



Theoretical article

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE OF THE MODERN TEACHER

Charalampos Stefanatos, PhD student

*Department of Psychology, SWU "Neofit Rilski", Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria.

Email: haris.stefanatos@gmail.com

Abstract:

Teachers play a multifaceted role that extends beyond instruction to include emotional and social responsibilities. This paper explores the essential qualities of effective educators, such as subject-matter expertise, critical thinking, communication competence, empathy, adaptability, and psychological resilience. It also discusses effective classroom management, the use of technology in teaching, and the challenges posed by multicultural and inclusive classrooms. The findings indicate that while some personal attributes may be innate, most teaching competencies can be developed through targeted training and reflective practice. Enhancing these professional and interpersonal skills is vital for improving educational quality, fostering student development, and supporting the broader aims of contemporary education.

Key words: teacher, communication, personality traits, classroom management, well-being

Introduction

The role of the teachers is multidimensional, as they are responsible to convey to students both knowledge and human values. However, at the same time, teachers are also human, and a part of society and of many social groups, meaning that they have to fulfill expectations and obligations from different roles. Due to the difficulty of teaching and the lack of homogeneity among students, teachers have to be open-minded, effective, dedicated and willing to care and protect their students. Developmental psychology indicate that teachers is a significant other in the course of a child's development. School teachers impact the learning experience of students, their development, and may even make a difference in what they become. Being such a big part of a child's emotional and cognitive development highlights the importance of a teacher being good at his/her job. Not all teachers however have the same impact on students, inspiring them, helping them, and making them believe in themselves. Throughout the years of research many qualities and traits have been risen for teachers.

Competence in the field

To be a good teacher requires a documented, flexible, and conceptual understanding of the educational field (Humilton & Duschi, 2017). Of course, knowledge of the field involves more than just facts, terms, and concepts. It also includes knowledge about the organization of ideas, the connections between ideas, ways of thinking and reasoning, patterns of change, and beliefs. Also, this knowledge helps teachers to use more effective ways in teaching a classroom, full of different

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students. Using the right learning strategies, as to reach high educational qualities among students, is a direct outcome of how a educator uses his or her knowledge of the field (Anderman & Klassen, 2016).

Thinking and communication skills

Effective teachers display good reasoning skills. Among the most important reasoning skills with which teachers could guide their students, the most effective way is critical thinking. Critical thinking involves reflective and productive thinking as well as the correct evaluation of the evidence given to them. It is not easy to introduce critical thinking to young people. Many students develop the habit of passively learning and memorizing concepts, rather than thinking deeply (Sternberg & Sternberg, 2017). Critical thinking requires one to be curious to think and seek new interpretations based on the data given, and not all teachers are always willing to teach their students such a skill. But to teach someone to function and think critically requires that the teacher operate in the same light.

Also required for an educator are communication skills. For example, speaking, listening, dealing with the obstacles of verbal communication, and recognizing elements of non-verbal communication are some examples of the skills of a good teacher. Communication skills help a teacher not only in the classroom but also in communicating with students' parents. Managing and avoiding aggressive, manipulative and passive communication helps a teacher to be flexible both with demands with students and with problems that arise with parents. For a good teacher to have such skills is particularly important considering that these skills are the first to be assessed in the context of job search and training.

An important, yet often overlooked aspect of communication is non-verbal communication. The teacher often through his/her non-verbal behavior tries to encourage students to achieve a better learning outcome. The teacher through visual contact with students shows his/her love, patience, and willingness to listen. In many occasions, the appropriate expression of a teacher's face shows acceptance and understanding of the needs of each student, while his/her mobility among to the students and the way he/she stands, positively predispose the students for their more active involvement in the learning process. Proper coloring of a teacher's voice is often used to emphasize what he/she is saying or as a means of arousing interest, especially if the interest has waned. Finally, the smile and humor as formative elements of a positive atmosphere are the final elements of an effective teaching (Liakas, 2014).

Good practices for classroom management

An important aspect of a good teacher is maintaining the classroom as a collaborative and task-oriented group of individuals (Emmer & Evertson, 2017). Effective teachers create and maintain an educational environment in which learning can flourish. In order to create such an environment, educators have to manage a list of strategies and functions as to introduce rules and instructions. To organize student teams, to guide students through classroom activities and to deal with negative behavior (Emmer & Evertson, 2017).

Personality traits of the modern teacher

Every teacher's personality is different; however, there are some consistent traits that determine a great teacher. It is very important for teachers to be confident in themselves and their

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abilities. Self-confidence during teaching means many things. It means confidence in scientific knowledge, but also self-knowledge that the way one teaches is not inferior. Self-confidence during teaching arises from the excellent knowledge of the subject one teaches, while the teaching style is purely a matter of talent and personal ability.

Empathy is an essential quality for a teacher to have, as children and adolescents are often very emotional and have to deal with situations outside the classroom, which the teacher is unaware of. It is therefore important for the teacher to be able to empathize with the emotional state of the student, even if it does not appear to be important. The teacher can help students become emotionally mature, by teaching them how to become aware, understand and process their feelings. Empathetic teachers who can put themselves in the students' shoes can help them overcome real difficulties, either with the learning process itself or issues outside the classroom. Being thoughtful and sensitive can help create a safe environment for students to grow (WGU, 2020).

Patience is another important quality of a great teacher. Students have different strengths and weaknesses and do not all learn at the same pace. Some will face difficulty with reading and grammatical rules, others with math, while for some even sitting still can prove to be a challenge. Taking into consideration the fact that public schools usually have classrooms of more than 20 students, patience can help a teacher cope with a challenging environment, as well as providing students with a positive role model (WGU, 2020).

In addition, effective teachers need to be able to adapt. That is, to work in a constantly evolving environment and adjust their teaching methods based on the age of their students, the resources available and changing curriculum, practices and requirements, always finding the best possible way to promote learning. Educators need to be able to adjust their methods and expectations depending on what works for their students. In this way they can better help each individual have a successful learning experience. In addition to students, teachers must show flexibility in their interactions with their colleagues and other professionals from the school environment (WGU, 2020).

Another important trait that makes a successful teacher stand out is the willingness for self-improvement. Educators need to constantly evaluate themselves in an objective manner with regard to their teaching methods or people-skills and strive to improve in the areas they find themselves lacking. This means constantly educating themselves, either by doing a master's degree, attending conferences to help them learn more about education, or reading books and articles about their field (WGU, 2020).

Good teachers always possess these three core qualities: knowledge, the ability to convey to students an understanding of that knowledge, and the ability to make the material interesting and relevant to students. Complementing these three is a fourth quality: good teachers have a deep-seated concern and respect for the students in the classroom. The creation of a good class requires an immense amount of work. You don't simply come up with clear explanations and examples and experiments for class off the top of your head. You don't create fair, consistent, high quality tests and homework assignments (read "learning experiences") five minutes before you hand them out. You don't figure out ways to integrate new materials and research into a class in an understandable way on the drive in one morning. You work at this sort of quality all the time. You spend time with

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your students so you can learn about holes in their understanding. You read and write and create to build an exciting and interesting class every day.

Well-being and healthy psychological skills

Being able to manage their stress levels is a primary attempt to be achieved. Schools are stressful places. Regardless of whether one teaches in an established, well-resourced private or suburban school or in an underfunded school in an underserved community, teaching is emotional work and is inherently stressful. In part, this is the nature of being in a helping profession and serving young people in complex organizations. Healthy stress can even be beneficial, as it challenges and helps one develop. However, in many schools, healthy stress is frequently displaced by toxic stress. Toxic stress occurs when demands consistently surpass one's ability to cope. Toxic stress first manifests as decreased productivity, with more serious symptoms such as anxiety, dissociation, frustration, and, eventually, burnout following later. This leads to low performance or could even lead a teacher to quitting his/her job, which leads to instability and ultimately lowers the quality of the education (Aguilar, 2019).

The end goal, of course, is not just to keep teachers from quitting, but to meet the needs of the students. Children need passionate, effective, committed educators. Keeping one's temper sets a good role model to students and helps the educator engage in problem solving with a clear head. Teachers need to have the mental capacity to cope with the pressure that derives from unfavorable factors, such as poor motivation from the students to learn, mental strain and pressure from parents (WGU, 2020).

The knowledge of technology

It is important for teachers today to have a good knowledge of technology. Educators must therefore search for new methods of instruction, new skills to apply to the classroom teaching to better meet the needs of the students. A great teacher is committed to integrating educational technology into pedagogy. The changes in the delivery of curriculum content through the use of technology has complicated the practice of teaching. Teachers might feel incompetent when they are unsure how to integrate computer skills into their curriculum, which could lead to frustration and low self-esteem when accompanied by insufficient use of technology in the classroom (Majocha, 2015). Especially through Covid-19, learning and using new technologies was crucial for both teachers and students, because many difficulties was risen for both.

Objectiveness and seeking motive among students

Moreover, a great teacher needs to be objective, in order to be able to better access and understand each student and provide him/her with the best possible solution to his/her difficulties. Learning to suspend their personal bias is what is needed for teachers to present materials correctly and accurately so that their students benefit the most. An objective and understanding teacher help create the safe environment that is required for the students, in order for the learning process to take place (WGU, 2020).

It is also very important for a teacher to be able to understand a student's motives. Just as each student has a personal set of interests, so does one have a personal set of motivations. Most students, in a formal classroom, actually reconcile motivation with interest. Some, fortunately few, are driven by motivations that have nothing to do with school, but with out-of-school circles, which

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make them indifferent to school events. These students are at visible risk of being cut off from school life and engaging in purely extracurricular activities. This is where the role of the charismatic teacher comes in, by managing to reintegrate the student, making him/her find interests where, until that point could find none. The charismatic teacher has a way of helping a student find motivation.

Multicultural classrooms

Modern societies are composed of different races. It is well known that the classroom is a miniature of the society. This multicultural composing of a class is also an obstacle to the teachers. They have to take into consideration different socioeconomic back rounds or different learning abilities due to the language comprehension that each student have. That been said educators have to overcome these difficulties as every student to have the same chances in each educational system. This requires that teachers are free from racial discriminative opinions, to be open minded about the different status that every child has and willing to overcome difficulties that may lay on their way. Although multicultural education need more special education and knowledge as to overcome the obstacles stated before than a rather homogenous classroom. The specialist in multicultural education, James Banks (2014), made an attempt and explain some characteristics of a multicultural school and this catalog is a good start for a educator who is facing a multicultural classroom. This catalog consists of characteristics such as opinions, beliefs and actions that the school stuff employ, the analytical curriculum and educational books and corpuses.

Knowledge on special education

A learning, a sensory or a neurodegenerative disability is not always in front of our eyes. Especially in young ages such disabilities are not often easy to be distinguished among the students. However, an educator is not specialized in assessing such types of disabilities, but he/she is the first person that such type of disability would come to the surface. Special education is needed in these situations but in many cases university programs offers such education for teachers. When a teacher is aware of these disabilities, it makes the procedure easier both for the child and his/her family and for the classroom environment. Nowadays, teachers have to be familiar with the procedure that it has to be executed as to help students with disabilities to have the same opportunities in learning. The research on how to teach a student with disabilities and how to manage a classroom with more than one is fruitful, and every day new data and techniques are produced. So, it is a quality that modern teachers should gain.

Conclusion

In a study by Pamouktsoglou (Pedagogical Institute), which included 1500 students and 1000 teachers of all levels, during the period 2004-2006, as cited by Papanis and Gavrimis (2009), it was found that the characteristics of a good teacher can be summarized as follows, according to the views of the teachers themselves: love for the students, will, passion, appetite for work, conscious inclination, perseverance and patience to complete ones duties, self-assessment, teaching ability, communication, enthusiasm, sense of humor, and mature, complete and balanced personality and mental health.

The analysis of the qualitative elements of the same study showed that according to the students, the effective teacher has the following characteristics: to be knowledgeable of the subject a one teaches, to have humor, to be flexible, to organize the class and the time correctly, to be fair, to be

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a source of inspiration for students, to know the needs of students, to provide feedback, to show enthusiasm, to communicate the objectives, the order of the concepts of the lesson, as well as the responsibilities of the students, and finally to have good communication skills (Papanis & Gavrimis, 2009).

In conclusion, one could argue that certain personality characteristics such as honesty, diligence, etc. should be elements of the personality of each teacher, but many other characteristics can be cultivated through appropriate training and practice. The development of appropriate skills and even personality traits should be the priority of the contemporary teacher, as this will improve the way one teaches, with the ultimate objective being to achieve the goals and objectives of the educational community.

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