

CHANGING ROLES OF A 'MODERN' TEACHER AFTER COVID-19 IN INDIA

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Abstract:

We have entered the modern world with the rapid advancement of technology. The role of technology in the world of education is becoming more important day by day. Teaching is considered as one of the oldest and honourable profession in the world. The aim of our current education is studentcentric. Students are the future of the nation and teachers are the builders of this nation. The quality of education depends on the quality of teachers. Teachers are the 'backbone' of educational systems. Currently, Covid-19 pandemic has affected educational systems all over the world. The purpose of this paper is to point out, the changing roles and responsibilities of a 'modern' teacher after this pandemic situation in India. After the corona pandemic, and long lockdown in our country there is a need of technological progress in teaching. Hence, the roles of a teacher will be more challenging than previous. He / she should be 'modern'. This paper also attempts to discuss about the philosophy behind the importance of a 'modern' teacher.

Keywords: 'Modern' Teacher, Noble, Covid-19, Technology, Roles of a Modern Teacher, Philosophy

1. INTRODUCTION

Let us remember: "*YOU MUST BE THE CHANGE YOU WISH TO SEE IN THE WORLD.*"
Mahatma Gandhi

One of the ancient, and most honourable, noble professions within the world is teaching. Times of now-a-days is developing in each side of human life. Now, we have entered within the era of information and technology. Education has a special role in the development of the nation and teachers are the nation's builder. The standard of education is associated with the standard of teachers.

According to Aristotle, *Education is an ornament in prosperity and a refuge in adversity.* The contribution of education is very important for the betterment of our society and this education system became successful through 'good' teachers. Teachers are the 'backbone' of educational systems.

The national policy of education (1986), emphasized: "*The status of teacher reflects the socio-cultural ethos of a society. It is said that no people can rise above the level of its teachers.*"

The world is quickly evolving with the method of 'modernization', its contents are also ever-changing day by day. In keeping with the advancement of technology, a teacher must perform a lot more responsibilities than before. Within the speedy rise of net and advance

technologies, it isn't the sole choice we've left to be physically present within the traditional classroom. After the corona pandemic in India, we are relying on online education which can only be implemented with the help of 'modern' teachers.

2.Need of the study: Presently, Covid-19 pandemic has affected educational systems all over the world. Most Governments, around the world have temporarily closed educational institutions. Recently, many examinations have been cancelled, some examinations have been postponed, in India. That's why, teachers play a vital role in contemporary learning systems and they should be 'modern'. Due to this pandemic, all over the world and after long lockdown in our country India, there is a need of technological progress in teaching. In that case, we are dependent on the 'modern' teacher to continue our educational journey for our future generation. But here the question arises who is a 'Modern' Teacher? And what exactly the vital roles and responsibilities of a 'Modern' Teacher? So, present study contains a great significance, because this study will focus about the relevance of a teacher.

3.Objectives of the study: The aim of this study is-

To find out the definition of a 'modern' teacher.

To search out the characteristics of a 'modern' teacher.

To find out the philosophy behind the importance of a 'modern' teacher.

4.Methodology: The paper is entirely supported by secondary knowledge. The various sources of knowledge are journal articles, websites, blogs, Wikipedia, reports of different commission, articles printed in national, international, and native papers etc. This Paper can provide some ideas regarding the changing roles of a 'modern' teacher especially after the corona pandemic in India.

5.(i)Who is a Modern Teacher?

The noun teacher derived from the verb 'teach.' The word 'teach' derived from the Anglo-Saxon word, 'teacan' which means "to show," "to instruct," "to make aware of," and "to train." According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary the word 'teach' derived from the Middle English word 'techen' which means "to show or instruct". So, we can say, the teacher is a person who helps people to learn, to train or to educate. He / She helps people to acquire knowledge around the life and whole world. There are many kinds of teachers- primary teachers, high school teachers, college, or university teachers, etc. He/she is the "friend, philosopher and guide."

According to Ever Garrison, *A teacher is a compass that activates the magnets of curiosity, knowledge, and wisdom in the pupils.*

Radhakrishnan said, "Teacher is the corner stone of the arch of education".

National Commission on school- teachers 1983-1985 determined that "A teacher is an agent of change."

Educational needs are dynamic day by day. It's not an equivalent nowadays as it was earlier. The educational requirements are increasing, as we enter the advanced era. Currently, with the increase of net and upgraded technologies, teaching profession is facing huge challenge. After covid-19, teaching is very complicated and challenging job. As a result of today's demand is teach from home with the assistance of technology. So, it's vital for the Nations

builder to perform their duties and responsibilities effectively. He /She ought to be a 'modern' teacher. He /She ought to have the information of various technological approaches of education, and educational tools. Teachers also are a forever skilled learner. If he didn't learn properly with the demand of today's requirement, then he could not be able to teach effectively. According to Rabindranath Tagore, *A teacher can never truly teach unless he is still learning himself. A lamp can never light another lamp unless it continues to burn its own flame.* That's why it is very important for every teacher to update himself/herself. Teacher isn't solely a thinker or 'guide', however conjointly a 'learner', 'facilitator', 'co-ordinator', 'mentor' and 'helper'. Teacher is the 'role model' for their students.

The 'modern way of teaching method' is more activity-based, using questions and answers, with explanations of demonstrations and collaborative techniques-such as debates, assignments, quizzes, group projects, pair or group discussions, feedbacks, etc. Now with the assistance of technology, students can learn from anywhere, anytime they need from their academics. So, we can say a 'Modern' teacher is the 'agent' who is enthusiastic, innovative, dedicative, and energetic regarding gaining new knowledge, experience, information, and skills for today's generation furthermore as future generation.

5.(ii) Characteristics of a good 'modern' teacher: According to Humayun Kabir- *Without a good teacher, even the best of system is bound to be fail; with good teachers, even the worst of system can be largely overcome.* Characteristics of a good teacher are also changing with the changing nature of educational society.

Some vital characteristics of a good 'modern' teacher are discussed below:

1. Love their subjects and motivate the students to love their subjects too.
2. Love their every student equally. They will never show favouritism in the class.
3. Dedicative to their work, and profession.
4. Co-operative with their colleagues.
5. Be calm, patient, and friendly.
7. Must be Courageous and confident.
7. Be a good listener, and problem solver.
8. Find solutions and critical thinking.
9. Ability to forgiveness.
10. Ability to collaborate with students, parents, and guardians
11. Teachers should have good communicative skills.
12. Teachers should have good management skill.
13. Must be punctual.
14. Willing to admit their mistakes.
15. Willing to take the new challenges.
16. They will encourage students to group discussions with each other.
17. They will not run away from their weaknesses.
18. They will see themselves as co-learners.

19.They can keep the class interactive.

20.They always leave a positive impact in the life of the students.

6. Role of a teacher in the present COVID situation in India: During this pandemic situation when it is not possible to go in a traditional classroom, a teacher has to resort to online education. Every teacher should post the required study material in the virtual classroom. A teacher needs to attend various online training programs to learn how to make online classes fruitful. A teacher does not just teach the Scriptures. He/ She plays the role of a 'guide' in every moment of life's battle. In the present COVID situation the biggest role of a teacher is 'motivating' and 'guiding' his/her students about the precautions and safety rules of the COVID-19. Since staying healthy is our first priority in this current situation, a teacher should always make his /her students aware of that. Every teacher should always remind his/her students of all the precautions and safety rules during the online classes. He/she should also make the students aware of 'social distance' and inspire them to make others aware as well. A teacher will always advise his / her students to do 'YOGA' to relieve stress and to stay fit in this crisis period. He /She should encourage students to be safe and healthy. What is more, he/ she must be an optimistic teacher and should always motivate students to be 'optimistic'. Through various positive examples he /she will assure his/her students that we will get rid of this pandemic very soon. In this COVID situation when online classes have started at various institutions, many students are suffering from extreme stress and anxiety due to not having a smart phone and sufficient data pack which are compulsory for the online classes. Many students are also trying to commit suicide because of this stress and frustration. In such a situation, it is the responsibility of a 'good' teacher to provide the much needed 'emotional support' to the students who are unable to join online classes by sending them positive messages. He/ She also needs to figure out how those messages reach those students. Thus, the teacher's role is undoubtedly very challenging in this tough situation.

7.Roles of a 'Modern' Teacher after COVID-19 In India: The educational systems around the world are underneath large pressure to use technology in 'modern teaching'. Teaching-Learning ought to be student- centric. In our country, Now-a-days, it is essential to learn anytime anywhere from the teacher with the help of technology. Teaching is not an easy task. According to the changing nature of educational systems a teacher must perform many roles and responsibilities. So, after Covid-19, the roles of a 'modern' teacher will be definitely more challenging than previous. These vital roles are as follows:

7.i. 'Mentor': One among the largest roles of a 'modern' teacher is a 'mentor'. During this corona pandemic situation, 'mentoring' is the vital role of a teacher when students are facing through a lot of mental stress, depression, frustration, and anxiety. The 'mentor' teacher could be a teacher who provides access to their learning atmosphere for the aim of guiding and mentoring, as well as offer motivation and most significantly emotional support. Students come from various socio-economic backgrounds. A good mentor teacher will try to maintain a loving and respectful relationship with their every student equally. 'Modern' teacher's attitude should be 'empathetic'. The 'mentor' teachers increase their skills to boost student's mental growth and overall development on their educational journey. They're sensible listeners, sensible observers, sensible motivators, and problem-solvers. They must always try to solve any problem of their students with affection.

7.ii. 'Flexibility' and 'Adaptability': During this, trendy digital age, each teacher has to be compelled to be 'flexible' and 'adaptable'. 'Flexibility' could be a talent that helps to beat

any obstacle. On the other hand, 'adaptability' is the quality of having the ability to regulate to new conditions. Once teachers are 'flexible', and 'adaptable', they're higher ready to adjust with the ever-changing nature of teaching.

7.iii'Leadership': Teachers are a good '*leader*' by transforming the knowledge, experience, information, and skills from one generation to a different generation. As a '*leader*', the teacher will nurture critical and creative thinking and provide support to learner practitioners. I want to quote here A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, '*Educationist should be the capacities of the spirit of inquiry, creativity, entrepreneurial and moral leadership among students and become their role model.*' As a '*leader*', 'modern' teacher is never afraid of the latest learning strategies. They always try to respond to the needs of today's students.

7.iv. Lifelong- Learners: 'Modern' teachers are lifelong skilled learners. As technology evolves, learning information, learning a tool, everything associated with technologies is changeable. As education and technology are forever evolving, a 'modern' teacher ought to be informed about the new data, information, and experiences around the world. A good 'modern' teacher will always keep himself up to date for the benefit of their students. They always make themselves engage to keep learning. In student -centric teaching- learning, a 'modern' teacher should play as a '*co-learner*' of their students. Teachers are the '*role model*' for his / her students. So, when teachers prefer to learn, their enthusiasm can naturally motivate students as well.

7.v.'Internet-Savvy': In this modern era, we all are dependent on technology. Day by day, 'modern education' is also becoming more and more dependent on technology. Now students can get information easily with the use of technology from anyplace. Hence, every teacher and every student must be 'tech-savvy' especially after COVID-19. The use of technology in education is completely new to the students, it is also new to the teachers. That's why 'modern' teachers should be aware of the latest technology. He / She must be well informed and trained about the 'modern technology'. 'Modern' teachers ought to perceive what digital tools are best suited to their students and use them effectively in their virtual and traditional classroom. Now, after the COVID-19 pandemic situation, taking online classes and online assessment is very important and challenging task for every 'modern' teacher.

7.vi.'Innovative': 'Modern' teachers ought to be 'innovative' and creative-where they keep discovering and driving new ways and content to make sure they always have the most effective learning experience. He / She must be 'innovative' for the betterment of their students, for the betterment of the educational systems. An 'innovative' teacher can teach with the use of *power point slides, animation, word document, worksheet* etc to make the teaching learning process more interesting. They should use various apps and the internet to gain knowledge about new trends of learning technique. They can also use latest tools for taking online classes. There are many educational tools for online teaching, such as-google-classroom, YouTube, blog, Cisco WebEx, Google Meet etc. 'Modern' teacher can facilitate the students to become 'Innovative' too.

7.vii.ICT Enabled: Most important role of a 'modern' teacher is to have the knowledge and utilization of ICT. In modern teaching, ICT is the most essential part. So, every 'modern' teacher should be ICT enabled teacher. ICT stands for "*Information Communication Technology*." 'Modern' teacher ought to have the all information concerning ICT. It's additionally a contemporary teacher's duty how to properly use this information. It's a tool for teaching and learning itself, the medium through that academics will teach, and learners

will learn. With the help of ICT teachers can communicate with their students. They can also communicate with the guardian of their students in parent teachers virtual meeting. ICT helps a teacher to become 'innovative'. He / She can design their course with the help of ICT. They can make their teaching learning more interesting with the use of ICT. It plays a vital role in student assessment also. A 'modern' teacher can only be successful for taking online class with the use of ICT.

7.viii. User of Digital library: One of the important roles of a 'modern' teacher is to access of digital library. A contemporary teacher should use the 'digital library' to enhance their knowledge. He / She should encourage students to use the digital library. In 'digital library' they can easily find lots of resource material, study material etc. National Digital Library of India (NDLI) is free of cost.

7.ix. Agent of Social Change: Teachers are the builder of nation and society. Dr S Radhakrishnan defines education as the instrument for social, economic, and cultural change. The role of a teacher in social change is very important. Every teacher should be always aware of the current problems in the society. 'Modern' teachers must perform as an agent to take forward the society. He / She must be dedicative to his / her duty. After corona pandemic, a teacher needs to take the society forward by becoming proficient in online teaching.

7.x. 'Resource Person': A 'modern' teacher as a 'resource person' plays another vital role. He should have the information about various faculty development programme, various innovative programme, ICT training programme etc. He / She should share this information with their colleagues for the betterment of their students, for the betterment of their institution. He/ She should play his/ her duty as a 'resource person.'

8. Philosophy behind the importance of a 'modern' teacher: 'Philosophy' and 'education' are interrelated. 'Philosophy' gives us an overall knowledge of the whole world and life. 'Philosophy of Education' is based on analysis and evaluation. The most important function of philosophy is to evaluate the content. We experience the knowledge of philosophy, through education. Education is basically, the art of learning, not only from books, however from the entire movement of our life. Every teacher has, his / her own philosophy to form their teaching -learning effective and attractive. The job of a teacher is to increase learning opportunities for the good of the individual, and for the good of the society. According to the idealistic philosopher and educationist Dr S. Radhakrishnan, the function of the teacher is of vital importance. He should be a committed man, committed to faith in the future of man, in the future of humanity, in the future of their country, in the future of their world.

According to Mahatma Gandhi, Teachers are like torches, a light to others, waste, and destruction to themselves.

Philosophy helps us to think critically. What is the importance of a 'modern' teacher and his responsibilities? Why do we need 'modern' teacher in the present scenario? These are some relevant questions of philosophical enquiry. We will try to find the answers to all these questions from a philosophical point of view. We can further say that there is a philosophy behind all these questions. From philosophical perspective, we can say, there are certain values of each profession. One will do justice to his/her own profession only when he/she performs the duties and responsibilities effectively with the changing nature of their profession. It is the 'dharma' of a teacher to perform their duties with full dedication and honesty in every situation. The classroom scenario is evolving day by day. After the corona

pandemic, there is a need of online learning. But the problem is, there's a technological gap between the progress of the society and instructive action of the teacher. In that case, the changing role of a 'modern' teacher is very relevant. Isn't it?

Now-a-days students can learn from various sources. They're deeply involved within the digital world, and social networking. Smart phones, laptops, computers, tablets, etc tools, are the everyday use of students. Education also needs 'social engagement' and 'peer-learning'. When students are given the opportunity, they can do creative things. They like to explore new things. But the question is how can they properly use these tools?

There are positive as well as negative aspects of technology. Technology may be a positive tool with the right training, and proper guidance for the students. Here, teachers are the only 'trainer', 'guide', 'facilitator' for his or her student. They'll guide them during a positive direction. For the development of our country all we need, is a 'modern' teacher. The changing role of a 'modern' teacher is very important to take the society forward. Because teachers are the agent to change the world.

'Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.'

Nelson Mandela

MHRD has launched Swayam (Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds) platform for Study free on-line courses in our country India. *"SWAYAM is an instrument for self-actualisation providing opportunities for a life-long learning."* Here learner will make a choice from many courses. SWAYAM MOOCs platform is World's largest online free E-learning platform. *"MOOC stands for 'Massive Open Online Course.'"* The video courses that have been uploaded on the Swayam platform, itself have been made possible by only 'modern' teachers. So, it is very clear, how significant the changing roles of the 'modern' teacher for the betterment of our nation.

'Modern learning' ought to be 'blended learning'. *"Blended learning is an approach to education that combines online educational materials and opportunities for interaction online with traditional place-based classroom methods. It requires the physical presence of both teacher and student, with some elements of student control over time, place, path, or pace."*(Wikipedia) To make 'blended learning' fruitful we need to recognize the importance of the 'modern' teacher and his / her changing role in the present scenario.

9. Discussion and Conclusion: We have entered the 'modern world', where technology has much advanced. Only Education can change the world. And without effective teacher educational planning are meaningless. Inspired by the Radhakrishnan's ideals, we can say, teachers are the cornerstone of educational systems. In India, after Corona pandemic, we must put a lot emphasis on 'modern' teacher and his teaching method on online education. We know that online education can never be equivalent to traditional classroom learning. But, I think, there is a need for online classes as an alternative way of learning, especially after this corona pandemic. But the problem is, 'modern' teachers may not be completely successful to do it right now; because most of the pupils in our country India, can't afford smartphones/tablets/laptops/computers which is necessary for taking online classes. In this situation, I think a 'modern' teacher can only be completely successful if our government helps him/her. If smart phones/laptops etc tools are given instead of scholarships, then every pupil in our country will be able to take online classes. We also need high speed net at low cost. We know that Our government is always with us. As a result, 'modern' teachers will be

able to take our society forward. We can say, it may be difficult but not impossible. The word 'IMPOSSIBLE' which itself says 'I AM POSSIBLE'. Most importantly to be a successful 'modern' teacher what is always needed for a teacher, to attend the required various Faculty Development Programme, Innovative training programme. So that, he /she can teach in the best way and may be successful to take the society forward. He/She will have to take training on ICT also. With the help of ICT, a teacher can update his / her knowledge and use the virtual tools properly. Every institution should have the facility of ICT. Lastly, I would like to say that our determination to overcome adversity and succeed will help us to be optimistic. "Optimism is essential to achievement and it is also the foundation of courage and true progress" (Nicholas M. Butler).

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