



Enhancing and Sustaining Teacher Quality

KEYWORDS

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ABSTRACT *Quality assurance in higher education has become a global issue. The pursuit of quality is a never-ending process. Besides providing economical development, quality of higher education is also a basic investment necessary to improve the overall quality of life. The quality assured education has been undergoing radical transformation in the corporate world and emphasizes more and more integrated quality with technology to attain a higher level of performance. Since a teacher play a major role here, she should accept her profession totally. Quality education comes from quality teaching. So Teacher Quality should be enhanced by Enriching her academic expertise, Transmission of information through effective communication skill Participating in the teacher education and also the art and skill of sustaining teacher quality must be taken care which includes: Pedagogy Planning, Implementing and Counselling. For quality education . For quality she should identify best method of teaching and thereby implement it. Teacher quality beget student quality, thus improving the quality of life all around.*

1. Quality-Degree of goodness or worth:

The term 'Quality' has many dimensions in the context of education. It is received as a measure against a norm, standard or specification accepted by educationalists. It indicates the degree of transformational value of a system. Quality assurance in higher education is discussed everywhere. So, the pursuit of quality is a never-ending process. Concentration on teacher quality is more relevant in the present competitive world.

Teacher quality involves specifying worthwhile learning goals and ability to enable students to achieve it. Education is not a commodity that can be looked upon as a mere product, but it has ever expanding horizons. It gives to the learners not only skills information and knowledge but also enriches their experience.

H.V.Despande stresses with confidence, "Stepping into the track of the 21st century is taking part in tough world competition which is like a relay race... the demand is only for excellence and high quality goods".

2. Teaching as a Profession

Verily teaching is a profession. It is a public service requiring teachers' expertise in the subjects and specialized skills. These can be acquired and sustained through rigorous persistent study and contemplation. Teaching demands a sense of personal and corporate responsibility to enhance and sustain teacher quality.

3. Enhancing Teacher Quality

There is an urgent need for the teachers to enhance their quality by concentrating on three main areas which include

- Enriching their academic expertise
- Transmission of information through effective communication skill
- Participating in the teacher education

3.1 Enriching Teacher's academic expertise

The quality improvement of teaching essentially rests upon analysis of the subject and strategies of teaching adopted in the class-room adapted in the classroom. The teacher should ever remain a student. He should read and re-read the subject and maintain a deep knowledge over the specialized area. Teachers should keep a tab of what is happening in their field of specialization and also be aware of the latest methods to be used in teaching. Synchronizing, self-reflection, peer review monitoring and coaching are the critical components of professional development.

3.2 Transmission of information through effective communication skill

Successful teaching involves effective communication with students, which would inspire and motivate them for learning. What is being taught should result in an overall development of students' personality. Lecturers who have a good command over their subject they specialise, can keep their audience enthralled providing them intellectual feast during the class hours.

3.3 Competency -based Teacher Education

Teaching is both an art and a science, which has hence to be evolved effectively.

- It makes use of faculty educated and trained in the past
- to instruct students in the present
- For preparing them to work in the future.

Hence the teachers need to update their knowledge and enhance their capabilities by participating in training programmes offered by expert educators.

All students have the right to be taught by competent teachers who have clear understanding of its subject and pedagogy. Competent teachers could be nurtured by training, which is of paramount importance to meet the exacting demands of the ever - changing educational situation.

Some people believe that teachers are born, others opinion they are made, the development of science and educational technology have led to the conception that a person can be trained to become a good teacher. It is very much desirable if they undergo training to make teaching a noble endeavour.

4. The art and skill of sustaining teacher quality

To sustain their quality, teachers should have a clear understanding of what students need to know and concentrate on three areas like:

- Pedagogy Planning
- Implementing and
- Counselling

4.1 Pedagogy Planning

The quality of learning depends on the quality of experience. Teachers should devote time for careful planning and preparation to

- create a conducive classroom atmosphere
- correlate the subject with real life examples
- set appropriate tasks to students
- employ a range of classroom strategies to ensure active

- student participation
- develop the ability to procreate new knowledge, new ideas and innovative practices in the field of education and pedagogy.

4.2 Implementing

The teacher should communicate the message /subject content in clear, coherent and crisp language, stimulate student's interest and thus motivate them. Students are more likely to engage themselves in the task, if we

- focus on a product or performance of significance to them.
- impart the students exactly what is expected of them
- create a classroom culture where students can try tasks without fear and without monotony, frustration, lack of interest
- permit, encourage and support opportunities for students to work independently with others
- continually expose students to new different ways of doing things.

For the maintenance of teacher quality to be maintained the focus should be on presenting, listening, explaining, eliciting response, introducing, demonstrating and transferring skills to sustain the quality.

4.3 Counselling

Apart from curriculum and syllabus teaching, the teacher should actively be a counsellor with care and concern to give valuable career guidance. Empowerment creates leaders in multiple areas of development, when the teacher is empowered with growing knowledge and applied experience, good young human beings with value-added approach take a shape. The teachers should also impart human values to make them to be aware of professional ethics, social responsibilities and to maintain team spirit. Imparted Values includes respecting the teachers. Ethics of the teacher is to reciprocate through her teaching "Respect for the teachers cannot be ordered. It must be won" says Dr .S.Radhakrishnan.

A student learns better when he gets support with assured security of services and obviously gets motivated to do a job better as time passes by.

The Net Result

Quality-based competition has become a major issue and hence all efforts have to be made to improve quality of the teachers.

"Quality begets quality"-(i.e.) teacher quality beget student quality, thus improving the quality of life all around.

REFERENCES

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