

# Developing Skills for 21<sup>st</sup> Century of Teachers in Teacher Education

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## Abstract

The need of developing 21st century skills among teachers in teacher education is highly discussed nowadays. In today's rapidly growing and dynamic environment, the role and responsibility of teachers are becoming more complex. Teacher is being challenged with the task of increased teaching load, research responsibility and continuous improvement in skill set. Quality education transforms a teacher into a well-informed and deeply motivated. Teacher can think critically, analyze problems of society, look for solutions and accept social responsibilities. It is true to some extent that as a teacher is the only entity who is in direct contact with students. For enhancing teaching process, teachers must have visionary approach of how and when to use appropriate advance method and techniques of teaching. Teacher can sustain good practice in teaching with the help of advanced teaching procedure. Teacher should think of continuous academic growth of professional development whenever opportunities arise. It is obligatory for teachers to enrich the qualification for running effective teaching-learning programmes. So, if we want a powerful, effective, excellent teacher let the education system adopt above ideas related to quality concern of teacher in 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**Keywords-** 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, teachers, teacher education, quality education.

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## Introduction

21<sup>st</sup> century world demands best quality education. It is said that the quality of a nation depends upon the quality of its citizens and the quality of citizens in turn depends upon the quality of education. It includes such as academic environment, campus environment, classrooms, support services, infrastructure, e-library and the most prominent i.e. teacher educator. The field of teacher education is not an exception to it. The competition will compel and motivate student-teachers such as B.Ed., B.P.Ed., M.Ed., M.P.Ed. and D.T.Ed. to improve the quality of education through developing skills of 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Developing skills and skill based education is an irreversible phenomenon at least in our country. Educational sector cannot remain unaffected when every other



sector is buffeted by the same. Skill based education is the flow of technology, economy, knowledge, people, values, ideas across borders.

The process of developing skills of 21<sup>st</sup> century emphasizes on collaboration. It may in any area of teacher educator such as research, teaching, evaluation, knowledge, curriculum development instructional material development etc. It will help in bridging the gap which exists due to lack of vision. The output will serve the human beings living on this globe. It will provide an opportunity to change the views and form positive attitude towards education.

Nowadays teaching as a profession does not attract the best of the talent. It is regarded as a thankless job, poor log paid appreciated neither by students nor by the society. Unless there is a change in this attitude, quality will be difficult to achieve. It requires a culture for quality. It should also be a willingness to spend good money on quality, money for providing good infrastructure, money for recruiting and holding on to quality faculty and money to sustain the quest for quality.

The present paper has focused the key role of student-teachers in teacher education. 21<sup>st</sup> century skills have appealed today's student-teachers. A traditional teacher has got the climax of media and technology. Teacher has the heart of technology to explore 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. So it is an urgent need to develop 21<sup>st</sup> century skills among teachers in teacher education.

### **Objectives of the present study-**

1. To study the concept of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills.
2. To study the various types of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills.
3. To study the utility of 21<sup>st</sup> century in teacher education.
4. To study the role of teacher in 21<sup>st</sup> century.
5. To highlight the contribution of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills in education.

### **Steps towards developing 21<sup>st</sup> century skills in Teacher**

1. Teacher should improve and develop creativity.
2. Teacher should design and implement critical thinking.



3. Teacher should implement healthy and effective collaboration.
4. Teacher should implement new methods, techniques and devices for information literacy
5. Teacher should motivate to improve media literacy.
6. Teacher should encourage contributing to the national and international development.
7. Teacher should inspire teachers to give best results in their respective subjects through technology literacy
8. Teacher should make aware of their contribution in the field of society.
9. Teacher should design and implement effective plan of developing 21<sup>st</sup> century skills in teachers.
10. Teacher should highlight the contribution of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills in teacher education.

**Inculcation of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills in teacher, teacher should introduce the following skills in his life -**

1. Self - reliant
2. Self - identification
3. Self - explanation
4. Self - analysis
5. Self - evaluation

**Now, we have to understand and think how to develop 21<sup>st</sup> century skills of teachers in teacher education by following directions.**

**A) Creativity-**

The development of creativity is the key role in 21<sup>st</sup> century. Teacher should design and execute the well planning of his creativity. For its effective use, many innovative things could be done. It is necessary to deal with utilization of creative mind which must be inherent and be natural for setting a stage for quality for the teachers. The following ways are helpful to increase skills of teachers. ICT has the capability to prepare a teacher for a rapidly changing world scenario. Teacher can use



ICT as a tool to find, explore, analyze and exchange. Library plays a role of learning resource of a teacher. Teacher can be exposed to new addition of book with library. It can run the Teachers circle in which weekly sessions could be organized where the teachers may be given opportunity to present the matter they have read. So the qualities of excellence could be inculcated. Provision of best library facilities to stimulate creative and critical thinking of teachers. Teacher should acquaint with LCD, a modern teaching aid. Teacher should use Laptops, computer and other modern teaching aids which are the real store of teacher knowledge. It helps to inculcate the best norms of qualities in the mind of teachers. The colleges having credit societies can encourage the teachers to buy the electronic teaching aids with reduced interest rates. The teacher should be provided resource support. Teaching aids such as OHPs, LCD projectors, microphones should be available in a number of departments. A new computer laboratory is to be setup under the UGC scheme. Technological innovations like close-circuit cameras, computers with internet connections, LCDs with screen in every class should require.

### **B) Critical Thinking -**

Today's teachers are heavily burdened with the so called essentials of curricula and syllabi to be covered within a stipulated period of time, the wailings of desirable of significant values remaining alien and unexercised. To inculcate and develop critical thinking in teacher, teacher has essential to develop and plan the given curriculum in detail, to collect, produce and use a variety of appropriate curricular resources, especially teaching, learning and testing materials, to participate in and guide at least some co-curricular / non-academic activities including SUPW, social services etc, to contribute to curriculum designing and development to the extent and in ways expected / permitted and to plan for the effective, meaningful curricular differentiation, emphasizing, ensuring, mastery of minimum essentials for all. In-service education of teachers is commonly understood to include the collegiate and school-based programmes of professional study and work in which the teacher is involved after he has been certified and employed. We shall deal more primarily with school-based programmes. These include institute workshops, after school and summer activities.



**C) Collaboration -**

Education today is undergoing diverse changes. Today's teachers are fraught with the very concept of education. Is education benefit of teaching? Nowadays, devotion to teaching is replaced by addition to earning. Teaching is always a dynamic activity. It unfolds a world of knowledge and information experience etc. To inculcate and develop 21<sup>st</sup> century collaboration skills in teacher, it is necessary to teach creativity, a teacher should have a theoretical orientation, a tolerance for complexity, a capacity for creative thinking, a capacity to provide love. To teach successfully, a teacher should have an interest in knowing pupils as individuals, an ability to establish a relationship of mutual trust, respect, a competence in leading and shaping discussions. It is an ability to encourage and aid pupils involved in individual and small group tasks. To teach the culturally disadvantaged, a teacher should have a concern and caring for students, readiness to hold the students hand, an ability to build self-respect and trust. Reflective reaching is fundamental to programme development of teacher. Teacher should be open-minded in welcoming unexpected incidents derives in the form of new theories knowledge and experience supplied by students. Teacher should allow wider avenues of introspection. Teacher should generate a revolutionary approach to negotiate reflective thinking by allowing pupils a warm and cordial atmosphere of exchanging and developing radical effulgence of reflective thinking. It is necessary to prepare teachers to be well-informed of the latest trends and tendencies about values in life and work everywhere. It stimulates teachers to come in close contact with their pupils/students worst affected in devaluation of values and establish a healthy relationship. It leads to be a good model of a human being, citizen and teacher. Teacher should try to cater to individual differences maximally in different ways. Teacher should make the best use possible of all available resources, human and materials. Teacher has the responsibility to combine in a balanced way total class instruction, group processes and individual assignments. Teacher should maintain an informal, friendly co-operative, pleasant climate with wide student's participation and sense of contribution. Teacher should provide for reasonable student participation in design making, planning, implementation, evaluation etc. Teacher should demonstrate the various strategies, methods, tactics, techniques etc. Teacher should cater diverse learning needs of students. Teacher



should introduce innovations in teaching, learning and evaluation. Teacher should motivate students to adopt modern pedagogical techniques to give the best to the students.

#### **D) Varied Literacy-**

To inculcate and develop 21<sup>st</sup> century skills in teacher, it is highly accepted to look at the classroom as a working space. It makes aware of individual differences. It is highly accepted to discuss media and technology literacy strategies with students, to know the background, conditions and capacities of each students, to inform students about the goals and the best methods and discuss the programme with them, to clear about evaluation criteria, feedback etc, to maintain healthy and satisfying relations with students, colleagues, management, parents and community, to maintain proper psychosocial climate, manage classes, groups and problem students situations, with a positive outlook and with adequate individual attention, to contribute to guidance and counseling services, to render needed assistance in institutional management and organization.

#### **Conclusion**

There is a rapidly growing and dynamic environment in the world of technology. The place of teachers is becoming more challenging and appealing. Teacher is being challenged with the task of increased needs and expectations of society. The process is becoming as quality education transforms a teacher into a well-informed and deeply motivated. Teacher can think critically, analyze problems of society, look for solutions and accept social responsibilities. It is stated through 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. It is true to some extent that as a teacher is the real creator of 21<sup>st</sup> century world. Teachers are accepted and followed by society. They have visionary and creative approach of how and when to use appropriate advance system of education for 21<sup>st</sup> century world. Teacher should prepare and maintain best practices in teacher education. Teacher should think of continuous academic and professional development through opportunities arises. It is necessary for teachers to enrich the 21<sup>st</sup> century skills for running effective teaching-learning programmes. It is highly



stated to adept 21<sup>st</sup> century skills for the opening of creative critical thinking through collaboration and varied literacy in the field of teacher education.

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