

Blog

Training improves teacher quality and student learning

“A good teacher can inspire hope, ignite the imagination, and install the love of learning”- Brad Henry



Photo Credit: Candle Science

An educator, a mentor, a motivator, a guide or a leader, an ideal teacher enjoy all of these responsibilities to shape the future of their students. Their desire to help their students to succeed makes them different from any other professionals. There is no universal rule for being a good teacher. However, from previous research, [eight basic characteristics](#) are considered crucially important to become an ideal teacher. These fundamental skills are Knowledge of material; Decision making; Critical thought and problem-solving ability; Self-understanding and self-correction; Reflecting; Recognizing students and knowing students' learning needs; Applying new findings in education; Teaching and communication. However, these skills cannot be self-taught or developed overnight. For a teacher to formulate these skills to enhance their quality and support their students, proper professional development training is essential.

Some researchers have indicated that supporting the adoption of a deep learning strategy through teacher training improves students' cognitive learning processes and raises student accomplishment. Training involves using a variety of learning and speaking techniques that assists teachers to improve students' learning attitudes. It also enables teachers to support students in ways that are appropriate for learning and

enhancing their knowledge. The training of teachers can influence a student's behavior to prefer activity-based learning and cognition. It can be done by creating a teacher training program that incorporates pedagogical approaches to activity-based learning.

Teachers have a unique opportunity to directly interact with students. The student's motivation and achievement are increased when the teacher can engage with them and exhibit good behaviour such as listening to what they have to say, expressing interest and showing appreciation. They can arouse students' natural curiosity and help them develop their skills at the same time. With their encouragement, students develop self-esteem. They complement the parents' instructions and help to mould students' attitudes and behaviors. In some cases, the teachers can bring the best out of the students. Because they can stimulate students' passion for challenging subjects, and help students overcome academic obstacles. By giving students additional opportunities to participate actively in their learning, teachers can alter their classroom procedures. Following parental influence, teachers play a significant role in a person's personal and professional growth.

In terms of student's educational lives, teachers can go beyond the four walls of the classroom. At times, they can be effective over the entire course of the student's education. As a facilitator, the teachers need to create a student-friendly and students-centric environment in the classroom. This can be ensured through rigorous training, which keeps special attention to reducing the student-teacher gap that has been happening through generations. Professional development training opportunities help teachers to accept the responsibility for his/her knowledge and abilities and cultivate positive relationships with their students. Qualified teachers can immediately help the students to improve their performance and develop a strong personality.

For the intermediate level students, teachers' skilful guidance is more important as teachers can mentor them, and assist them in selecting the best professional path. Being a coach, teachers can identify the strengths and weaknesses of their students, teach them research and networking, and recommend extracurricular activities. They can set a higher bar of expectations for their students to succeed. Through these, an ideal teacher can redirect students to reach their full potential. One good teacher can show the path of prosperity that enlightens thousands of students as well as the whole nation. In this regard, teachers have a big role to play in nation-building because students are the citizens of tomorrow. In the South Asian region, unskilled and poorly trained teachers have been a common scenario. To break this situation and be a role model for the training institute of Bangladesh, Asian University for Women is planning an In-Service M.Ed. program for the intermediate college teachers.



Photo Credit: Nitu Akter (AUW Student)

On 15 June 2022, the AUW M.Ed. team had invited twenty three intermediate college teachers as representatives from fifteen colleges around Chittagong region to attend a workshop. In this workshop, the M.Ed. team presented the planning phase of the “Whole College Improvement Model” through an AUW In-Service Master of Education program. The aim of this innovative program is to train college teachers with unique pedagogical approaches and insights along with strengthening the governing system and infrastructure of the colleges. The training and M.Ed. degree will help the teachers to lead reformation of colleges, inspire transformative learning, maintain classroom equity, and develop quality educational research. Through this whole college model all the stakeholders will be actively participating for effective college management, improved teaching and learning environment and safety of female students. Later, the team and the college teachers had an intensive discussion on the requirements and feasibility of the program and took important inputs from the teachers. The AUW whole college improvement program will subsequently contribute to enhancing the quality of education in the partner intermediate colleges.

About the author

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