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## A ROLE OF TEACHER IN IMPORTANCE OF HIGHER EDUCATION - A PERSPECTIVE

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### Abstract

Globalisation implies integration of economies and societies through cross-country flow of information, ideas, technology, goods, services, capital, finance and people" With globalisation we see an emerging 'global society' driven by technology and communication developments. This global society is shaping the students as 'global citizens' and intelligent persons with multi skills and knowledge to apply to the competitive and information based society. In our national development process, education system has a very important role to play, especially the higher education. Higher education faces various challenges in all areas of development. After independence, we wanted to build a modern, strong dynamic and self - reliant India which could stand abreast with the developed nations. This research paper to be discussed about "A Role of Teacher in Importance of Higher Education – A Perspective"

**Key Words:** Raw Materials, Poor Masses, Added Responsibility, Skill, Development, Global Citizens, Internationalization, Human Resources

### Statement of the Problem

*"Great Teachers emanate out of knowledge, passion and Compassion"*

**A.B.J. Abdul Kalam**

India is to grow to her full potential as a strong, united, prosperous nation, and to attain the highest ethical moral values, true to the genius of her cultural and spiritual heritage. It is only transformation and education which can unlock all doors for a progress as, "A nation advances in proportion to education and intelligence spread among masses". Higher education experience has brought about a greater feeling of Independence, self-discipline and growing confidence. For most it is about realizing one's full potential. In an international study of University a student, described."I came to university with the intention of gaining feeling of self worth and advancement, and I have certainly found that I am more confident in term of things like communication organization and time - management". A typical college Student has some, but not a lot, of free time. Most of the students want to use this time to relax and have fun. What they soon realize is that leisure activities must be one which can contribute in developing their intellectual and social skills activities and in activities that serve them in graduate programme. Students report that their spare time activities have provided them with some important experiences and sharpened in them a number of skills, including leadership, speaking, writing, teaching, research management, public relations, advertising skills, sales promotion skills, political communications, social service and public service. Graduates follow a wide range of carrier paths and may enter higher education with a clear view of the path they wish to follow. But for those who are unsure, or uncertain, the university may help them to develop and plan their carrier by creating a career guidance cell under its control. Such departments may provide a wide range of advice, services and information for students which will give an insight into different career options.

Today Higher education in India, is in a critical state floated in size and generally resistant to changes, The system has not been able to free itself from its colonial roots and identifies itself with local needs and priority. Kothari Commission report says that "Tinkering with the existing situation and moving forward with faltering step and lack of faith can make things worse than before". It is time to take a definite road. One wonders what the nation's multiplying tribe of educationists are doing all the while. They have little time to enlighten and educate the general. The higher



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education system of a country plays a significant role in the creation of skilled human resources. The emphasis of higher education has been mostly on man power development in the emerging scenario of knowledge based society across the globe. India is well placed with potential brains needed for the revolutionary changes. Indian higher education institutions also produced world beating scientists and engineers, lawyers, and doctors, managers and technocrats. To locate the area of education in which we have expertise such as alternate system of medicine, yoga, traditional wisdom and culture where we can develop courses of international standards in order to attract international students and to meet the much needed financial resources.

### A Teacher in Global Era

The advent of globalization in the area of education as in other services called, for the internationalization of Higher Education in India. The important concept implies the acceptance of a World Wide Quality Label (WQL) of quality assurance in higher education. A system of education is expected to be responsible and to meet the needs of a student. One of the activities of Global Alliance of Traditional Education (GATE) is to establish principles and policies for evaluating quality of Education. The Kothari Commission has beautifully said, "The destiny of India is now being shaped in her class rooms. This we believe is no mere rhetoric. In a world based on science technology, it is education that determines the level of prosperity, welfare and security of people. The Quality will depend on our success in the great enterprise of national construction whose main objective is to raise the standard of living of our people". We cannot also ignore basic research. Erosion in human values is another area causing concern. In this situation, the higher Education system should identify the emerging challenges and respond to them adequately. In our national developmental process, education system has a very important role to play, especially the higher education. Higher education faces various challenges in all areas of development. The 21<sup>st</sup> century is the age of liberalization, privatization and globalisation. Knowledge is the key to this age. Fundamental sources of wealth is know ledge and information rather than raw (materials and labour. Tomorrow's industry will be Knowledge industry where knowledge workers may be quite expensive, but most expendable of all.

There are many drawbacks in the affiliating system of higher education. Despite spectacular growth of educational institutions, the present scenario. The basic strategy to make our products current and quality sound is basically curricular and pedagogic reformation. The battle of quality has to be fought in the minds of all men and women connected with education. Quality can be assured by making every body in the system accountable and responsible to everyone else. Every body should become a watchdog on the quality of the educational system. The students and administrators should monitor the quality of teaching and teachers and the parents must monitor the quality or learning.

### Role of Teacher in the context of Democratic Modern era

Teaching is basically a competence building process. The teacher helps individuals in identifying their potential and trains them to think independently. Sivaswaroop (2014) remarks, "the teacher is supposed to be having multiple skills". The teachers should not only instruct but also inspire their students in their work. The teachers should educate the students on the need to recognize the equality of men and women in our democracy. The teachers should be committed, dedicated and motivated to foster the global competencies among students which is a must. With liberalization and globalization of economic activities, the need to develop human resources of a high caliber and consequently, the demand for higher education at nationally comparable and internationally acceptable standards has increased. In a country like India, access to higher education and ensuring social justice will continue to be important objectives of national development. Hence, teachers have to develop internationally and interculturally competent human resources to make them fit to survive in the competitive world. Inculcating a desirable value system in students is another important function to be performed by the teachers. Skills are of no value in the absence of an appropriate value system. Since India is full of cultural pluralities and diversities, it is essential that students imbibe values commensurate with social, cultural, economic and environmental realities at the local, national and universal levels.



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Teachers should make students learn to think scientifically. The teacher's role also lies in showing how different intelligences can be used very productively by regularly assessing what they have understood, by explicating difficult concepts, by making sure that they grasp a number of different models, and by applying theory to practical life. The role of teachers in changing society may be summarized in the following statements.

- 1) The teachers should be able to create and sustain an academic environment.
- 2) The teachers should not be restricted to teaching only but should take part in extension activities.
- 3) The teachers should be conscious of their roles in terms of teaching, training consultancy and research.
- 4) Teachers should be active researchers and life long learners.
- 5) The teachers have to encourage students to be willing partners in the learning process.
- 6) The teachers are expected to dedicate their efforts and energy towards the development of the institution they are working for and in the process develop themselves as professionals.
- 7) The teachers should practice superior standards of ethics and morality. Earning money out of everything that one does should not be seen as an ultimate goal. Intellectual exercise should lead to spiritual bliss, because all that a teacher can offer to his pupil cannot be valued in material terms. According to Ohar (2004), "a teacher more a giver than a taker". Because teaching happens to be one of the noblest of professions even today.
- 8) The teachers have to be accountable to both their employers and the students under the present scenario of Globalization and GATS.

### Upgrading Institutions and Teachers

Efforts are on to improve quality of higher education through faculty improvement programme academic staff college, university leadership programme and the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). Quality systems in education are defined in terms of the seven parameters by NAAC. The council classifies them as curricular aspects, teaching - learning and evaluation, research, consultancy and extension infrastructure and learning resources, student support and progression, organization and management as basis, norms. NAAC takes the responsibility to assess and accredit public and private institutions of higher learning. Its philosophy is ameliorative and enabling rather than primitive and judgmental. But NAAC accreditation is a costly affair for some institutions which face financial challenge. NAAC's assessment in a state of financial crisis is like taxing an orphan or a starved. At present some rural and financially weak institutions are reluctant to submit their Self Study Reports just because they cannot afford the expenses of the NAAC fees and the peer-team visit.

We have to be quality conscious, if we have to sustain and survive in this competitive world. We should try to improve upon and move ahead from whichever state we are in, given the constraints, including finance, space technology, knowledge and research. A teacher has a significant role to play in this process of quality enhancement. An ideal teacher's task is not only to inform but also to inspire. He/she can truly inspire, only if he/she is himself following the true path of a learner and keeping continuous touch with modern developments and practices at least in his/her area of study. Teachers should give their students the right values and enable them to foster culture. They should provide the students with the skills and knowledge required to be productive citizens in a global environment. They need no longer be the 'prime deliverers of fact', instead, they need to be 'field guides' as they and their students explore vast domains of knowledge.

In our national development process, education system has a very important role to play, especially the higher education. Higher education faces various challenges in all areas of development. After independence, we wanted to build a modern, strong dynamic and self-reliant India which could stand abreast with the developed nations. While working towards this end, the country had faced the greater challenge of rapidly industrialising the then predominantly agricultural economy and in the process it had to create wide-based infrastructure in higher and technical education institutions, research laboratories and industries, covering a wide spectrum of disciplines and capabilities. During the 90's,



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the country was becoming progressively more integrated into the global economy. With the restructuring of the economy, new industrial and trade policies and liberalization, the Indian industry was exposed to domestic and global competition. Knowledge based industries was on the increase. We have to increase research efforts to catch up with the rest of the world in frontier areas of knowledge which will dominate and determine the course of the 21st century.

### Teaching and Learning Skills of Teachers

In a recent report of the International Commission on Education for Twenty First century entitled "Learning, the Treasure Within" , the Commission has identified four pillars of learning namely, learning to know, learning to do, learning to live together, and learning to be" (Delors Commission 1996 quoted in' Sharma; 2010). This provides a broad vision statement of quality education. Based on it, quality education may be defined as that which transforms the consciousness of a person and leads him from darkness to light. Quality education will help the students in following ways.

- (1) To think logically, analytically and critically.
- (2) To provide employability through occupational skills and work experience.
- (3) To realize one's potential for self development.
- (4) To acquire the capability to appreciate and imbibe the emerging values of our times such as concern for ecology, equality, civility, harmony and cultural pluralism.

Education is learning how to learn, not what to learn which is found in textbooks, syllabus and teachers' instruction, not when to learn. It is the need of the hour for the teachers of this millennium to provide quality delivery of learning instructions to learners. Learning should be effective, meaningful and joyful to learners leading to a life-long learning process. Therefore, teachers should provide favourable learning environment to students. Education implies academic excellence. It leads to overall development of the personality. It goes above and beyond cognitive growth and aims at human growth. This calls for the involvement of the whole person's mind, heart and will in the learning process.

### What need to be done?

The falling of standards in the quality of education at all levels has been a great concern over the last two decades particularly after globalization. The battle for quality has to be fought in the minds of all men and women connected with education. Quality can be assured by making everybody in the system accountable and responsible to everyone else. Everybody should become a watchdog on the quality of the system.

Implementation of the total quality management in higher education requires deep commitment, full involvement of people, management support fair reward, recognition policies and training of concerned people in the concept. Increased mobility and a free market environment have contributed to enhanced competition for positions in government, national and multinational business houses and international organizations. As a result, there is an emphasis on quality. Hence, it is essential that the universities should maintain standards comparable to those available in developed countries. But there are a lot of constraints in this journey of quality enhancement such as lack of finance, inadequate infrastructure and high student teacher ratio. For the better institutions this will mean continuous self evaluation and considerable efforts to keep up with the latest developments. In the case of other institutions constant monitoring, control and incentives may become necessary.

### Summing up

The Education system should develop necessary infrastructure for the evolution of "Knowledge Society", It is also aimed at imparting Quality to the teaching – learning process and develop a purposeful "Research Culture" in India.



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In the emerging scenario of knowledge- based society across the globe, India is well placed with potential brains needed for revolutionary changes. Government of India has announced the national goal to become a developed nation by the year 2020. India aspires to be free from poverty and to sit in line with G-8 nations. Honourable former President, great space Scientist Late Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam wrote, "A developed India by 2020 or even earlier, is not a dream. It need not even be a mere vision in the mind of many Indians. It is mission we can all take up". By 2020, the people of India will be better educated, healthier and more prosperous than at anytime in our long history. Goldman and Sachs predictions of 2050 are that India along with China and USA will be the three top economies of the world. One can confidently predict that if India plays its card right, by 2020 it can become the number one "knowledge production" Centre of the world. I conclude with the wording of Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, "*A moment comes, which comes but rarely in history, when we set out from the old to the new*". An essential requirement for envisioning India's future in the new century is to recognise that the parameters which determines national development have changed in recent years and will change further in future. This will certainly include rapid rise in levels of education.

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