

STUDY TOWARDS THE ROLE OF TEACHERS AS SOCIAL REFORMERS

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Keywords:	Abstract:
Social Change Makers, Teacher, Social Role.	Knowledge is universal and important in human life. Since ancient times, there has been a continuous and uninterrupted process of acquiring, accumulating, preserving and transferring knowledge to the next generation. When human life evolved from primitive barbarism to a civilized society, knowledge, science, technology, and good social relations must have played an important role in it. The concept of society can be understood as a network of social relations. Many social scientists considered education the vehicle of social change, while many social scientists and educationists accepted educational change as a result of social change. Many types of exchange are done in social relations, the most sacred exchange among them is of knowledge, information, and methods. There can be no greater social concern than the donation of knowledge or the exchange of knowledge. Since ancient times, there has been a well-known Guru-Shishya tradition in India. Teachers become the vehicle of social change by giving direction to the society, paving the way for progress, and play an important role in removing social evils. In India, there is historical mention of many excellent teachers since ancient times, among whom teachers like Maharishi Vasishtha, Maharishi Vishwamitra, Maharishi Dronacharya, Maharishi Jamadagni, Maharishi Sandipani, Maharishi Kanada, Maharishi Gautam, Maharishi Patanjali, Kapil Muni, Chanakya, and Buddhist Guru Nagarjuna are considered prominent. In the medieval world, many knowledgeable great men performed the role of a teacher excellently and did justice to the role of teachers as social change makers, but in modern times, teaching has been accepted as a profession, due to which the sanctity and altruistic approach of teaching work is questioned. The purpose of the present study is to throw light on the role of teachers as social change makers and to present a discussion to improve the effectiveness of modern teaching. In the present research work, the content analysis method of descriptive research approach has been used.

Introduction

In modern times, human civilization is seen at its peak in every field of life. Human progress in the past may not have been like this progress, zenith and prosperity. Change is the eternal truth of this world, but change happens according to every country, time, and situation. The speed of change is not the same or uniform in any condition. Change in the world occurs according to many approaches, such as man-made and natural changes, physical and non-physical changes, rapid and slow changes, sudden and purposeful changes, etc. are visible in this world. Many forms and types of changes exist in this world from ancient times to the present time. As a result of natural changes, human life is affected extensively. Along with this,

man, through his intellectual abilities, inventions, technologies, and entrepreneurship, gives breadth to the powers given by nature and makes extensive intervention in natural creation, which can be seen in the present physical and non-physical excellence. **Hernández, I. (2021)**

Humans have been living under a social system since ancient times, in which the nature of the networking roles of humans is determined. Humans have been performing different roles since ancient times according to many social functions, such as ruler, minister, protector, doctor, teacher and farmer etc. Since ancient times, the importance and levels of each social role have been determined by the society itself. Since ancient times, teachers have been gaining fame as the supreme social workers and guides. Human life evolved from the primitive barbaric era and established itself as a civilized society, in which knowledge, science, technology and technology played a major role. Social relations are based on exchange, in which knowledge exchange has been accepted as the most sacred social concern. Due to the supreme social role and concern of knowledge exchange, teachers have had the highest respectable place in the society since ancient times.

India has been given the title of Vishwa Guru (World Guru) since ancient times due to its special knowledge, science, education and Guru-Shishya tradition. It is through teachers that new directions of change in society have been determined by performing the role of showing a special path to the society. Teachers act as carriers and agents of social change by giving new direction to the society. Historical mention of many great teachers is found in India since ancient times, among whom Maharishi Vasishtha, Maharishi Vishwamitra, Maharishi Dronacharya, Maharishi Jamadagni, Maharishi Sandipani, Maharishi Kanad, Maharishi Gautam, Maharishi Patanjali, Kapil Muni, Chanakya, and Buddhist Guru Nagarjuna are considered prominent. The decline in the level of social prestige of teachers started as a result of the barbaric conditions of the medieval world, but even after this, the teacher-student relationship and the social prestige of teachers did not deteriorate as much as it is happening in the modern era. Although the teacher is accepted as the chief engineer of social change even in the present times, he has lost his prestige in many ways. The most influential factor in the loss of social prestige of teachers has been the commercialization of education. In the modern era, the foundation of Indian education was laid during the British rule, due to the specific nature of which education gradually progressed towards its present professional form.

Significance of the study

Through the presented study, light will be thrown on the role of the teacher as a main agent of social change, which will prove that from ancient times to the present time, what kind of work and struggles were done by the teachers to give a new direction to the society, which proves that the real role of the teachers is that of an agent bringing social change. On the basis of the above arguments, the significance of the presented study can be understood and it can be clearly said that the presented research study is meaningful.

Need and importance of the study

At present, a materialistic approach has spread all over the world, as a result of which more importance is given to physical resources than human resources to fulfill every kind of social need. Through the presented study, the concerned stakeholders will be able to understand the important role of teachers as social changers, for this reason, the presented study is necessary and important in the current perspective.

Research questions

Through observation of literature related to the subject, extensive thinking and insight, some research questions have emerged in the mind of the researcher, which are as follows.

1. What are the roles of teachers as social change agents?
2. What are the ways to improve the effectiveness of modern teaching?

Research Objectives

In order to get answers to the research questions that arise in the mind of the researcher, deep literature review, contemplation, and new creation are required, which can be made possible through the objective method, hence the objectives of the present research study are as follows.

1. To throw light on the roles of teachers as social change agents.
2. To present a discussion to improve the effectiveness of modern teaching.

1. Teachers play many roles in bringing about social change, which are as follows-

1.1- Contribute in developing the highest values and ideals in students

At the time of birth, a human child is like the raw clay of a potter, which can be given any shape, although there are wide differences among modern psychologists regarding this fact, many scholars believe that children can be trained to learn many types of behavior, this ideology is known as behaviorism, whose originator is J.V. Watson. Cognitive thinkers also accept the results of a human child's learning based on various types of tangible-intangible experiences.

It means that teachers not only introduce the new generation of society, whom we address as students, to the highest values, ideals and various streams of knowledge related to human life, but also make them experience the highest values and ideals through the display of their behavior. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (1937), while presenting his educational ideas, laid great emphasis on the highest values and ideals and held the teachers fully responsible for this goal, saying that, if any fault appears in the conduct of a student, then it is a fault found in the teachers, for which the teacher is fully responsible.

1.2. Playing a role in orienting students towards compassion, love and the best traditions

Every common and special person is probably aware of the fact that teachers play an important role in bringing about social change. Teachers provide moral, value-based, and cognitive education to the students, and train them as a responsible citizen. Teachers play an important role in establishing positive social change by acting as an agent, guide, and ideal catalyst and orienting the students towards compassion, love, sympathy, and the best social traditions.

1.3 Playing a positive role for the transfer of knowledge

Human life has an accumulated amount of wide social, educational, moral, spiritual, religious, and economic knowledge and experiences, which we also address as knowledge. The teacher, while playing the role of a positive change maker in the society, plays an important role in transferring the accumulated knowledge to the next generation, so that the current generation, i.e. the students, benefit and develop as good citizens capable of doing good for the nation and society.

1.4. Playing a role for the accumulation and creation of knowledge

There has been a human tradition of accumulating the physical and cultural knowledge reserves in human life since ancient times. The accumulation of knowledge, the wealth of many aspects

related to human life, has been done through books, manuscripts, inscriptions, copper plates, and oral memories, etc., which has reached resources like computers, the internet media, and artificial intelligence in the modern digital age. Along with the accumulation of knowledge wealth, discovery of new knowledge and creation of new knowledge are very important. Both the above-mentioned roles have been played by teachers, due to which the society has been getting a new direction.

1.5. Playing the role of motivating students to develop a broad mindset

We all are aware of this psychological fact that the initial period of human life is immature and unformed. Teachers play an important role in providing a broad base and motivating the development of human personality.

2. In the present times, vast changes are being seen in comparison to the ancient and medieval education system and the roles of teachers. As a result of these changes, a qualitative decline in the effectiveness of teachers and teaching has been observed in modern times. For its improvement, the suggestions presented for change through the researcher's reflection and discussion on important points are as follows:

2.1. Taking teaching beyond the purview of professional approach

The main reason for the decline in the level of effectiveness of teaching is the commercialization of education. In the present times, the teacher is considered a commodity seller, the student a buyer and the school a centre for purchasing knowledge. Due to which the holiest concept like education has reached the materialistic abyss of commercialization. Coming out of this is extremely necessary for modern education and teaching. Due to commercial approach in the education system, talented poor students are unable to achieve their educational goals, which leads to mismanagement of talent that gives a positive direction to social change. As a result, the talent that could have given the nation top class thinkers, scientists, philosophers, social reformers, only results in an increase in the number of thieves, dacoits, criminals and anarchists.

2.2. Training teachers as ideal personalities

There is a belief that teachers are born, but inborn teachers are not enough to educate the more complex needs and increasing population of modern times, hence proper training of teachers is arranged in the society. In modern times, every nation is acknowledging the importance of education and making arrangements for teacher training. In India too, at present, work is being done to create new teachers for various levels of education by conducting training courses in pedagogy. Based on the researcher's discussion and reflection, it can be asserted that in the present times, there is a need to train teachers as ideal personalities in order to increase their teaching effectiveness.

2.3 Providing a holistic approach to educational streams

One of the reasons for the decline in the effectiveness of teaching is dividing knowledge into streams and preparing teachers for a particular stream, arts, commerce, and science, although at present the National Education Policy-2020 is emphasizing on developing a multi-disciplinary and thematic approach, which is a positive aspect. Earlier, trained teachers had to receive teaching-training in one stream, due to which their multidimensional approach could not be developed, as a result, they failed in good teaching and effective teaching.

Findings of the study

- Teachers have full relevance in every country, time and situation as the main agent of social change.
- The teacher provides a comprehensive and original vision to the society for positive change, which benefits the entire society.
- The teacher contributes to new creation by accumulating new knowledge structures.
- Teachers contribute to nation building by showing a specific path to the society.
- Teachers contribute to the creation of good citizens through the transfer of knowledge to the future generation.
- Influence students with their ideal conduct and make important contributions in orienting them towards love, compassion and special traditions.
- Teachers play an important role in contributing to the nation through accumulation of knowledge and new creation.
- Taking teaching out of the purview of professional approach to ensure good teaching effectiveness.
- Teaching effectiveness can be increased by training teachers as ideal personalities and making efforts to transfer positive traditions of conduct and knowledge to the next generation.
- Replacing educational streams with the approach of holistic education.

Conclusion

Since ancient times, the tradition of teacher or teaching work has been going on for accumulation, creation and transfer of knowledge. There is social acceptance and complete agreement of the fact that, in every country, time and situation, teachers have been playing important roles in showing a direction to the society and providing a positive direction to social change. From ancient times to the present, there has been a negative change in the social status and prestige of teachers, which has many factors, but the most widespread factor is the commercialization of education, due to which the social prestige of teachers has declined. The earlier social prestige and acceptance can be regained only by taking the teaching profession out of the commercial circle.

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