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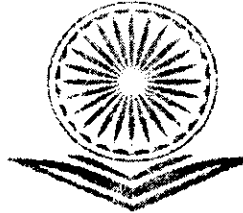
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22. Fostering Quality Teaching in Law Education: Role of Teacher

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Legal Education

Legal field is one of the fastest growing regimes in India. Legal education stands for enhancement of human sensibility and injects a sense of protecting human liberty and equality before law. 'Law is the cement of society and essential medium of change.' Indian atmosphere expects the Indian lawyer not only with improved legal skills, but most importantly, embodies social responsibility and a strong professional ethic- a commitment to the integrity and working of the legal system.

Goals of Legal Education

Legal education is essential in shaping the nation in order to bring rule of law. Its object is to maintain quality and encourage achieve excellence in legal education and provide competent legal professionals to society. It helps to develop sense of social responsiveness and use the maximum of it towards social transformation. It also aims at inculcation of values among students to play an important role in nation building. A well administered and relevant legal education is sine qua non of proper dispensation of justice. Bar and Bench are ultimately lineage of the whole chain of legal system, hence the quality of legal education is always reflected in the standard professionals. Traditional legal education revolve around the 'practice in courts' was literally confined to black letters of law. And so the traditional legal education system was necessarily required to train basically students who join this profession for practice in courts as well those who employ as legal advisors in banks, industries, government officers and who would serve as best academicians, teachers imparting legal education in the institutions and would engage in research as professional requirements.

What Is Quality?

The answer to this question is as definitive as saying "beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder." Quality is not an absolute measure, but is based essentially on the perception of the

person evaluating quality and hence differs from person to person. Actually quality is not a destination but a journey a quest for excellence. In today's global environment a high quality higher education system is imperative for nation's progress in all spheres. Quality expects the teacher to be smart teacher who makes the student aware about the challenges ahead and prepares him to face them courageously.

About Quality Education

As the quality is a subjective term so also quality education is not easy to define. It is about having good qualified teacher, have good resources, being update in knowledge base and must be a motivator who is role model for his students. It also covers pleasant and conducive environment to learning. The focus in the present research paper is on role of teacher as facilitator and that to in legal education, the views observed covered every important component including the method to teach, need base, learner's abilities, the changing goals of legal education and challenges ahead etc.

Legal education in India in spite of its slumbering past is now making big stride, not only in meeting the present exigencies but to take a lead in the development of world legal fraternity, and so today's era demand something different where the law colleges, schools imparting legal education must take into consideration the changing roles/additional roles, in positive dimensions of the recipient of the legal education as-- policy makers, business adviser, negotiators in big concerns, mediator, arbitrator, lobbyist, law reformers, law researchers, legislators, experts in articulation and communication of ideas to masses.

Teachers Personality Traits

The teacher is expected to be hardworking, intellectual, knowledgeable, and best in communication skill and presentation skill. He has to have high morals and should maintain high standards and moral values. He must have abilities of good listener, patient hearing and cool mind. Must be punctual and have professionalism. He must be compassionate to the pupil. Teacher being backbone of the education system must serve their best so that system itself runs towards progress. As rightly observed by then President Pratibha Devisingh Patil "Nations with high quality human resources would be counted among the first ranking nations of the world in the knowledge era, therefore we have to be careful that by concentrating on quantity we do not compromise on quality. Quality faculty is important to maintain the high standards of universities, so that world class graduates, post graduates, and doctoral students are produced.

The teachers are expected to create learning interest in students so that education does not remain a burdensome job but motivate the learner to develop knowledge thrust.

Role of Teachers

Before getting in to the expectations, the overview of the existing scenario is must. In present scenario it is observed that there is gradual fall in standards of legal education. The Bar Council of India, University Grants Commission and Universities regulate the legal education. The review of the status of legal education is timely taken by Law Commission Report 184th report(2002) and also National Knowledge Commission's Report and the Apex court and High Courts have also highlighted the issue in various judgments. There is a compelling need to change the overall system of education in law institutions in most significant way. Before demanding change we must understood the shortcomings of the existing system which purely invites the memory based evaluation process and it neglects the significance of essential skills for practice and only focuses comprehension and the textual knowledge base. The institutions imparting legal education must have a commitment to improve their advocacy skills, clarify and expand their educational objectives, improve and diversify their methods for delivering instructions. Today a law school lags far behind in its focus on curriculum revision as per the changing needs and also the, the effectiveness of pedagogical methods.

Effort to concentrate on setting goals

A teacher must aware the student about the avenues available for career in law field so that they can set the goals beforehand. The teacher has to orient them though continuous dialogue and students should be able to articulate their educational and professional goals from the very beginning. Law being the noble profession it has to have primary focus on social transformation. The students must realize the ground realities and socio-economic constraints in process of achieving justice. Teachers should take efforts to develop the professional competencies by motivating the students to pursue research of live issues and concerns and provide solutions through their knowledge they must be equipped with the advocacy skills and ability of dispute resolution to transform the society.

Teachers are to design their strategy suitable to course content to effectively execute in practice.

The course content is designed as per the regulating and affiliating bodies where the institutions imparting legal education have very little autonomy. The teachers who are supposed

A multi-tasking personality has to prepare teaching plan for every subject in every academic year. If this plan is prepared before hand by teacher, its implementation becomes effective. The academic and term plan along with individual teachers teaching plan should be made after a deep study.

Teaching methods to be changed as per requirement

Presently most accepted and most widely used method of teaching is by delivery of lectures. This method suits to all streams of higher education and specifically in law education as per the existing semester system and time frame it is most convenient. This traditional method frustrates the desired goal of skill oriented education and makes the learning process monotonous. It is really a teacher centered method. It gives the full scope to express his own views and approaches to the learners, but minimize the chances of learner to think independently. Focus upon also with the casual approach, it reduces their active attendance and participation in learning process. The teacher in the present context has no option but to use it, while using it as a facilitator can use it in innovative manner with the help of ICT tools, allowing timely interruption with queries and questions, and accompanied by discussion method. Use of other methods such as Problem method, case study method and role play method he can make teaching learning process interesting and also opportunates the student to actively participate in it. In case of discussion method the students are provided an opportunity to discuss, it encourage them to look at the issue with different approaches and solutions to problems in hand. The students use role play method assuming themselves as lawyers and argue on issues involved. Actually the teacher must encourage them to learn reading, researching, problem solving, & to enhance communication skill.

The advances in technology has opened the avenues for teachers to project himself as a facilitator who brings the world around easily accessible to the student. ICT is basically a umbrella term which encompasses all communication technologies such as internet, wireless networks, cell phones, etc. ICT can help in enhancing the quality of education through blended learning by supplementing the traditional methods of teaching. The students acquire skills like digital literacy, innovative thinking, creativity and sound reasoning and effective communication. Use of Power Point with pictorial representations, short films, e-learning, video conferencing can make even a dry lecture method interesting. Through video conferencing the advantage to attend a place is easy, to have access to eminent academicians, lawyers and judges of High Court and Supreme Court. ICT can be supported with peer learning where students learn great deal by

explaining their ideas to others and by participating in on line activities in which they can learn from their peers from far of places which cannot be physically accessible easily. Every where the teacher cannot help in advancing practical skill such as interviewing , counseling, applying the case law to suit the situation, some issues can only be studied through the field work practicum. here he can depute the student to a senior advocate's chamber and facilitate him to learn those skills.

Conclusion

Teachers are the torch bearers in creating social cohesion and national integration by revealing and elaborating secrets of attaining higher values in life. Only well equipped with competencies and ethical values he can render effective services and help in overall development of students. Law profession being a social and noble profession the responsibility of the teacher in law education is double as they have to inculcate the values among students to play an important role in nation building.

Innovative practices in teaching law is necessary to provide standardized legal education, qualitative legal education, and a role of teacher is important because he is key factor, facilitator, motivator and also a role model.

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