

Role of Teacher as a Counsellor

It is believed that counselling is a learning-oriented process which usually occurs in an interactive relationship where the counsellor expresses care and concern towards the person with a problem. All teachers guide students whenever latter approach the former with doubts. It is only because of this reason a teacher is regarded as a "friend, philosopher and guide". Each one is endowed with some "potentialities." Teachers help students transform these potentialities into abilities by appropriate guidance. Thus, the role of a teacher as a counsellor is that of a guide who helps and facilitates personal growth and positive change through self-understanding among the students. The role of teacher as a counsellor is discussed as under:

- (i) Assist the student to make adjustment to different situations in life.
- (ii) Encourages the student to participate in appropriate activities with a view toward increasing his or her effectiveness in personal and social activities.
- (iii) Show concern for and assists students in the planning of educational, career, personal, and social development.
- (iv) Aid the student in self-evaluation, self-understanding, and self-direction, enabling him or her to make decisions consistent with immediate and long-term goals.
- (v) Assist the student in developing healthy and positive attitudes and values towards life.
- (vi) Help the student to acquire a better understanding of the world of work through the acquisition of skills and attitudes and/or participation in work-related programmes.
- (vii) Encourage the student to plan and utilise leisure time activities well.
- (viii) Assist the student in understanding his strength, weakness, interest, values, potentialities and limitations.
- (ix) Arrange academic guidance and support services, including the monitoring of academic performance, facilitating communication between school and home.
- (x) Provide assistance in career awareness, exploration and planning services to the students including goal setting and decision making.

Role of Teacher as Researcher

Research is a key to empowering and generating educational growth and insight. It inspires personal growth and development in individuals and groups. Teachers bring their expertise to their classroom and by actively sharing the knowledge they have gained through research. Good teachers have always been good researchers. Teachers as researchers play the following role:

- **Identifying problems of the students:** Teachers identify the various personal, educational and vocational problems of the students keeping in view the diverse needs of the students.
- **Collection of data:** Teacher as researcher collects data in order to decide what action needs to be taken. Multiple sources of data are used to better understand the scope of happenings in the classroom or school or college. There are many vehicles for collection of data:
 - Interviews
 - Field notes
 - Questionnaires
 - Anecdotal records
 - Checklists
 - Case studies
 - Surveys
 - Report cards
 - Attendance etc.
- **Interpretation of data:** Teacher analyses and identifies major causes lying behind the problem.
- **Examine assumptions and beliefs:** Teachers examine their assumptions and beliefs on the basis of the interpretation of the data.
- **Validating findings:** Teachers discuss their research with their colleagues for support as "critical friends" to validate their findings and interpretations of their data.
- **Give presentations:** Teachers give presentations in conferences, workshops, seminars etc. to discuss their findings with other people.
- **Writing about their research:** Teachers write about their research in journals, magazines, blogs etc.

Conclusion

Teachers play vital roles in the lives of the students in their classrooms. Teachers are best known for the role of educating the students that are placed in their care. Beyond that, teachers serve many other roles in the classroom. Teachers set the tone of their classrooms, build a warm environment, mentor and nurture student.