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Teacher and Student Relationship

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Abstract:

Teacher and student relationship is a matter of much conflict due to the changes that have occurred in the society. In fact, teaching profession is the noblest profession and has been held in high esteem right from the ages. Especially, in Indian context the relationship between the Guru and the disciple in the gurukula system was very strong and affectionate. As years passed by, a paradigm shift can be noticed crystal clearly with the upsurge of science and technology. So to say, there is a considerable chasm visible between a teacher and a student. Apart from science and technology so many other factors have contributed much to this kind of decline in relationship. Primarily, most of the parents are evincing much interest in their children to become money spinners rather than making them an embodiment of values. As a result of it, teachers as well taken the path of materialistic attitude in shaping the students according to their whims and fancies, ultimately landing them in utter chaos.

The present paper evaluates different factors that are responsible to bring change in relationship between a teacher and a student. Besides, expressing a bright hope and optimism for the revival of ancient glory between a teacher and a taught.

Keywords: *Teacher, student, relationship, globalization, decline, chaos, bright hope, optimism*

It is universally acknowledged; the teaching profession is the noblest profession when compared to other professions. It is because, the foundation of the society is laid upon the teacher who imparts moral values and acts as a vehicle to inculcate values to his pupils. Thus, he has a lion share to build a strong society which would enable to educate all people well cultured and civilized. So, he ought to be a guide, philosopher and a leading angel to mould his students on right path. Paramhans Yogananda observes, "The characteristic features of Indian culture have long been a search for ultimate verities and the concomitant disciple-guru relationship." (Yogananda, 1). A popular saying confirms that if an engineer is bad he may damage a project, if a doctor is bad he may kill a patient, if a teacher is bad the entire society may be shambles. Hence, the role of a teacher is more potential and conspicuous. Similarly, the role of the student is equally important in obtaining the knowledge from the teacher.

It is the need of the hour to ponder over the relationship between a teacher and student that has undergone a metamorphosis due to the advent of modern technology. The present paper outshines the different factors that are responsible for the transformation of teacher and student relationship from the past to the present.

In Indian context, the relationship between a teacher and a student has been held in high esteem right from the ages especially during the period of *Puranas* and *Ithihasas*. The rapport between them during that period was purely spiritual. For instance, the relationship between Vasista and Sri Rama, Sandeepa and Krishna and Sri Krishna and Arjuna and in other Holy Texts between John, the Baptist and Jesus Christ and Gabriel and Prophet Mohommed are deserved to mention to learn about their inspiring relationship. In later times, the relationship between Brahmamgaru and Siddaiah, Ramakrishna Paramahamsa and Vivekananda is said to be exemplified to glorify the tradition.

In the passage of time, owing to several upsurges in the educational field, diverse changes have been discerned. In the ancient *Gurukula* System, the student served the master with much reverence and received knowledge from him. The student treated the master more than his parents and took refuge under his tutelage for emotional aberrations.

At Primary Level, the relationship between the teacher and the taught was so affable and the children were able to share their thoughts and problems with the teacher without any inhibitions. In response, the teacher evinced much interest in solving their problems and endeavoured to show parental affection every time. As it is a stage for sound foundation, teacher tried hard to communicate with them smoothly and congenially understanding their innocence and ignorance. Their bondage appeared so felicitous. Children in later years preferred their elementary teacher to be the role model to emulate in his life in their upcoming. Here I wish to mention Mr. Sunderjee,

the colonel in the Indian Army, when he was elevated to the position of Chief Army Officer, he had met his primary school teacher to inform about his promotion in his profession.

In course of time with the onset of Corporate Culture, remarkable paradigm shift can be observed strikingly. Psychologically as parents are blessed with one or two children, they are coming under the overpowering influence of parental affection. As a result the children are not showing interest in the teachings of their teachers and their main ambition is to earn money since parents repeatedly prevail on them as they are paying large amounts for their education. Besides, parents want their children to be a professional either in Engineering field or Medical field as it is the order of the day to gain social status and spin money. This kind of traditional thinking is making ineffaceable impact on the children to aim at amassing wealth instead of knowledge.

As far as teacher is concerned, he also developed a lucrative outlook deprived of dedication in inculcating knowledge to the students. Hence, the relationship is little by little deteriorating between the teacher and student.

Of course, environmental influence can also be significantly noticeable in the relationship. The children who are admitted in Corporate Schools succumb to unwarrantable habits such as drug addiction, drinking due to dearth of moral values not being taught at the proper age. This shows that the society at present is with full of moral degradation particularly of youth.

Globalization is one of the major influential aspects to bring changes in parents and children. As parents are desirous to become wealthy investing the money on their wards to pursue higher studies in foreign countries, the children are compelled to fulfill the wishes of their parents eschewing their individual talent which is ultimately pulling them to ape Western culture in their day to day life. This tremendous impact is there on their character and personality. It is also observed that the flipside of this globalization erodes our traditional values and ethos.

Simultaneously they are very much drawn towards material pleasures rather than leading a life of traditionalism and spirituality. This poses a big problem even to the progeny not having a model parent and a model teacher to follow. Consequently it is preventing them from growing ethically fit to serve the society. Ultimately they appear burden to the society in the form of becoming derelicts even not caring their parents at their old age.

So it is the need of the hour for a teacher right from Primary, Secondary and at Higher Learning to rectify the student to march his journey of life on the path of moral values. Swar and Pandey are of the opinion, "The vedic values of gurukul, are embedded in the higher education of India, to preserve the cultural heritage to keep our customs, rituals and spiritual touch of divinity alive". (Swar and Pandey, 2008)

Since the sea change is witnessed in the attitude of teacher and student relationship, it is indispensable for the academicians and the elite to design the curriculum which enlightens the student to imbibe ethical values and evokes enthusiasm even in teacher to expertize new versions in educational field. According to William Arthur Wards

The Mediocre teacher tells
The Good teacher explains
The Superior teacher demonstrates
The Great teacher inspires.

So to say, a teacher should have the quality of dedication, commitment, integrity more than these love and compassion. This would enable the student to emulate his teacher during his life time. Primarily the duty of a teacher is to ignite the minds of the students to face the challenges of life with much confidence. In addition to that an eminent teacher taps the dormant potentialities of the student and makes him thrive in his life ethically to achieve his aspirations.

To accomplish his mission and vision, a teacher should be provided with training now and then to improve his teaching standards as well as shaping the students in accordance with the changing scenario. The change is the constant journey for progress; the teacher should be susceptible to accept his shortcomings to produce ideal citizens. However, the teacher should be endowed with the faculty of enriching the student with up-to-date knowledge apart from academic knowledge.

It is opined by great psychologists in certain universities that a teacher should have knowledge of psychology in understanding the students' mind while teaching. Since teaching is an art, a teacher should have the capability to stimulate positive attitude and moral strength in students. Holmes Group observed the teachers would

... exemplify the critical thinking they strive to develop in students, combining tough-minded instruction with a penchant for inquiry ... Competent teachers are careful not to bore, confuse, or demean students, pushing them instead to interact with important knowledge and skill.

So there must be room for enjoyment in learning which would help the student to assimilate and remember the content of the subject for longer period besides indirectly encourages the student to translate what he hears in action. To carve the students' personality necessary correction is awfully needed whenever a teacher finds his student going astray. By this the student can sculptor his attitude to reform himself for his own development and sets himself a person to be imitated as well the teacher gets professional satisfaction that he has presented a good citizen to the society. Not only that the student will be ever grateful to his teacher for his yeomen service.

For this, a teacher should be ever a student throughout his service, striving for new avenues to educate the students just like Survepalli Radhakrishna, who rededicated himself to teach students even after completion of his term as President of India. Another example is Dr. Abdul Kalam, though not a teacher by profession is teaching in all universities to enliven the attitude of learning in the youth. His famous notion "Dream for Heights" has become a mantra for any student in India and abroad.

Moreover, the transformation must come in parents and children in the society. The phrase 'History repeats itself' should take place to strengthen the bondage of teacher and student to harmonize the relationship that has perceptibly shifted from glorious heights to regrettable plains unless, anarchy would prevail tending to chaos in the society. Sukanta Das suggested a few to promote the moral standards of youth.

- i. Parents should be conscious about their children so that they are not diverted.
- ii. Social organizations should concentrate on value based moral character of the society and accordingly steps have to be taken to organize common people irrespective of age.
- iii. Nationalism, patriotism, value based education should be incorporated within the existing system of education as compulsory matter.

Thus transformation may be possible when a teacher can say that he has made good citizens, at the same time a student can be in a position to say proudly that he is his role model. To realize the dream both the teacher and student should have commitment in their chosen areas. In the words of Tennyson "Students may come and go but the relationship between a teacher and a student should continue with much endearment for ever and ever."

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