enough to have information and depth of knowledge in one's subject to be an effective teacher. The quality of the students will decline if quality education is absent. Albeit the students have many resources at their beck and call for gaining knowledge, the presence of a 'Guru' will definitely make a difference to the quality of their education. According to Dr. Radhakrishnan, just a conversation with a great scholar can enrich one, thousand folds. It is enough to listen to the words of a great man to enrich and enlighten oneself.

A Guru should be one who dispels the darkness of ignorance and leads the student to light. This is possible only when the Guru is one step above the students in terms of knowledge. This being the computer era, the teachers should be computer literates so that the students are able to identify with them. An added advantage would be to learn to create apps so that the student can be in constant touch with the teacher.

Whatever the learning experience of a teacher, nothing prepares him/her for the hands-on experiences in the classroom. Every classroom is different from the other. No student is similar to the other and the teacher should be able to cater to the needs of every student in the classroom. Where the scholars of the class only need a facilitator to show them the way, a below average student would expect the teacher to walk with him every mile during his phase of getting educated. It is the duty of the teacher to gently mellow down the brighter heads of the class and take the below average students along with them.

Every educational institution has the prime responsibility of attracting recruiting and developing effective teachers. Student learning depends on the quality of teaching, which is in turn determined by the quality of the teachers and the environment in which they work. The environment is important because, unless an able teacher is provided with the right support system he will be rendered incapable of being effective in his teaching methodology. Incentives and other economical benefit should be provided to enable a teacher to further his skills and develop his teaching capacities.

21st century teachers should have word processing skills. A modern teacher should know how to spell check, create table or insert hyperlinks into his or her word document. A tech-savvy teacher should excel at spreadsheet skills that will help you compiling grades of your students and keep the data of the growth of the students at the fingertips. An educator must possess the digital presentation skills such as PPT presentations, etc., A 21st century teacher must know how to navigate internet to extract data or teaching resources using the basics of advanced search utilizing Boolean operators. A today's teacher should grasp the basics of computer networking. One should learn how his or her institution's computer networking is functioning. Therefore it is imperative to include these skills training in teacher education curriculum so as to tutor the teachers who are already in the field.

We need to teach the future teachers to use blogs and wikis to create online contents for vivid discussion and collaboration. Upcoming generation of teachers should be trained to use social bookmarking sites such as pinterest. A tech-savvy teacher should be able to use web tools to edit video contents to engage students. In today's world, seeing is believing, hence, a teacher should entice the students with infographics to emphasize the points. Thus, some knowledge how to use web tools to create infographics becomes indispensable. While handing out notes, homework and assignments are quite important doing it using e-portfolio such as google sites or weebly or edmodo.com would be impressive. It is vital for a teacher to be a step ahead of his or her students, especially when it comes to the plagiarized works in students' assignments. A modern teacher should know the appropriate web tools to detect the plagiarized work such as duplicheck.com or plagiarism checker.com. Last but not the least, a contemporary teacher should employ online quizzes and surveys to check the pulse of the students. One should know the webtools such as Zohosurvey, Surveymonkey or Google Forms to create quizzes and surveys to create them.

Any institution which invests in teacher development can witness significant changes in the dissemination of knowledge in classes. The management should get involved in training teachers in modern technologies. Universities and colleges must invest in incorporating basic web technological skills such as programming skills in faculty development programmes. Senior teaching workforce of any institution should be placed in the capacity of mentoring and guiding the junior faculty. This will ensure a rich experienced flow of teaching strategies which can be imbibed by the young generation of teachers. A profession, which generally is seen as the dominion of the older generation, can thus attract the youngsters and also mould them as effective teachers. Moreover, attending seminars and conferences, publishing papers and involving in research should be made mandatory for every teaching professional. Thus, exchange and sharing of knowledge will enhance the talents of the teachers.

CITATION

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