

Can a Teacher Play the Role of an Alchemist in Students' Motivation during the Post- Covid Era?

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Abstract

This research paper states how a teacher's personality can be very crucial in the entire career of a student especially amid this post-covid period when the educational institutions opened after a prolonged period. The educational field greatly hampered during the covid-19 period. Though most of the organizations implemented on-line or virtual classes for the students, but it could not replace the physical class room situation. Hence, the study shows how a student can learn or influence by a teacher's personality by following him/her secretly. The teacher cannot be a neutral player in the class room. A teacher's position in relation to his/her students and the context in which they are is vital. 'Alchemy' is a chemical compound which can turn an ordinary material into a precious one. Similarly, a teacher can shape a student by his/her attitude to be an administrative officer or a mere thief. The samples were from Government schools. The data were collected through questionnaire which includes 05 no of teachers and 10 secondary students. The study hypothesized that whether the teachers are aware about the impact of their personality on students, measures taken by the teachers towards the students' motivation and how the students are motivated by their teachers. The findings of the study were significance. It shows that most of the teachers are aware about the impact of their personality on students and the teachers' attitude shape the students' career extensively.

Key Words: *Teacher's Personality, An Alchemist, Students' Motivation, Post-Covid Era*

Introduction

The present era is in a difficult situation. The most affected field is the field of education. The educational sector is badly affected by Covid-19. All the educational institutions are shut down by the Government since 2019. During this precarious situation, we must put thanks to the teachers and administers that they have taken various steps to keep on the teaching-learning process. The institutions have implemented virtual learning or blended learning to meet the crisis during this period. Some secondary schools, colleges and universities have opened and imparting education by following covid related protocol scrupulously. Hence, the teacher may play a pivotal role towards the shaping the character of learners especially, during this post- covid period. The teacher is not the passive element in the process. Current research focuses on how a teacher's personality affects or enlightens the student in his/her life. Teachers are the individuals with multiplicity of selves inside the socio- cultural and institutional context. They interact with students and staff who come from multicultural backgrounds. Therefore, teacher's personality plays a vital role in the classroom as well as in his/ her life.

Rationale of the study

A number of researches state how a teacher's personality shapes a students' life. Teachers' personality and its impact is not a new concept. But amid the post- covid 19 period when most of the schools and colleges have opened recently, the research explains the teacher's role is important one. Here the researcher compares the teacher can be like an 'Alchemist'. An Alchemist is a person who can transform an ordinary metal into gold. A student in his/ her career follows a teacher secretly or unknowingly. Hence, the present research shows the importance of teachers' personality on students' motivation especially amid this post-covid era.

Aim of the Study

The study reported here aimed to explore the impact of teacher's personality on student's motivation.

Hypothesis

The study hypothesized that the teachers are not aware about their impact of personality on students. They didn't take any measures for the motivation of students and the students were not shaped by the teacher's personality.

Research Questions

The study attempted to answer these research questions:

1. Are the teachers aware of how their personality shape the students?

2. Are the teachers taking any measures towards the student's motivation by their personality during the post-covid period?
3. Are the students motivated by their teachers' personality?

Research Methodology

The present study was an exploratory study. Questionnaire sessions for the 05 number of teachers and 10 no of students were the tools used to collect data.

The subjects for the study comprise five teachers from different schools- 03 female and 02 male teachers and 10 students from different schools.

Responses by the teachers to the Questionnaire

Questionnaire:01

Are you aware about the impact your personality on student's motivation?

- How does it impact on students?
- Give one instance, the impact of your personality as a male / female teacher.

Table-1.0

Teacher	Response of the Teacher	Remark
Teacher-1(M)	Yes, I know it very clearly. Personality is very important in the teaching-learning process. As a male teacher, I am very comfortable in the class. I think there is no difference of the impact of personality between the male and female teacher.	aware
Teacher-2(M)	Definitely, Teachers' personality influence teaching positively. A teacher can describe a certain thing positively or negatively. Yes, male teachers can motivate both boys and girls so easily.	aware
Teacher-3(F)	To some extent. Not only the teachers' personality. Everything, he/ she finds in the environment, he/ she follows inside. You can read the Vygotsky's theory. Environment is much important than teacher.	Partially aware
Teacher4(F)	As a female teacher, I have the motherly concern and affection for all the students. Yes, some students say that I want to be like Mr. X sir or Mrs. Y ma'am. So according to me personality influences the students much and I think all the teachers are aware of it.	agreed
Teacher5(F)	Yes, since the students come from different religious background. They need motivation badly. I have experienced it.	agreed

Questionnaire: 02

What are the measures taken by you towards the motivation of students during the post-covid period?

- Are the students feel comfortable to join the school after a long period?
- Do you teach them directly or making the class fun-filling?

Table-1.1

Teacher	Response of the Teacher	Remark
Teacher-1(M)	After the reopening of the school, I am not emphasizing on their study. I want to bring back their concentration towards study. So, I am telling them different short stories of great persons/ moral lessons etc.	Motivational talks
Teacher-2(M)	No, the students are not getting comfortable after a long period of absent from the school. The classes are fun filling somehow. The Govt. should open the school for two to three hours for junior classes not the whole day.	Suggested for schooling hour

Teacher-3(F)	Yes, the teacher's role is going to be very crucial during the post covid period. I don't find any difference between pre-covid and post-covid period. As our institution has been doing virtual classes from class I to X. There is no significance difference.	No significance difference
Teacher-4(F)	I know that an average teacher teaches and an excellent teacher inspires. I used to inspire my students from the early days of my teaching. I am not getting comfortable as we were habituated ourselves with on-line classes. I am teaching them with much fun filling.	Fun filling classes
Teacher-5(F)	Covid has affected a lot. Recently, classes have opened. Yes, teaching should be always with fun filled whether pre or post period.	agreed

Questionnaire:03 (For 10 no of students)

What is the aim of your life?

- Who is your favourite teacher?
- Which teacher has influenced you the most?
- Which qualities have you learned from him?

Table-1.2

Student	Response by the student	Remark
Student-1(B)	Physician, Mrs. X, she is the science teacher of our school. I like the way of teaching science of her.	Follows his fav. teacher
Student-2(B)	Teacher, I shall be indebted to my primary teacher. From my childhood, he has inspired me a lot. He always teaches us to be good, brave and true. He is no more on this earth but his lessons will be with me forever.	Indebted to his primary teacher
Student-3(B)	Teacher of English, I am in my secondary classes. What I have learned today is due to my Teacher Mr. X. I want to be like him. He is my favourite.	Motivated towards literature
Student-4(B)	Gynaecologist, All the teachers are my favourite. I have seen how my mother has been suffering from a serious disease for many years. So, the only goal of my life is to be a gynaecologist.	Situation settled the goal
Student-5(B)	Cricketer, Mr. X is my favourite teacher. His impact is great.	Impact of teachers
Student-6(G)	Software Engineer, my favourite is Mr. Y. I am always moving ahead by his kind words. He is sincere, dutiful and cooperative. I am blessed with have that kind of teacher.	Learned ethics from her teachers
Student-7(G)	Odia Teacher, Mrs.Z is my favourite. I like her inspirational talk in the class. She is so punctual. I enjoy her each and every class. She teaches us ethics when she teaches Odia language. By teaching the Odia chapters, she tells us such moral lessons that it shapes our lives.	Enjoyed Odia teaching
Student-8(G)	Aircraft Engineer, I shall remain grateful to my science teacher Mrs.X. She is so resourceful. She teaches science related to our real-life experience. She is everybody's fav. According to me a teacher is not common man. We should learn many lessons from them.	Highly motivated by her teachers
Student-9(G)	Yes, all my teachers are respected. I haven't decided yet what to be in life. But I will say our Headmistress is my favourite. I find how cool she manages all the aspects of the school.	Motivated by the head of the institution

Student-10(G)	A teacher is a lamp shining in the darkness of the society. As a student of standard 10, I would like to say about our language teacher Mr.X. sir. He is such a person who shapes our inner. All the teachers are sacred with their duty. Their noble thought and action inspire us a lot. How I can describe their contributions to us. Its indescribable. I want to be a teacher of English Literature in my life.	Motivated by her teacher and inclined towards literature
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Analysis of Results An analysis of data obtained shows that the personality of teacher shapes the students in great extent. The study shows that the teacher is a subject expert who is a learner, friend, philosopher, guide, motivator of the students. The results also shows that personal factors such as personal experience, attitude, knowledge and values construct the teacher’s personality. Almost all the teachers are aware about the impact of their personality on the students. Some teachers suggested that environment plays the vital role towards the development of the students. The students come from different cultural background, so, they need to be motivated for their achievement. We may find that some female teachers show the motherly attitude towards the students. It’s a positive sign towards the motivation of them. During the post- covid period, the teachers have taken different roles and measures for the development of the students. They accepted that the teacher’s role is very crucial especially after the covid period. Some teachers have implemented the cheerful learning strategies to bring back the concentration of the students. We may notice that some students are highly motivated by the personality of their teachers. Hence, they want to be like him in his/ her life. Some students believe that their teachers are God like character and share how a good teacher inspires their inner and they are indebted to their teacher ever. They find that their primary teacher had a great influence on them. Moreover, most of the students are greatly indebted to their favourite teachers.

Conclusion

It is obvious from the findings that the teachers are aware of the impact of their personality on students’ motivation. Amid this post covid period, when the schools have reopened recently, they play the most important role towards the students’ motivation. After a prolonged period of absent from the physical class room, they are not acquainted with it. Hence, in this situation the teacher is an Alchemist. The motivation, class talks, ethics and values a teacher share with students are very important in the present scenario. Out of five, two are male and three are female teachers. The teachers have taken various measures towards the development of students. Again, the students are highly motivated by their teachers’ motivation. The students like to follow the path shown by their favourite teachers. They want to be punctual, sincere and dutiful like their teachers. The post covid period is very much crucial era for the field of education. Hence the teacher is like a magician or an ‘Alchemist’ to shape the character of the students. The teacher can make a world of Utopia or Dystopia for them. The personality of the teachers cannot be separated from the teaching practice. A teacher’s behaviour and attitude reflects his personality. In the present days, most of us are depending on search engine, still as a human being we need to learn things from a human being. Because we are not machines. A teacher is the most important person in the society. His noble duty is highly respected job in the present day. Hence, a teacher is the lamp which is shining in the darkness of the society.

As J.B. Watson rightly says-

“Give me a dozen healthy infants, well-formed, and my own specified world to bring them up in and I'll guarantee to take any one at random and train him to become any type of specialist I might select – doctor, lawyer, artist, merchant-chief and, yes, even beggar-man and thief, regardless of his talents, penchants, ...”

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