

# What Makes a Teacher Great? : Students' Perspective

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## Abstract

*The paper is the outcome of my own personal interest to find out what makes a teacher great from the students' perspective, which in returned will help me to work and nurture my personalities. In order to do this I have collected feedback from the students. The students comprises of B. Tech first year and 6<sup>th</sup> semester of Production Engineering and MBA students. It is no doubt the relationship between a teacher and students are important in order to make the class productive. With smart phone with the students teaching becomes more challenging as well as productive too. The concept of teacher from the students' perceptive will provide the concern faculty an opportunity to plan out lesson plan for the class properly as well as will also give a hint of what they are expecting from the faculty.*

## Keyword

*Friend, Teacher, Understanding, Teaching-learning Process*

## I. INTRODUCTION

One looks back with appreciation to the brilliant teachers, but with gratitude to those who touched our human feelings. The curriculum is so much necessary raw material, but warmth is the vital element for the growing plant and for the soul of the child.  
Carl Jung

The role of a teacher has undergone a tremendous change in the past few decades though the duty remains the same. The questions, 'Who is a teacher?' and 'What makes a teacher great?' is a battling issues which need to be address properly. The paper attempted to share my teaching journey with diverse students from different part of India. To have better understanding of the role of the teacher, I have taken some references from two or three articles for the base of my argument. The rest of the input is taken from the student's feedback. My students come from various part of India. My students can be divided into three groups: Hindi medium, English medium and

Bengali medium. My class is lively due to the various cultural backgrounds. According to my understanding a teacher or felicitator should see to it that student growth and deeper learning are developed when the teacher transfer the learning process with the help of the context, which is the text book prescribe for the particular course. This will help them to go deeper into the subject and try to generate potential solutions. Most importantly teacher should have tremendous amount of trust towards their students. They should provide continuous motivation and be a power house of support system for their students.

For over ten years I have been engaging with the students of various level --- high school, under graduate, post graduate and professionals, the journey has been quite a challenging yet rewarding experiences too. Classrooms are no more teachers' centric but of students centric. Today's generation students are smarter and tend to get bore soon, if the faculty fails to provide new thoughts and idea. Faculty needs to upgrade themselves with the current trends and incorporate it in their daily classes in lieu with the generation. Now a day's students do not want only a lecture based class but a class where they are active involved in activities. Many of the students were also against the mandatory attendance of 75% to be eligible for sitting down in exam. They have also express opinion stating that instead of attending boring lecture they can go for online courses which are more productive and provide privacy. This issue might become more intense later, as of now 75% is mandatory in the institute where I am teaching.

Planning out the syllabus and keeping in mind the needs of each student in the class plays an important role to make the class smooth and productive. This will also be a check point in which direction the class is moving. Teacher should try to know the background of each of the students in order to understanding the student's mentality while assisting them and evaluating them. Keeping in mind that each child is different from the other we need to carter each of their needs and

distribute the love and care equally. Some will definitely be a quick learner and some are slow learner.

I have been always curious to know the perspective of good teacher as I always wanted to be a good teacher for my students. For this particular assignment I have collected a written assignment explaining what makes a teacher great according to their perspective. They have list out lists of points that pertain characteristic of the most effective teachers which has impacted their lives. From 200 assignments I have jot out few points that they common in almost all the assignments. The points are listed below:

- Teacher is next to god.
- They should not discriminate students
- They should not punish students
- They should be friendly so that students find it comfortable to ask questions and clarify doubts.
- They should understand the emotions of each students
- They should point out the weak points so that students can improve themselves.
- The character of the teacher should inspire the students.
- Students can never be greater than their teacher.
- They should have positive attitude and never be rude to their students.
- They should not be judgmental.
- They should try to interact with the students.
- They are the noblest creation on earth.
- They are builder of the society.
- Their words should not hurt the students.
- They should also provide online references of the given topics.
- They should focus on practical approach rather than bookish knowledge.
- They are also an entertainer so as to prevent the students from getting bored.
- They need not necessary have a bundle of degrees.

I have also chosen certain quotations which were quite good. I have not made any changes with the writing of the students. The lines are exactly copied from their assignment and have maintained the originality of the lines provided by the students. They were allowed to access internet so some quotations must be from online. But I have randomly chosen for its meaning and which are relevant to the current paper.

- Nripesh Shil (Production Engineering 6<sup>th</sup> sem) says “Now a days we, the students, cannot accept a aggressive and strict teacher, otherwise students will not take a assignment or the learning process seriously. Students should respect a teacher

because of his/her politeness but not because of his/her fear.”

- Rajashi Das (Production Engineering 6<sup>th</sup> sem ) says “ A great teacher will inculcate the values of life along with imparting education to the minds of the pupils”
- Md. Abdul Sahid (Production Engineering 6<sup>th</sup> sem) says “If the teacher can remember the students’ name, they become so attentive and responsible to attend the classes.”
- Srivastva Kanukolam (B. Tech 1<sup>st</sup> year) says “ A mother and father can provide love and affection to a child. But a teacher provides a student with knowledge and right thinking.”
- Sudhanshu Rajan (B. Tech 1<sup>st</sup> year) says “For a teacher to be good one needs to be good itself. No one can teach somebody without good their being good itself.”
- Srinjoy Kar (B. Tech 1<sup>st</sup> year) says “ A programmer codes programs for computer, an engineer creates wonderful things for the society, a soldier fights for his or her nation, but a teacher creates them all. So teacher must understand the gravity of his or her occupation.”
- Sadika Choudhury ((B. Tech 1<sup>st</sup> year) says “ the teacher have a very important role to play in building a better tomorrow – a better society, they are like the workers in the coal mines who needs to undergo hard labour in other to obtain the lustrous diamond. I believe every child has an inner potential and it is the teacher who basically play the vital role of identifying it and bringing it out in the most beautiful way possible.”
- Purushttom Prahas (MBA 2<sup>nd</sup> sem ) says “ We have developed a non- blood relation that is the relation of student and teacher to conduct the formal process of learning.”

In an article “Quality of a good teacher” by Prof. Dr. A. R. Saleemi , he has elaborately define the quality of a good teacher and I would like to refer some of the points he has written , for I personally believes in it too. The five points that totally agree with Dr. Saleemi are listed below:

1. Teacher’s foremost duty is intellectual creative development of the students.
2. To develop ethical dimensions of the students (motivation, character, self-esteem, civic responsibilities)
3. To impart training for management, decision-making and leadership qualities in students.
4. To develop wisdom and understanding about the practical problems of the life
5. To teach the students respect for individual / cultural / racial / religious differences.

## **II. CONCLUSION**

Apart from the points listed I also believe that students should be provided with a room for self – evaluation and encourages to evaluate their behaviors towards their fellow classmate and well being too. This is only possible when assignments outside the classroom are provided through real-life activities. Keeping in mind the characteristics and quotation they though which is apt to be a great teacher, I have to the conclusion that they need a friend in the classroom. A student- centered approach way of taking class will actively engages the young mind in the teaching-learning process. Teacher need to keep on thinking how to make the students actively motivate in the class. The classroom should provide numerous opportunities for students to share personal anecdotes ask questions and make disclosures. The environment of the classroom must be such that students may speak openly while

being guaranteed of the confidentiality, trust and respect of their classmates and teacher. In conclusion I would like to say that there is no formula to become a good teacher by one can employ various means to become an effective teacher. But a teacher should constantly look out what new to take in the class every day. Trying new things is the only way to hook the interest of the young mind.

## **REFERENCE**

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