

# International Journal of Innovative Research in Science, Engineering and Technology

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## The Role of Teachers as Academic Mentors

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**ABSTRACT:** Right from the dawn of human race teachers are conceived as makers of nation. Being a teacher is not just a transition from one task to another, but it involves deliberate and planned activities with specific roles. Thus the accountability of teachers is challenging and demanding with respect to student development and societal progress. As we move to a more advanced world in science and technology, the roles of teachers also gets widened. There is a paradigm shift from the traditional way of looking into teacher profession. The teacher of the modern world is considered not only as a knowledge giver but also as a powerful academic mentor. The students' of the present world also encounters with lot of problems outside their classroom realm. This led to the dire need of teachers becoming academic mentors. Here the role of teachers is escalated to professional counselling/ mentoring status.

**KEYWORDS:** Teacher, roles, student, academic mentor

### I. INTRODUCTION

A teacher has many responsibilities for a student. A child spends a lot of time in school so he has to stay with the teachers. The teachers influence his growth and development also along with the knowledge which they impart. In schools the teachers are regularly given orientation classes, this is just to make them more skilled to deal with the children. In colleges teachers make the students aware of the reality and the situation prevailing in the country. The teachers' role is to help the students get a perfect personality to face the **world**.

#### Duties of school teachers include:

- ✓ Planning lessons that teach specific subjects, such as math, science, and English;
- ✓ Teaching lessons in whole-group or small-group
- ✓ Assessing and evaluating student's abilities, strengths, and weaknesses;
- ✓ Preparing students for standardized tests;
- ✓ Communicating student progress to parents;
- ✓ Developing and enforcing classroom rules;
- ✓ Supervising children in extracurricular activities);
- ✓ Conducting in-class activities; and
- ✓ Planning field trips.

#### Duties of Teachers of Higher Education include:

- ✓ Planning lessons that teach specific subjects
- ✓ Teaching lessons in whole-group or small-group configurations;
- ✓ Assessing and evaluating student's abilities, strengths, and weaknesses;
- ✓ Preparing students for standardized tests;
- ✓ Communicating student progress to parents;
- ✓ Making also possible steps to facilitate learning
- ✓ Orienting them on career opportunities
- ✓ Teaching them on varied life skills
- ✓ Helping and counselling students in stressful situations
- ✓ Being a role model for a perfect personality

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## II. ROLES OF TEACHERS WITH RESPECT TO STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

Teachers play vital roles in the lives of the students in their classrooms. Teachers are best known for the role of educating the students that are placed in their care. Beyond that, teachers serve many other roles in the classroom. Teachers set the tone of their classrooms, build a warm environment, mentor and nurture students, become role models, and listen and look for signs of trouble.

### Teaching Knowledge

The most common role a teacher plays in the classroom is to teach knowledge to children. Teachers are given a curriculum they must follow that meets state guidelines. This curriculum is followed by the teacher so that throughout the year, all pertinent knowledge is dispensed to the students. Teachers teach in many ways including lectures, small group activities and hands-on learning activities.

### Creating Classroom Environment

Teachers also play an important role in the classroom when it comes to the environment. Students often mimic a teacher's actions. If the teacher prepares a warm, happy environment, students are more likely to be happy. An environment set by the teacher can be either positive or negative. If students sense the teacher is angry, students may react negatively to that and therefore learning can be impaired. Teachers are responsible for the social behavior in their classrooms. This behaviour is primarily a reflection of the teacher's actions and the environment she sets.

### Role Modelling

Teachers typically do not think of themselves as role models, however, they are. Students spend a great deal of time with their teacher and therefore, the teacher becomes a role model to them. This can be a positive or negative effect depending on the teacher. Teachers are there not only to teach the children, but also to love and care for them. Teachers are typically highly respected by people in the community and therefore become a role model to students and parents.

### Mentoring

Mentoring is a natural role taken on by teachers, whether it is intentional or not. This again can have positive or negative effects on children. Mentoring is a way a teacher encourages students to strive to be the best they can. This also includes encouraging students to enjoy learning. Part of mentoring consists of listening to students. By taking time to listen to what students say, teachers impart to students a sense of ownership in the classroom. This helps build their confidence and helps them want to be successful.

## III. MULTIPLE ROLES OF THE TEACHER

### The Information Provider

- ❖ **The Lecturer:** The traditional responsibility of the teacher is to pass on to students the information, knowledge and understanding in a topic appropriate at the stage of their studies. This leads to the traditional role of a teacher as the provider of information. The lecture remains as one of the most widely used instructional methods.
- ❖ **The Role Model as a Teacher:** Teachers serve as role model not only when they teach students and also fulfil their role as a teacher in the classroom, whether it is in the lecture hall or the small discussion or tutorial group. The teacher has a unique opportunity to share some of the magic of the subject with the students.
- ❖ **Teacher - A Social Engineer:** It is said that "teacher is a social engineer". He is the architect who builds, rebuilds, shapes and re-shapes the psychological world of the young members of the society. Just like an engineer prepares plans for the construction of the building, the teacher prepares plan for the all-round development of the pupils. It is the teacher who gives the child a firm foundation for his physical, social, mental, intellectual and moral development.
- ❖ **Teacher- A Nation Builder:** Nobody can deny the role of teacher as a nation builder. The late Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi stated, "**The nation's well being depends upon the teachers' well being. Our teachers'**

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**are the custodians of future. No society can afford to neglect them”** The teacher removes the darkness of ignorance and light wisdom.

- ❖ Knowledge may be gained from books, but the love of knowledge is transmitted through the teacher.

## The Facilitator:

### ❖ The Learning Facilitator

The move to a more student-centered view of learning has required a fundamental shift in the role of the teacher. No longer is the teacher seen predominantly as a dispenser of information or walking tape recorders, but rather as a facilitator or manager of the students' learning.

- ❖ **The Mentor:** The role of mentor is a further role for the teacher. The mentor is usually not the member of the staff who is responsible for the teaching or assessment of the student and is therefore off-line in terms of relationship with the student. Mentorship is less about reviewing the students' performance in a subject or an examination and more about a wider view of issues relating to the student.

## The Assessor:

- ❖ **The Student Assessor** - The assessment of the student's competence is one of the most important tasks facing the teacher. Most teachers have something to contribute to the assessment process. Examining does represent a distinct and potentially separate role for the teacher. Thus it is possible for someone to be an expert teacher but not an expert examiner. There is a higher need for teachers with special knowledge and understanding of assessment process.
- ❖ **The Curriculum Assessor:** The teacher has a responsibility not only to plan and implement educational programmes and to assess the students' learning but also to assess the course and curriculum delivered. Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the teaching of courses and curricula is now recognized as an integral part of the educational process. Evaluation can also be interpreted as an integral part of the professional role of teachers, recognizing teachers' own responsibility for monitoring their own performance.

## The Planner:

- ❖ **The curriculum planner:** Curriculum planning is an important role for the teacher. Most colleges and universities have education committees charged with the responsibility for planning and implementing the curriculum within their institution. Teachers employed by the colleges and universities may be expected to make a contribution to curriculum planning. Curriculum planning presents a significant challenge for the teacher and both time and expertise is required if the job is to be undertaken properly.
- ❖ **The course planner:** **The best curriculum in the world will be ineffective if the course which it comprises have little or no relationship to the curriculum that is in place.** Once the principles which underpin the curriculum of the institution have been agreed, detailed planning is then required at the level of the individual course or phase of the curriculum.

## The Role of the Academic Mentor

The role of the Academic Mentor is to provide support and advice to the student during Work Placement and contribute to the assessment of the student's performance on Work Placement. An academic mentor is a positive role model of a successful student who supports their mentee by giving academic advice, sharing resources, and caring about their students' success. The mission is to empower students by encouraging them to develop the diverse skills and strategies necessary to successfully navigate higher education.

- ✓ Academic Mentors should make initial contact with their mentees to arrange the dates and times of proposed mentor sessions.
- ✓ Academic Mentors should provide advice and support to mentees in matters related to their academic progress and personal development and support mentees in identifying help with welfare issues.
- ✓ Academic Mentors should assist mentees in reviewing their progress, skills and achievements to date.

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- ✓ Academic Mentors should provide information to mentees on other sources of guidance and support available in the University.
- ✓ Academic Mentors should discuss academic progress, assessment and examinations.
- ✓ Academic Mentors (or another member of College staff) should follow up mentees who do not attend Academic Mentor meetings and/or are not making satisfactory progress. Students should receive a personal email if they miss an Academic Mentor appointment.
- ✓ Academic Mentors must be familiar with the University's guidance on confidentiality in addition to any guidance issued by professional and statutory bodies.

## IV. CONCLUSION

Mentoring is a powerful personal and career development tool that can enable the mentee to achieve or go above their life's goals and aspirations. Mentoring is important, not only because of the knowledge and skills students can learn from mentors, but also because mentoring provides professional socialization and personal support to facilitate success in education.

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