



REGAINING THE LOST GLORY OF NOBLE PROFESSION

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Life offers tremendous possibilities for all living beings. Everyone tries utmost to get best out of it. Getting the best necessitates doing the best. Ancient India, teachers had the most respectable status owing to their commitment, selfless dedication and their true efforts to offer everything they had to their disciples. 'Guru' occupied exalted positions. Revered by monarchs, kings and commoners, Guru was accorded a divine status.

Guru Brahmaa, Guru Vishnu, Guru DevoMaheshwaraha,

Guru ShaakshaatparaBrahm, tasmaiShriGurveNamaha

There is, however, a steep fall in the position of the teacher, now a day. It is quite evident not only in the area of education but in everyday life also. Teachers, themselves, are often heard of complaining about the indifferent attitude of their students. Recent incidents reported by the newspapers regarding the brutal attack on teachers, Principals and school mates by students on trivial issues compel us to think about the reasons of these frightening and shocking affairs. Why have our students/children become so violent? What are the reasons for their insensitivity? Such questions indefinitely make the existence of teachers questionable. How are our teachers preparing the students in their class? What kind of role-models are they offering to the coming generations? What is the ultimate aim of education? Is this that India which one had envisioned? Are we performing our role as honestly as was being performed by an ideal teacher? Undoubtedly, the way a teacher performs his duty, now a days is responsible for the lost sheen and glory of once sought after noble profession. Let's try to peep into the factors responsible for such situation.

- Entry of incompetent people in the profession of teaching is one of the major causes for the present anarchy and chaos. Associated causes with it are many. Not able to find better option anywhere, they just step in this profession to make both ends meet and thus play with the life and minds of young children. Totally unaware of the psychological, educational and emotional needs of students, they rob the charm and aura of school and college life thereby making it totally dull and mechanical. It will be foolish to expect such people to guide the students, to prepare them for their future life. Since they themselves enter this profession half-heartedly, they remain far away from achieving the vision and mission of education.



- Value erosion, commercialisation of education, materialistic outlook led to the deterioration in the quality. It is not uncommon to hear of molestation of girl students at the hands of male teachers. Teacher who is said to be guardian and custodian of the students has fallen to the lowest ebb. What else can be the mirror of erosion of value system than this one where students have to be protected from their teachers? Demanding monetary favours for granting concession to students, using unfair means to relax the required norms for admission, jobs, attendance, resorting to threatening practices while evaluating the answer sheets are some of the many evil practices undertaken by teachers. A student who is witness to all the above mentioned maladies will have a detesting attitude towards teachers. Some teachers who belong to this category ask the students for tuitions for monetary benefits.
- Complacency, use of conventional methods, unwillingness to keep oneself updated, lack of zeal to do innovation, withdrawing from using ICT are the factors responsible for making the entire gamut of teaching and learning insipid and insensitive. Such teachers remain self-satisfied with their efforts. Their emoluments are not affected by their performance. They hardly pay attention to what their students think about them. Due to the presence of majority of such teachers, gradually the institutions start losing their reputation.
- Infrastructure in the form of good building, library, laboratories and other physical and academic amenities, undoubtedly is responsible in keeping the students absorbed in their pursuit of learning, knowing and using such knowledge for the benefit of community. Unavailability of such essential amenities dampens the enthusiasm of the learners. Government schools and many government colleges are seen being run in small buildings with limited rooms where students are forced to sit on floors!
- Where on one side we talk of less enrolment, growing rate of dropouts; on the other hand we find overcrowded classrooms. In such conditions, the concepts of individual attention, pupil centred education and many more remain distant dreams to convert into reality. In spite of the best efforts of some teachers, it is quite possible that some topics remain misty owing to large number of pupils.
- Policies of government may pose hurdles sometimes. Decades back, candidate holding an M A degree was considered eligible for the post of lecturer in college. Gradually an additional degree of M Phil was required for the same post. After this, the concept of NET was introduced. Meanwhile due to the protest of people, relaxation was granted to non-NET candidates. Such type of practices are still in vogue where policies are framed, amended recommended as per the whims and wishes of the government. More interestingly, the notion of API score has brought a kind of revolution in higher education. In order to score more, teachers are often seen busy in attending and organising seminars, conferences and workshops at the cost of their classes which is their primary responsibility. Students are the sufferers as they seldom find their teachers in classrooms. Such teachers are always on run, seldom seen in their institute and interestingly are said to be more knowledgeable, 'experts' etc. than other teachers who meet their classes sincerely. Ironically, such teachers in connivance with others are able to exhibit themselves in the category of best teachers! Upliftment of downtrodden is always a welcome step needed for the upliftment of the country as a whole. Many policies are framed by the government in this



direction. Sometimes the motive is noble but the method adopted leads to division in the society thereby leading to long term repercussions. Long pending dues must be provided but not at the cost of perseverance dexterity of other people.

In the face of the above mentioned causes of ignoble status of teachers these days one gets shocked as to what remedial measures can improve the situation.

- Only genuinely interested and qualified people be allowed to enter this field so that they can contribute remarkably. These people will themselves be intrinsically motivated to justify their existence and thus help in blossoming the personality of their students.
- Strict laws be framed and implemented .In case of violation of norms and rules, exemplary punishments be given.
- Deserving teachers must be given their due .Recognition in any form is a great booster in individual capacity as well as in capacity of teaching community as a whole.
- Non-performing teachers should be shown doors so that callous and complacent attitude gets changed.
- Value based education needs the support of parents,school and society so that children imbibe the values of respect,love, honesty humility etc. through his interaction with his family, friends, neighbours, teachers etc. Disintegration of joint family system is taking its toll on all aspects of our life This present issue, therefore, warrants immediate attention .Teacher, himself, be a person to be emulated ,an epitome of all the qualities that he would cherish in his students .High thinking,simple living,compassionate attitude, passionate teaching make him command respect from his students and society.
- Qualitative leap is possible only when there are genuine people in a system. There is no political interference of any type. No nexus is allowed to grow inside the temples of learning. Promotion must be linked with performance.
- Teacher has to reinvent himself. All the virtues of an ideal must be reflected in his behaviour and action. Elements of novelty, humour, discipline wisdom character, vision and intelligence should be a part of his behaviour.
- Better infrastructure be provided so that each institute becomes a centre of excellence. Growing competition amongst them will force them to outperform the other, thereby setting higher standards.
- Government should have generous attitude while providing funds and suggesting friendly policies for the growth of institutions.
- Strict watch is necessary to differentiate between a sincere and bogus teacher. The authorities must recognise the difference so that the sincere one does not feel suffocated.



- Society must also change its attitude towards teachers. Respect and esteem available to few must be available to all. The few, who enjoy it, do it due to their selfless love and dedication for their students. Of course, teacher himself has to put forward his efforts in this direction to clinch back the lost sheen.

Taking into account the bottlenecks mentioned above and suggested remedial measures, it is possible once again to reinvent the aura and lustre of this noble profession. Most of the problems lie with the teachers themselves. Though outside factors cannot be ignored. But if teacher takes up his role sincerely, days are not far away when he finds his students saying:

Guru Gobind Dou Khade, Kake Lagoon Payein

Balihari Guru Apne, GobindDiye Millay.

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