

Socio, Psychological And Economic Wellbeing: An Analysis On The Role Of Teachers In The Post Covid-19 Context

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Abstract

The epidemic Covid-19 made the entire world rethink the strategies, techniques and methods employed in various spheres of human life. There have been numerous changes in all most all sectors. Maintaining social distance, wearing masks and using sanitizers have become new normal. The life style of people has been changed to a great extent. The way people maintain their relationship with others has also been changed. The process of decision making, even for petty tasks has become a herculean task because of the uncertainty and chaos created by Corona virus.

The aim of the present study is to analyse the role of teachers, especially English teachers in creating awareness about the Significance of Emotional intelligence, Cross Cultural Consciousness and Human values which are essential for a student to be successful along with one's academic excellence.

Keywords: Education, Emotional intelligence, Cross Cultural Consciousness and Human values.

Introduction

Epidemic Covid-19 brought several changes in all the spheres of human existence and operations. In the field of education, online mode of education became a new normal during the period of lock down when Corona virus was so prevalent. Teachers started using electronic gadgets during the process of teaching to the students who could not attend classes in the off-line mode. Teaching materials were also designed in such a way that they can cater to the needs of the students. Most of the schools conducted online examinations. Academicians started rethinking about the skills set that will make students knowledgeable and successful in their lives. They identified number of things that need to be developed in order to make students healthy, happy and successful. Human values, emotional intelligence and cross cultural consciousness are some of the important things

which require immediate attention if one has to be happy and successful. The need for emotional intelligence and human values were felt more than anything else during the time of Corona epidemic. Accordingly, the government of India in its new education Policy 2020 accentuated the need for imparting human values and designed a course to be taught in all academic courses. Another important aspect of attention is need for emotional intelligence. It was identified

by many researchers that most of the students who have very good academic excellence fail to become successful because they lack emotional intelligence which is a focal element to lead a happy and successful life. Cross cultural consciousness has also become very important with globalization.

Covid-19 made people very selfish on one hand in the other it made people understand the need for

human values in order to survive. People have become so selfish because of socio-economic conditions which were prevalent during the time of Covid-19. The sudden rise of expenditure on medicines, food and transportation made people cautious about their expenditure. Covid-19 created panic and terror in the minds of people. It made the entire world understand how feeble human beings are and how weak their relationships are. It made the entire world understand the need for universal human values if the human race has to exist. It gave a clarion call to the people to do away with their selfish motives and work for a solution that can save the human race from this catastrophe. Today, if we are alive it is because of the combined effort of people of different nations who worked day in day out for a solution. This is a sign of human values or else only a few nations and a few people would have existed now. Thus, there is a dire necessity to impart human values and create awareness on the significance of emotional intelligence in the present education system as it has been rightly mentioned by Daniel Goleman in his book *Emotional Intelligence: why it can matter more than IQ*. The “Millennial years are ushering in an age of melancholy, just as the twentieth century became an age of anxiety. International data show what seems to be a modern epidemic of depression... each successive generation worldwide since the opening of the century has lived with a higher risk than their parents of suffering a major depression - not just sadness, but...dejection, and self-pity and an overwhelming hopelessness - over the course of life” (Daniel Goleman, 240). So, in the present situation the role of teachers is not only imparting the subject knowledge to the students but also create awareness about core competencies like Human values, emotional intelligence and cultural consciousness which are very much important to be happy and successful. And hence, it is the responsibility of teachers to educate students on the significance of these core competences and help students become successful in their lives.

Need for Human values:

Human values are very essential in today's world. “It includes truth, honesty, love, peace, sincerity, non-violence, friendship, empathy,

etc. They are beliefs that have an inherent worth to the holder as principles, standards or qualities. They are the characteristics of self-concept and serve as supervisory principles for person. The word “value” originated from the Latin word ‘VALERE’ which means to be of worth” (Santhini,B, 2018, 422).

Today the world needs human values more than any other decade. In India, in the past few decades there has been an erosion of human values because of several socio-economic and cultural factors. One of the reasons for dwindling of human values in Indian society is transition from joint family system to nuclear family system. In India, until the year 1970 majority of the people have joint family system where children live with their father, mother, grandfather and grandmother. Though the joint family system knowingly or unknowingly most of the children picked up some human values because of the tiny, minimal adjustment and sacrifices those children learned to live happily by caring and sharing they received from their family members. Now, we don't find many joint families. Majority of the families are nuclear families where the children live with their father and mother without having/known about their extended family members. People have become more selfish and less worried about others. People are much worried about their own wellbeing forgetting the fact that their happiness and wellbeing depends largely on the wellbeing of their relatives, neighbours and society at large. Hence today's children more than anybody else need to possess the human values which were very much prevalent in the joint family system than the nuclear family system. So it is the duty of teachers to take up the responsibility of developing human values in the students so that future generation can lead a happy and prosperous life. If teachers neglect the responsibility of imparting the human values then the future of India will be very bleak and vicious.

The role of English Teachers:

The role of English teachers today is not only to teach English language but also help students attain human values which are very essential in present context. Though there are opportunities for other subject teachers to teach human values but the opportunities of English teachers for imparting human values are certainly better than other subject teachers. Exploitation of situation

to impart human values is only possible if the teachers are prepared enough to take some extra trouble and put in an extra effort during their preparation and presentation. The success or failure of English teachers in presenting human values to the students in the classroom depends on various factors. Success comes only if the teacher is good at subject and is an amiable person. The task of imparting human values fails if the teacher either fails to impress students with his/her academic excellence or fails to be a role model with his/her behaviour.

Some important aspects which need to be taken care of while imparting human values are:

1. Finding a suitable occasion to bring in human values in one's demonstration.
2. Allocating adequate time for highlighting the significance of H.V
3. Presenting the need for imbibing the H.V with relevant examples.
4. Creating an atmosphere where students can understand, introspect and assimilate H.V
5. Creating knowledge base where one can evaluate a situation based on the right understanding.
6. Making students aware of the fact that If their happiness is the result of right understanding then it can last longer
7. Creating awareness among the student community that our existence is only possible with co-existence with other beings.

If the things mentioned above have to become a reality at least in a certain form then the teachers irrespective of their position should be experts in their subject and then be a good human being.

Emotional Intelligence:

Another important role of teachers today is to prepare students to possess Emotional Intelligence. Emotional Intelligence can be defined as "The capacity to reason about emotions to enhance thinking. It includes the ability to accurately perceive emotions, to access and generate emotions so as to assist thought, to understand emotions and emotional knowledge, and to reflectively regulate emotions so as to promote emotional and intellectual growth" (Mayer, Salovey, & Caruso 2004, p. 197).

The concept of emotional intelligence can be summarized as the ability of self to understand one's emotions and the emotions of others and act for the benefit of one self and others. The significance of Emotional intelligence has been highlighted by Daniel Goleman in his book Emotional Intelligence: why it can matter more than IQ. After thorough analysis of several case studies it was understood that people with reasonably high IQ fail to be successful in their life. The reason for the failure of people who have moderately high IQ is that Most of them lack Emotional Intelligence which is essential in making people successful. So it is the responsibility of teachers to create awareness on the significance of possessing emotional intelligence along with IQ to become successful in their lives.

The process of making people understand the relevance of Emotional Intelligence in the initial stages might look boring but still the process need to be continued for certain period of time and then slowly the significance can be ingrained in their minds and play a vital role in their lives in the due course of time.

The role of teacher:

1. Teachers should create awareness among the students about the importance of emotional intelligence for personal as well as professional success.
2. Teachers need to identify suitable time to bring in the concept of emotional intelligence in their class.
3. Importance of Emotional intelligence need to be highlighted by collecting the suitable information from various sources available like stories, you tube, cinemas etc.

Cross-cultural competence:

"Cross-cultural competence refers to the knowledge, skills, and affect/motivation that enable individuals to adapt effectively in cross-cultural environments". (Wikipedia).

Cross cultural competence is very important now than it has been never before because of the job opportunities and changes in the work place. Globalization has created ample opportunities to people who have cross cultural consciousness. It created the possibility of living, studying and working in other countries. Today, in Multi-national companies people from different

countries work for a company sitting in different geographical locations for the development of the company and for self-enrichment. Now-a-days people of one nation migrate to another nation for academic as well as job purposes but if they have to co-exist with others they require cross cultural consciousness or else there will be much of misunderstandings that may lead to destruction of self and others. Cross-cultural awareness creates space for happy co-existence with other human beings with different cultural backgrounds. So, in order to achieve the goal set by the company everyone working for the company needs to respect and value everyone else, this requires cross cultural consciousness.

The role of teacher:

1. The role of teacher is to highlight the significance of cross-cultural competence in the global scenario.
2. Help students understand importance of having different cultures for global development through various sources suitable to the student community.
3. Help students possess importance of universal human values like right understanding, forgiveness, kindness and love for other human beings so that fruits of diversity can be enjoyed for the greater glory of the entire universe.

Conclusion

The role of teachers in this critical and trying situation is very crucial. Teachers need to prepare students to face any kind of eventuality with confidence. It requires teachers who can spend extra time and take extra pains to impart human values, emotional intelligence and cultural competence required to face the world. Teachers should prepare students understand the core competencies required in the global world. The role of teachers is to create an awareness of the need for possessing human values, cross cultural competencies, emotional intelligence along with I.Q. so that students can become happy and successful in their lives. Moreover, teachers have to adapt themselves to the need of the hour and respond adequately in order to help students reap fruits of academic excellence with the help of core competencies required to be successful. Hence, the role of teachers today is not only imparting subject knowledge to the

students but also make students equip with the core competencies required to co-exist with other human beings with different socio-cultural and economic backgrounds. A teacher should prepare students to have socio-psychological and economic enrichment.

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