

Blog

Why teachers training is important?

Teachers.

They are like our parents, guardians, mentors, and friends. Fused altogether. We spend hours talking about our teachers; good or bad. But mostly about good ones. When we were in school or college, every one of us wanted to take extra tuitions from the best teachers (mostly Mathematics or English) of the town. Why did we do so? Because we believe a good teacher can transform a 'weak' student into a strong one. Because they are the architects of students' future. They build children to stay unbreakable in the struggle of life. They shape the tender minds to prepare them as per the changing context of the world. Through them, generations evolve, surpass their shortcomings. That is why they are exceptionally important.

Teachers are the primary mentors for learners. They guide them to choose the appropriate path for learning. It is teachers who ignite students' inner spirit to explore new horizons of knowledge of their individual interests. They know each student is special. Each have different abilities. Each requires a unique approach of learning new things. Teachers with proper training are able to identify and address these varying needs. It is training that prepares them for teaching a wide variety of students bearing differing capabilities. It is not possible otherwise.

A good teacher, however, cannot be prepared overnight. It takes years of practice and training until one becomes an efficient mentor. That is why teachers training is so important. Besides, it is a continuous process of learning and teaching. A teacher learns new approaches to teaching while coaching students. It is a life-long process that every teacher undergoes.

Apart from the spontaneous process of enhancing teachers' skill and efficiency to teach, there are institutional ways teachers take up to get oriented with diverse previously established methods of teaching based on certain curricula. Teacher's training is one such way. In this training process, teachers learn about teaching methods that have previously been proved successful as well as updated methods on newly discovered knowledge to apply afresh. Training serves them with the initial ideas to start with. Regardless, teachers eventually discover their own unique ways to deliver knowledge.

Time to time, education system comes under the radar about its effectiveness to cater to the 21st century students. The smell of doubt stem from the question: Is our education system able to provide all that today's students need to excel in academics and ultimately, in their career? Educationists across the globe have expressed their share of opinions over the reformation of the existing education system. From changing the structure of syllabus to changing the study environment, different opinions about reform have arisen. One unanimous concern, however, being asked by all experts is about adequate teachers training to prepare teachers before we want to prepare students.

Every profession needs upskilling. Every profession undergoes modifications for the betterment of itself. Teaching is no exception in that regard. In fact, it is more relevant for teachers as new knowledge is continuously being produced over time. And it requires new approaches to deliver those very knowledges to newer generations. Therefore, there is no alternative to teachers training. This is one of the best ways we can ensure passing on knowledge and skills in an effective manner.

In this context, a workshop with colleges principals and teachers of intermediate colleges in Chittagong, Noakhali and Cox's Bazar was organized on 15 June 2022 by Asian University for Women. Majority of the teachers attended acknowledged the importance of training and how it helped them understand their role better. It boosts their confidence for public speaking as well. Moreover, they learned better class

management techniques for maintaining big class size, considering the context of Bangladesh where it holds as many as hundred students in one single classroom.

“The training is more relevant for novice lecturers as they take up most of the classes and can apply training methods more frequently”- one of the principals mentioned in the workshop. Yes, indeed, it is a matter of fact. We all acknowledge that nobody becomes an efficient teacher from day one. It requires time to practice, to get training, to apply and practice again. While the comparatively experienced teachers teach efficiently with years of practice, the new-comers sometimes take time to get a grasp of the huge responsibility they are expected to bear. That is why institutions must continue investing in teachers training at the beginning or time to time in between their service.

Sometimes, students get bored with teachers applying similar methods of teaching every day. Going to the school, listening to lectures, going back home, doing homework, repeat. This turns the learning process monotonous. Students lose interest in class. Teachers ultimately loss the wholehearted attention of their students to teach lessons. With regular training, teachers get oriented with updated and interesting methods or teaching techniques. Young minds feel rather more enthusiastic to do a new thing than that of repeating the usual ones. Hence, teachers training is a must.

What is more is that exposure to new teaching techniques and methodology through training not only engage students, but also increase opportunities for teachers to progress in their careers. Good teachers are always in demand and training only enhances the chance of becoming so. A win-win situation from both ends.

About the author

Sumaya Halim is working as a Research Assistant for the In-Service Master of Education (M.Ed.) Program at Asian University for Women.