

**MULTIDIMENSIONAL ROLE OF TEACHERS IN HIGHER  
EDUCATION****Dr. Jyoti S.Kawalekar\***

Associate Professor in Botany K.L.E.Society's R.L.Sc. Institute (Autonomous) Belagavi,  
India.

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**\*Correspondence for****Author****Dr. Jyoti S.Kawalekar**

Associate Professor in  
Botany K.L.E.Society's  
R.L.Sc. Institute  
(Autonomous) Belagavi,  
India.

Education at all levels can shape the world of tomorrow, equipping individuals and societies with the skills, perspectives knowledge and values to live and work in sustainable manner. The higher education system in India has developed in a noteworthy way, particularly in the Post-independence period, to become one of the prime systems of its kind in the world. It has been used as a reliable tool to build a knowledge-based information society. The main aim of Higher education is to contribute to the development and improvement of society as a whole in the sustainable manner. It also aims at meeting the needs of all sectors of human activity. In this context good Faculty is a must for any higher education institution aspiring for Quality. The whole process of education is shaped and molded by a personality called the teacher who plays a pivotal role in any system of education.

Educational progress depends upon the quality of teachers. Education in this century has become more complex than before, it has created a global market place for students and scholars. Universities and Institutions of higher education are producing graduates for global market. Today education has become a tradable commodity which has promoted cross-border higher education. This calls for empowered, competent and dedicated teaching faculties.

Higher education is a great national asset and its contribution to the economic and social well-being of the nation is of vital importance. Teachers have to perform multiple roles, like creating new knowledge, acquiring new capabilities and producing an intelligent human resource pool, through challenging teaching, research and extension activities so as to balance both the need and the demand of the hour. The destiny of the nation is shaped only in the

classrooms. A good teacher can bring the entire world to the class room. An efficient teacher is one who not only teaches but also kindles the imagination of the taught, makes the student independent and develops creativity and wide range thinking. Teachers are the one who sow the seeds of knowledge in the young minds. Higher education helps these budding minds by providing access to advanced knowledge and the tools for increasing and diversifying their knowledge and there by expands their efficiency as well as national proficiency and competitiveness. This paper attempts to shed light on the increasing responsibilities of teachers in the higher educational setup. Indeed, it is a daunting task for the teachers to improve the quantity; quality and equality in higher education.

The teacher being a sculptor has to play multi-dimensional role to instill the touch of subjects to the diverse wing of students. Teacher has to inspire the students to evince interest in their subjects, even if he confronts students who are utterly demotivated and disheartened. A teacher should not discourage and demoralize the learners as it will disrupt the entire system. A student spends several hours in the campus. The campus must have the best of teachers, who have the ability to teach, love teaching and build moral qualities.

A teacher should be the role model for the students. The proficiency of the teachers has tremendous impact on the ability of the students. So a teacher, who is a perpetual learner, has to update the subject knowledge continuously. He should kindle curiosity and passion among the students to be aware of the latest developments in their subjects. He has to nurture and nourish the students to develop creative thinking. A teacher should be equipped with modern competence to work effectively to cater to the needs of information-seeking society, to prove himself or herself as a knowledge worker.

The teachers with high morale will be committed to their duties. They will not only teach but create the students as good citizens. They will work more than the allotted workload. In the sense, they will work both physically, mentally and whole heartedly.

An additional important responsibility of the teacher is to make the students socially conscious and responsive. They should be given suitable orientation about those issues. The collective efforts and decision of the teachers have always yielded better results than independent decisions.

One most important responsibility entrusted to teacher is imparting value based education to the students. The rationale of higher education is not to produce outstanding students but to produce outstanding citizens of the country. As former president of India Dr. Abdul Kalam remarked “The teachers have to teach humanity and humanism to the students”. Teacher’s role has shifted from teacher to knowledge personnel, a mentor and a counselor.

In ancient days, a teacher enjoyed a very high respectful position and honors. He was kept on the pedestal, as a “Guru”. Even the kings used to sit at their feet, due to the nobility of their profession as well as the sacrifice, service and the dedication towards their duty. Not only in ancient days, but also in modern times, teachers are gaining a good respect from the students and society due to this noble profession. The nobility is maintained through his commitment and best involvement which is created by his high morale.

This century has been characterized as a continuous revolution in all the fields. Hence Innovation is apparent in all spheres, not just technological, and responding to the numerous and varied opportunities for using knowledge creatively and productively is recognized as essential for growth and competitiveness.

The onus is now on the learner and the teacher is now looked upon as a facilitator. Understanding that the traditional chalk and talk method no longer motivates the students. The educators continuously strive to streamline methods that will sustain their interest and make the learning process more productive and interesting. Educators must learn to change with the times and the methods offered for instructing students. These changes will ultimately benefit the students and the education system. The ability to adapt to these changes may be one of the most important attributes for today’s educators. Among all these innovations, role of information & communication technology is of most importance as today’s learners’ demand and expect education that fits their needs.

Many new techniques are available for teachers to learn, adapt, and employ in their classrooms. Resource based learning, project based learning and problem based learning all encourage individual as well as group learning, critical thinking, the application and investigation of issues relevant to student’s lives, and the opportunity for students to develop independent learning skills. Achieving these objectives, as well as the acquisition of a basic body of knowledge, enable these students to become skilled life-long learners.

Today, the root cause of the problems afflicting higher education is a “passionless academia”. He should strive hard to remove all non- value added activities in his profession. A teacher is accountable to all the stake holders of the educational system. A teacher has the responsibility of subjecting himself to the rigors of performance appraisal system. The performance appraisal system helps the teachers to iron out their deficiencies and transform their uninspiring teaching in to an effective, efficient and enjoyable one.

**KEY AREAS:** Teachers impacting higher education

1. Create an environment of reliance and mutual respect, support and equality.
2. Communicate students in multitude roles, some of the important ones being as friend, guide and philosopher.
3. Use strategy to convey instructions to meet the multiple learning needs of students.
4. Use all updated available resources in development of academic standard.
5. Change of role from teaching to a new position of mentoring and being a catalyst.
6. Provide the opportunity for all students to develop independent learning skills.
7. Promote the engagement of complex processes of inquiry and design.
8. Allow them to share perspectives, solutions, and plans related to a complex task or scenario.
9. Encourages open-minded, reflective, critical and active learning.
10. Facilitate contextual knowledge and understanding.
11. The entire “life system” must be based on interdisciplinary, holistic approach.
12. Develop quality culture and build continuous improvements to foster long term gains.
13. All round development of any nation-economic, physical, cultural, ethical and spiritual.
14. Developing intellectual knowledge through hard work and monitoring growth.
15. Strengthening with new technologies and reorientation of our educational system as per ever-increasing demands of the market.
16. Imparting value education and reforming society as guiding principles to all round development of an individual.
17. Preservation of our culture and our heritage and to develop morality character. .
18. Peace and harmony in the individuals through positivism.

The above listed criteria clearly illustrate the diverse responsibilities of a teacher. The popular myth in the educational system is that learning is something different from teaching. Learning is student’s role and teaching is teachers’ and they should stay in different boxes. The myth

holds no water now, a teacher is a permanent student and learning and teaching are not two water tight compartments. Learning is an integral part of teaching and a good teacher is always a good learner.

“We are responsible for what we are,  
And whatever we wish ourselves to be,  
We have the power to make ourselves.”

-Swami Vivekananda

## CONCLUSION

The education is one of the most important inputs that influence the all-round development of any nation-economic, physical, cultural, ethical and spiritual. So for any Higher educational institution it is difficult to survive without developing our intellectual knowledge through diligent monitoring expansion,strengthening with new technologies and reorientation of our educational system as per ever-increasing demands of the market. Education develops the intellect; and the intellect distinguishes man from other creatures.

In this context the responsibilities of the teachers have undergone sea changes. The Ekalvya type of teaching and learning is non-existent today. As teaching aims at total formation of the student's personality, it should be responsive to the changing needs of the society. A teacher has to create a stimulating learning environment and ambience in which students are encouraged to think carefully and critically and express their thoughts.

A teacher should always endeavors to accomplish the vision and mission of the college. A committed teacher always encourages active learning, gives prompt feedback, emphasis time on task, clearly communicates high expectations and respect diverse talents of students. A teacher should be authentic in everything they do .If at all the quality of education has to be improved then something needs to be done and done soon. So we should arise awake and act. Let's all try to transform our society into a vibrant, dynamic and living society.

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