

## **REDEFINING: THE ROLE OF TEACHERS IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY-THE NEED TO BECOME MODERN KNOWLEDGE**

**Dr. NEERUKONDA VISWASA RAO**

Head, The Department of English, S.V.K.P. COLLEGE, MARKAPUR

Mail Id: [neerukonda.nvr@gmail.com](mailto:neerukonda.nvr@gmail.com)

### **Abstract**

The rapid growth of technology encourages teachers especially who teach English as foreign language to use it while presenting material and giving instruction in the classroom. In the fast changing world of the early 21st century public education is also changing. As part of the changes the role of schools and education will also be different both in the educational system and in the society. Together with them the role of teachers will also change. In my presentation I am examining how the new social challenges and demands towards education and teachers change schools into institutions with modern aims and social contracts. We are going to depict the characteristic features of 'ideal' teachers by exploring recent literature and the results of a survey. In the survey teachers reveal their professional aims and needs for the future. Finally, we are going to explore teachers' knowledge base in the 21st century.

**Keywords :** education – role of school – role of teacher – society – features of teacher

### **INTRODUCTION**

The rapid growth of technology encourages teachers especially who teach English as a foreign language to use it while presenting material and giving instruction in the classroom. The education system of the 21st century has changed radically with the integration of the technology in every sector. At the same time, the students are more matured than the previous time. Now, in the twenty-first-century education depends on Thinking Skills, Interpersonal Skills, Information Media, Technological Skills as well as Life Skills. Especially, the education of the present time emphasis on life and career skills. Now there has no value for rote learning. In general, it needs to meet the industry need. To clarify, the teaching will be effective when a student can use the lesson outside of the classroom.

#### ***The 7 Roles of a Teacher in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century:***

It is clear that the 21st-century classroom needs are very different from the 20th-century ones. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century classroom, teachers are facilitators of student learning and creators of productive classroom environments, in which students can

develop the skills they might need at present or in future.

However, before we begin to understand the evolving role of an ESL teacher, let's outline some of the most popular teacher roles. Harmer, J. states that 'it makes more sense to describe different teacher roles and say what they are useful for, rather than make value judgments about their effectiveness.' So here are some of the most common teacher roles:

#### ***Teacher Roles:***

Most teachers take on a variety of roles within the classroom, which role do you think most defines your role in the ESL classroom?

**1. The Controller:** The teacher is in complete charge of the class, what students do, what they say and how they say it. The teacher assumes this role when a new language is being introduced and accurate reproduction and drilling techniques are needed.

In this classroom, the teacher is mostly the center of focus, the teacher may have the gift of instruction, and can inspire through their own knowledge and expertise, but, does this role really allow for enough student talk time? Is it really enjoyable for the

learners? There is also a perception that this role could have a lack of variety in its activities.

**2. The Prompter:** The teacher encourages students to participate and makes suggestions about how students may proceed in an activity. The teacher should be helping students only when necessary.

When learners are literally 'lost for words', the prompter can encourage by discreetly nudging students. Students can sometimes lose the thread or become unsure how to proceed; the prompter in this regard can prompt but always in a supportive way.

**3. The Resource:** The teacher is a kind of walking resource center ready to offer help if needed, or provide learners with whatever language they lack when performing communicative activities. The teacher must make her/himself available so that learners can consult her/him when (and only when) it is absolutely necessary.

As a resource the teacher can guide learners to use available resources such as the internet, for themselves, it certainly isn't necessary to spoon-feed learners, as this might have the downside of making learners reliant on the teacher.

**4. The Assessor:** The teacher assumes this role to see how well students are performing or how well they performed. Feedback and correction are organized and carried out.

There are a variety of ways we can grade learners, the role of an assessor gives teachers an opportunity to correct learners. However, if it is not communicated with sensitivity and support it could prove counter-productive to a student's self-esteem and confidence in learning the target language.

**5. The Organizer:** Perhaps the most difficult and important role the teacher has to play. The success of many activities depends on good organization and on the students knowing exactly what they are to do next. Giving instructions is vital in this role as well as setting up activities.

The organizer can also serve as a demonstrator, this role also allows a teacher to get involved and engaged with learners. The teacher also serves to open and neatly close activities and also give content feedback.

**6. The Participant:** This role improves the atmosphere in the class when the teacher takes part in an activity. However, the teacher takes a risk of dominating the activity when performing it.

Here the teacher can enliven a class; if a teacher is able to stand back and not become the center of attention, it can be a great way to interact with learners without being too overpowering.

**7. The Tutor:** The teacher acts as a coach when students are involved in project work or self-study. The teacher provides advice and guidance and helps students clarify ideas and limit tasks.

This role can be a great way to pay individual attention to a student. It can also allow a teacher to tailor make a course to fit specific student needs. However, it can also lead to a student becoming too dependent or even too comfortable with one teacher and one method or style of teaching.

A nation depends on the activities of the teachers. Identically, they are working to grow the basement of the students. No matter it is school, college or university, a qualified teacher is the builder of a student. Even a teacher on the special skills or technical courses is keeping role responsibilities on the societies. For this reason, the leader of tomorrow is created by a teacher. At the same time, if a teacher fails to discover the eternal power of a student, the student fails in his whole life. That means a teacher is the best mentor for a life of the student.

For changing the globalizing world, the role of the teachers is essential to improve the sustainable education. At the same time, inspiring and guiding the students in increasing employability skills with the digital tools is the prerequisite for a teacher. Thus a teacher in the twenty-first century will be a digital teacher. Teachers are not the facilitator for learning of the students only, and now they are responsible for training the students for increasing employability skills, expanding the mind, growing digital citizenships, critical thinking, and creativity as well as sustainable learning. Thus, the winning of the students is the win of the teachers. With the passes of time and integration of technology in every sector, the teacher's role has changed a lot. They need to enrich some skills to develop their students.

Let's see the changing role of a teacher in the 21st century.

### **1. A Planner for 21st Century Careers**

This is the most competitive world, and there has the diverse option to choose the next career for a student. In this case, a teacher needs to become a big planner to support them according to their psychology. The future of a student will depend on 4C's (Critical thinking, Communication, Collaboration, and Creativity). It is the duty of a teacher to introduce them the mentioned terms very clearly. The students will need to try several multidisciplinary jobs. So the teachers will define where they will give more importance and which skills are just for adding value or keeping as optional. Besides, if an educator can provide a proper guideline to build the career in the 21st century for the students, he will be the all-rounder in his career and life. Do you know the quotes from the American Philosopher *Nancy Kassebaum*? *If we teach today as we taught yesterday, we rob our children of tomorrow.*

### **2. A Resource Provider**

In this digital age, the internet is full of supportive resources. When a teacher teaches the students from a collaborative perspective, the students will learn more deeply if they get the resources. It can be YouTube Video Tutorial, Digital Content, eBooks or even the printing documents. If the student receives the supportive materials on how to enrich Critical thinking, Communication skills, Collaboration, and Creativity, they can lead their own future. A teacher can show the resources according to their interest. Even a teacher can't be expert on the topics, albeit he can easily point the links of the supportive materials.

*Don't limit a child to your own learning, for he was born in another time.* — Rabindranath Tagore

### **3. A digital Instructor for Different Ways of Learning**

Effective teachers don't limit the learning resources for the students. Correspondingly, they are the best instructor for the students. In contrast, they will create the learning materials entertaining. In the digital age, you can find a lot of resources who are teaching the course efficiently. The instructor knows how to make the meaningful learning opportunities

for all students. Providing practical examples in the classroom or collaborating in a class with another teacher can also help them to learn perfectly. To emphasize, they know mixing the knowledge with an expert collaborator can make the student motivated.

### **4. A Technology Lover for Learning**

Now, it is so tough to attract the students without the use of technology. If you don't teach the right use of technology and how to find the internet resources, they will get the evil resources. Important to realize, a teacher needs to learn how to read the psychology and what the students want. With attention to, if you can't maintain the online community with the students, you will not be able to inform the students about the world. Indeed, there has no way of the teachers to deal with the students without learning the technology and internet world. As a result, when you want to build the nation, you have to develop yourself first. Must be remembered, you have to know how the Google Advanced Search process works.

### **5. A genuine predictor**

The teachers of the 21st century know the importance of Acquisition-based learning and Participation-based learning. Similarly, he knows the value of engaging and working in the community. For bringing innovations in the technology sector, it is necessary to create cooperation with one another. In this case. The teachers can manage how to ensure the knowledge, skills, and attitudes.

- A successful teacher will collaborate with a specific objective
- They know when to listen and when to ignore
- Believe winning of the students is the win of the teacher
- They can praise smartly
- Welcome the changes always
- Explore the new tools in the technology
- They have the sense of humor
- Grow a personal learning network
- Measure success
- Be open-minded

- Expect students will be the Mentors of future
- Power to the students
- Take the Learning Process Outside of the Classroom
- Help the students to become the entrepreneur and Innovator

## CONCLUSION

Technology, as the newest instructional media developed in this globalization era, presents situation which helps the students to have new authentic and meaningful learning experiences engaging their effort and behavior by providing more fun and effective learning atmosphere. In addition, it provides the opportunity for the students to work collaboratively and easily access the information that can supplement their learning experience. Those benefits become the central part of 21st century education which should be optimized in order to create sophisticated learning immersion and maximize the quality of students in the future. In this research, some media technologies are introduced to one hundred student-teachers having Technology Enhanced Language Learning class. Those media, Prezi as online software presentation, Glogster as visual online poster, Edmodo as online networking application, Toondoo as online cartoon strip making and Goanimate as animated video creation, are known as web-based instructional media which can be used by them to teach English as a foreign language. However, questionnaire and interview are used to obtain the data. It aims to investigate their perception while preparing their teaching by using those applications.

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