

## THE VITAL ROLE OF A TEACHER IN ENGINEERING PROFESSION AS AN EDUCATOR, MOTIVATOR AND LEADER

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### Abstract

Today's changing scenario in the field of education makes the role of a teacher tough as well as significant. Undoubtedly the role of a teacher is challenging and demands amalgamation of different roles as an educator, a motivator and a leader. Since a teacher plays different roles as a facilitator, an instructor, a friend, an educator, a motivator, a leader, a mentor, a coach, a source provider etc. in educational institutes, he must be multifaceted. Majority the students take the teachers as their role model and follow them consistently. The present paper therefore studies the significance of the teacher in students' lives as well as career. The paper highlights the role of a teacher as an educator, a motivator, and a leader and how it helps in the overall development of students' personality. The writers also suggest the different strategies of educating, motivating and building leadership in teaching learning process.

**Keywords:** Engineering, the role of a teacher, education, motivation, leadership, career development, personality development etc.

### Introduction:

As L.Deer Fink, Ambrose and Daniel rightly asserts in their article *Becoming a professional Engineering Educator: A New Role for a New Era*, "Engineering faculty need to learn new approaches to teaching and learning which require effective professional development for both new and experienced instructors alike."(185)

Present education system is student centered. Here Student- teacher are the pillars upon which the foundation of education system is laid down. A Teacher is an experienced professional who imparts knowledge and intellectual abilities. Engineering college Professor takes assignment of teaching illustrates case studies, publish research articles; interact with industries, and administrative work. They not only possess subject expertise and knowledge, but

also inculcate discipline thinking for discussion and practice ethics. The role of Professor is to enhance students 'performance and encouraging students for higher learning. The paper highlights the role of a teacher as an educator, a motivator, and a leader and how it helps in the overall development of students' personality.

### **1. Teacher as a Professional Educator:**

An effective teacher undergoes through various roles. His ultimate objective is to impart the knowledge as well as to develop the overall personality of his students. He has a great passion, love and enthusiasm for teaching. He maintains his credibility by demonstrating a caring attitude towards his students. He tries to know the students grievances and maintains balance by understanding them on personal level. Elite teachers know how to balance this without crossing that line and once a student believes the teacher truly cares for them, then there is no limit to what that student can achieve. The best teachers work hard to figure out how to relate to each of their students. He is willing to think outside the box. He utilizes different strategies and differentiated learning to reach every student. Teachers have to be willing to be creative and adaptive in their lessons, thinking outside the box on a continual basis. He should be an excellent and strong communicator. **An effective teacher is proactive rather than reactive.** Teachers who plan ahead, looking for aspects that they might have issues with, and proactively looking for solutions to solve those problems will have less stress on them. He strives to be better. He seeks out professional development opportunities and tries to apply something new for the betterment of students. He uses a variety of media in his lessons. They challenge their students and maximize their time with them so that students learn more than they ever thought they could learn. **An effective teacher understands the content that they teach and knows how to explain that content in a manner that their students understand.**

As an educator, it is the prime motive of teacher is to plan, instruct and interact with the students. At the planning stage, teachers play multiple roles. They are learners, constantly taking classes and attending professional development sessions to learn the latest best practices and strategies for effective teaching. They analyze test results and other data to help determine the course of their instruction and make changes in their classrooms. Teachers also design lesson plans to teach the standards and provide engaging activities, while taking into account each student's interests and instructional needs. Teachers are facilitators of learning, tutors and evaluators, constantly assessing students' abilities through formal and informal assessments, providing suggestions for improvement and assigning grades. A teacher has the power to build up or tear down a student's self-esteem and make a student's day or ruin it in an instant. When interacting with students, a teacher must fill the role of a counselor, a surrogate parent, a nutritionist and someone who has the best interests of every child at heart.

A teacher's professional duties may extend beyond formal teaching. Outside of the classroom teachers may accompany students on field trips, supervise study halls, help with the organization of college functions, and serve as supervisors for extracurricular activities. Around the world teachers are often required to obtain specialized education, knowledge, codes of ethics and internal monitoring. Before imparting knowledge to the students, teacher decides which teaching method to be adopted. They consider students' background knowledge, environment, and their learning goals as well as standardized curriculum as determined by the relevant authority. The increasing use of technology (internet) has begun to shape the way teachers approach their roles in the classroom.

Teachers that exhibit enthusiasm can lead to students who are more likely to be engaged, interested, energetic, and curious about learning the subject matter. Recent research has found a correlation between teacher enthusiasm and students' intrinsic motivation to learn and vitality in the classroom. Students who experienced a very enthusiastic teacher were more likely to read lecture material outside of the classroom. Enthusiastic teachers may also lead to students becoming more self-determined in their own learning process. The concept of mere exposure indicates that the teacher's enthusiasm may contribute to the student's expectations about intrinsic motivation in the context of learning. Enthusiastic teachers are particularly good at creating beneficial relations with their students. Their ability to create effective learning environments that foster student achievement depends on the kind of relationship they build with their students. This positive influence show stronger self-confidence and greater personal and academic success among students. Students are likely to build stronger relations with teachers who are friendly and supportive and will show more interest in courses taught by these teachers. Teachers that spend more time interacting and working directly with students are perceived as supportive and effective teachers. Effective teachers have been shown to invite student participation and decision making, allow humor into their classroom, and demonstrate a willingness to play.

## **2. Teacher as a Motivator:**

A teacher plays different roles in educational institutes. Basically he works as a motivator. He tries to increase learner's motivation through different methods. He motivates, inspires and guides the students and makes his classroom teaching more effective. He acquaints the students about the recent trends in education. Motivation in teaching is an essential process of effective teaching. Motivation is a very strong factor for the educators to educate the people. If the motivation is powerful and strong, the rest of process will be easy and comfortable. If they find anything attractive and useful, they pay a proper attention but if they feel anything useless they get tired and bored. So a proper motivation moves them to grasp the lesson carefully and seriously. In college, we see that the students like the specific teachers because those teachers always use the interesting presentation and sometimes he maintains the pleasant personality. So we can understand the role of motivation in educating in our colleges.

Students are motivated through various activities like sports, extracurricular activities such as singing, dancing, elocution etc. The proper and creative use of these activities makes a proper, interesting and energetic environment. A teacher gives motivation and spirit to their students that can build the confidence from the students. A teacher support and motivate students to repair their mistakes. Teachers build the character of their students through a variety of activities that can enhance student creativity in building self-motivation in students. Teachers should always be constructive to adopt innovative new methods to motivate students to learn the children by placing their students as a center of learning. Based on Student Centered Learning, the teachers should be as a facilitator, motivator, and inspiration for students that can construct students' creativity and their understanding.

Teacher can work as a facilitator. While teaching in the classroom, the teacher can motivate the students in learning activities in the form of presentations, question and answer, discussion, by giving some assignments on debates, group discussion, speech presentation, role plays etc. Here the teacher's role is to facilitate them and to provide them a right platform for their hidden talents. Teacher can be a source of inspiration for students. Teachers not only assist the students in the classroom, but also act as a friend. They provide inspiration to their students and for others too. When teachers learn with and from one another, they can focus on what most

directly improves student learning. Their professional learning becomes more relevant, focused on teachers' classroom work, and aligned to fill gaps in student learning.

### **3. Teacher as a Leader:**

Professor is an experienced professional who professes with knowledge and intellectual abilities. Engineering college Professor takes assignment of teaching, publishing research articles, interact with industries, and administrative work. They not only possess subject expertise and knowledge, but also inculcate discipline thinking for discussion and practice ethics. The role of Professor is to enhance students' performance and encouraging students for higher learning. The performance of students is a contributing factor in determining whether they perceive an engineering college professor as transformation leader. Here the question arises, what does it mean to be a teacher leader? How does one become a teacher leader? What are the ways in which teachers can take leadership? Teacher works as a leader and support his students in order to achieve success. They improve the inner and external potential and capacity of the students. Even teachers can serve as leaders among their peers. Teacher proves his worth as a leader through various traits such as resource provider, instructional specialist, curriculum specialist, classroom supporter, learning facilitator, mentor, analyst for change, learner etc.

Shiva Prasad H.C writes : *“The transformational Professor as leader has made the engineering college students more optimistic and enthusiastic. The engineering college students have become confident, driven for higher performance, and courageously took up challenging academic tasks. Professor have enhanced students' effectiveness encouraging them to perform better and elevating them to a higher plane, removing deficiency through proper teaching, training, and counseling; and seeking their participation in class-room discussion, problem-solving, and decision-making.”*

### **1. Resource Provider:**

Teachers help their colleagues by sharing instructional resources. These might include Web sites, instructional materials, readings, or other resources to use with students. They might also share such professional resources as articles, books, lesson or unit plans, and assessment tools.

### **2. Instructional Specialist:**

An instructional specialist helps colleagues implement effective teaching strategies. This help might include ideas for differentiating instruction or planning lessons in partnership with fellow teachers. Instructional specialists might study research-based classroom strategies (Marzano, Pickering, & Pollock, 2001); explore which instructional methodologies are appropriate for the college; and share findings with colleagues. The English teachers share strategies they use in their classes to improve students' writing.

### **3. Curriculum Specialist:**

Curriculum specialists leaders agree on standards, follow the adopted curriculum, use common pacing charts, and develop shared assessments. They understand content standards, link together various components of curriculum and use it in planning instructions.

### **4. Classroom Supporter:**

Classroom supporters work inside classrooms to help teachers implement new ideas, often by demonstrating a lesson, co-teaching, or observing and giving feedback. Blase and Blase (2006)

found that consultation with peers enhanced teachers' belief in their own abilities and capacity to successfully solve teaching and learning problems. (Pg.22)

#### **6. Mentor:**

Teacher leader works as a mentor for novice teachers. Mentors serve as role models; adjust new teachers to a new college, and advise new teachers about instruction, curriculum, procedure, practices, and politics. Being a mentor takes a great deal of time and expertise and makes a significant contribution to the development of a new professional. Apart from all these basic roles, the teacher being a mentor for the students should inculcate basic qualities in the students, so that they become better citizen and contribute for the society as well as for the nation in a more effective and constructive manner.

#### **7. College Leader:**

A college leader shares the vision of the school, aligns his or her professional goals with those of the college and shares responsibility for the success of the college as a whole. He believes that his own growth depends on the growth of the organization. Therefore he devotes his time for the well being of the organization.

#### **8. Catalyst for Change:**

Teacher leaders can also be catalysts for change, visionaries who are “never content with the status quo but rather always looking for a better way” (Larner, 2004, p. 32). Teachers, who take on the catalyst role, feel secure in their own work and have a strong commitment to continual improvement. They pose questions to generate analysis of student learning.

#### **9. Good Learner:**

Teacher leader plays the crucial role of learner. Learners model continuous improvement, demonstrate lifelong learning, and use what they learn to help all students achieve. Teachers exhibit leadership in multiple ways. Some leadership roles are formal with designated responsibilities. Other more informal roles emerge as teachers interact with their peers. The variety of roles ensures that teachers can find ways to lead that fit their talents and interests. Regardless of the roles they assume, teacher leaders shape the culture of their college, improve student learning, and influence practice among their peers.

#### **Conclusion:**

Many teachers today are encouraged to adapt and adopt new practices that acknowledge both the art and science of learning. They grasp that their most important role is to get to know each student as an individual in order to comprehend his or her unique needs, learning style, social and cultural background, interests, and abilities. Their job is to counsel students as they grow and mature and helping them integrate their social, emotional, and intellectual growth. These dimensions yields the abilities to seek, understand, and use knowledge; to make better decisions in their personal lives; and to value contributing to society. They must be prepared and permitted to intervene at any time and in any way to make sure learning occurs. In actual practice, this new relationship between teachers and students takes the form of a different concept of instruction. The most respected teachers have discovered how to make students passionate participants in the instructional process by providing project-based, participatory, educational adventures. They know that in order to get students to truly take responsibility for their own education, the

curriculum must relate to their lives, learning activities must engage their natural curiosity, and assessments must measure real accomplishments and be an integral part of learning. The day-to-day job of a teacher is becoming one of designing and guiding students through engaging learning opportunities. An educator's most important responsibility is to search out and construct meaningful educational experiences that allow students to solve real-world problems and show they have learned the big ideas, powerful skills, and habits of mind and heart that meet agreed-on educational standards. According to the George Lucas Educational Foundation, the role of a teacher today is much different than it used to be. Teacher's used to be told what to teach, and how to teach it. They were expected to use the same methods for all students. In today's world of education, a teacher's role is quite multifaceted. Their job is to counsel students, help them learn how to use their knowledge and integrate it into their lives so they will be valuable member of society. Teachers are encouraged to really tune into how each individual student learns, and try to really challenge and inspire them to learn.

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