

## The pedagogical Effect of the Teacher-Student Relationship on Teaching Practices and Students' Interest in Learning

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**ABSTRACT:** Education has a strategic role in cultivating the character and civilisation of the nation and conserving its dignity in the vein of the intellectual life of that nation. Therefore, the good behaviour and relationship of educators play a major role in the education system.

This paper highlights the importance of the teachers' behaviours and the relationship between teachers and students inside educational institutions. The findings show that for an effective teaching and learning process, friendly, open-minded and a positive attitude from teachers are mandatory. The students also expect the teacher to be patient, well organised, decisive, determined, honest, caring, able to interact with students, and to use attractive teaching methods.

On the other hand, teachers feel that students should have a sense of responsibility and be learners that are more independent. The paper proposes several techniques, by which good relationship can be enhanced between the teacher and student, making the students more concerned about their careers and more responsible in the future. The paper also encourages a love of learning and learners' intellectual curiosity. In addition, the paper recommends some practices to bridge the gap between the teacher and the student, and make the process of teaching and learning an enjoyable activity.

**KEYWORDS:** *Teaching and learning process, Teacher relationship, Student's interaction, Education*

### I. INTRODUCTION

Education plays a major role in shaping the character of students who excel in knowledge, life skills, values, and attitude. The educational institution is a place where practical suggestions about theoretical approaches are made and applied in planning activities eventually. Thus, educational institutions, deliberately or unintentionally, teach mixed values both good and bad [1]. A good way to start understanding courses is to envisage the knowledge, skills and values of the graduates. It is worth thinking broadly about some issues, for instance, :

- The qualification
- The future development of the discipline
- Ability to make a positive change in the world

Many elements, such as, the class atmosphere, methods, content and the educators, are focused on fostering well-integrated individuals in the society. According to Adams, Professor at Institute of International Research, Arlington, "the terms efficiency, effectiveness, equity and quality have often been used synonymously". Therefore, the value of education is the main drive of general education worldwide.

Teachers are one of the drivers of education. Teachers are also educators in both formal and informal education. In a wider definition, every person who imparts a new thing is also considered a teacher. An excellent teacher is the one who does not let a student walk away until every single question was completely answered to the best of his knowledge, irrespective of the time lasting. Unfortunately, some students for many years behaved as passive receivers. These students are extremely reluctant to enter into a discussion in the classroom for fear of making mistakes [9].

Teachers are entrusted to care for students. Failing in one subject, like mathematics, leads mainly to blaming the teachers. As a matter of fact, mathematics is one of the most difficult subjects which students struggle with for the simple reason that they do not have the proper foundation. A lack of sufficient mathematical skill negatively affects the student's ability, career decisions and eventually puts the educational system in a critical situation.

In fact, an engineering specialisation is the same as mathematics. It requires cognitive skills in particular a good memory and strong attention to problem solving since both skills are important for both engineering and mathematical aptitude. However, mathematics is a very abstract subject in contrast to all engineering subjects. Dyscalculia, maths anxiety and poor foundation skills are the common causes of trouble with maths and engineering. If teachers have a problem with transmitting knowledge, then we can solve the problem of education with stronger control, using the feedback and feed forward system, and continuous evaluation and observation of teachers [5].

For students, learning engineering or maths usually happens best when educators can relate it to real life. Positive and negative kinds of myths about maths are widespread. On the positive side, "... good maths teachers are always considerate, ethical, expressive, strong, intelligent, knowledgeable, reliable, mature, magnetic, have good judgment and a sense of humour"[6]. However, Boyd opposes the latter source, and says, "... the mathematics teacher had used poor teaching practices, such as an inadequate explanation of the concept, working from books, worksheets and management practices of poor teaching" [2].

"Therefore, interaction between educators and students recognises the usefulness of teaching and learning method used, and has a positive influence on student ratings for instruction. Thus, student-teacher interaction influences students' perception of teaching and learning effectiveness" [4].

## II. RESEARCH DESIGN

100 students and 25 lecturers from the Engineering Department and Maths and Computer Technology (MCT) Department at Mid Kent College (MKC) conducted a survey. The survey with its statistics shown below consisted of questions related to relationships, behaviour, attitude and other questions on teaching and learning practices. To obtain productive answers, the questions had been framed after discussion with the lecturers and students at MKC. There were two questionnaires; A and B. Set A was for staff members while set B was for students.

Questions (1-6), from sets A and B, contained a single choice option. The responses to these questions are reported on a mean scale of one. Questions (7 – 9) were multiple-choice type of questions where the respondent was asked to choose multiple answers from a limited list of choices. The responses to the latter questions were reported as a percentage of total respondents on each question of a particular choice.

## III. THE RESULTS

The findings show that students are most affected by the teacher's behaviour and his/her relationship with the students. Without dispute, knowledge, hands on experience and good presentation skills from teachers are the main elements for the best teaching practices. There are various ways to build up a good relationship with the students. Sometimes this relationship is built up naturally due to the student's learning attitude while many times a teacher needs to forcibly develop a pleasant relationship to get into the student's comfort zone. Based on the survey, several factors are highlighted to understand the problems of the students and their complications during the learning process.

A. Staff response on several questionnaires as given below: There were approximately 25 Respondents: Coded as: VM-Very Much, SW-Somewhat, NM-Not Much & NAA-Not At All.

Si No.	Question	Response			
		VM	SW	NM	NAA
1	A decent relationship between the teacher & student can improve the class delivery	0.75	0.25	0	0
2	To have a good class environment, the relationship between educator & learner should be friendly & open minded in & out of class	0.55	0.4	0.05	0
3	Learners need to be motivated & advised on their behaviour, academic & career prospects	0.75	0.15	0.1	0
4	Instructors should have a brief academic and social background of the students before delivering the class	0.4	0.45	0.15	0
5	Educators have to determine the talented students and guide them to a prosperous future	0.6	0.35	0.05	0
6	Do you agree with the phrase, "I like a subject because I like the teacher?"	0.38	0.55	0.02	0.05

7. What influences could develop the relationship between teachers and students? (Choose multiple answers)

Classroom Interactions	Using part of office hours	Joint technical projects	Motivating lectures	Being Entertaining
58 %	32%	40 %	50 %	35 %

8. Which expectations in teaching & learning practices could inspire, promote and stimulate students. (Choose multiple answers)

Speak on latest opportunities	Talk on current technologies	Dialogue on student’s responsibilities	Go for industrial visits	Arrange for training on latest technology
35 %	58 %	40 %	55 %	45 %

9. How would you remember the best teaching and learning practices of your best teacher? (Choose multiple answers)

Decent Behaviour, Conduct & Attitude	Strictness	Robust Knowledge	Subject	Easy presentation techniques
82 %	25 %	75 %		58%

B. Student feedback on various questionnaires as given below: there were approximately 100 respondents: Coded as: VM-Very Much, SW-Somewhat, NM-Not Much & NAA-Not At All.

Si No.	Question	Response			
		VM	SW	NM	NAA
1	To continue a quality class atmosphere, the relationship between teacher & student should be friendly in & out of the class	0.7	0.2	0.1	0
2	Do you think teachers & students should spend some time out of class (in campus or using office hours) to understand each other?	0.4	0.55	0	0.05
3	Do you think your teacher needs to motivate you & spend time out of class (in office hrs) to explain the subject topics?	0.5	0.45	0.05	0
4	Do you think your teacher needs to understand your weaknesses & mind-set for a better class delivery?	0.65	0.35	0	0
5	Do you believe your teacher helps you to discover your innate talent & guides you to a prosperous future?	0.3	0.65	0.05	0
6	Do you believe in the phrase “I like the topic because I like the teacher?”	0.6	0.3	0.05	0.05

7.I am able to comprehend my subject and interact inside the class because of my teacher’s: (Choose multiple answers)

Decent Behaviour, conduct & Attitude	Strictness	Robust Knowledge	Subject	Easy presentation techniques
80 %	35 %	35 %		52 %

8. How would you like to learn? (Choose multiple answers)

Read books	Pay attention to teachers	Work in Labs	Attend industrial visit	Join Specialised course
28 %	55 %	30 %	45 %	35 %

9. How would you remember the best teaching and learning practices of your best teacher?  
(Choose multiple answers)

Decent Behaviour, conduct & Attitude	Strictness	Robust Subject Knowledge	Easy techniques of presentation
85 %	38 %	46 %	66 %

### **Findings**

The responses of the teachers and students, set A and B, through the questions 1, 6 and 9 show that having a good relationship and good behaviour for transmitting knowledge are the main approaches of communication favoured by both sides. It has been seen that teachers become the important pillars in improving the quality of teaching and learning practices due to the fact that teachers are in the forefront of the management of education. The teacher's role is very dominant in improving the value of the learning process by taking into consideration the existence of course structure, school philosophy and school infrastructure. Thus, it can be concluded that the indicators of the quality learning process are based on the lesson planning, implementation of learning and peer evaluation of teachers and teaching interactions. Actually, teachers should impart knowledge and improve understanding through effective use of lecture time.

The responses to questions 6 and 9 by both the lecturers and students show that the education system inside the classrooms is directly linked to the teacher's personality. The staff response was about 82%, while the students responded at about 85%. Both sides believe in the phrase "I like the topic because I like the teacher!." This clearly indicates individuals' attributes play a primary role in the learning process. Apart from knowledge and skill transfer, teachers need to develop additional skills to be admired by their students. However, there is no rule of thumb that all students are completely well-liked by their teachers. Obviously personal relationship and decent behaviour are the main factors that influence the students; but the lecturer also needs to add his/her own equation to produce a comfortable environment for both the students and educators. The teachers' personality, vitality, enthusiasm and thoughtfulness always refresh the atmosphere inside the classroom and warm students' hearts for long time.

The fact that teacher strictness is liked by some students is controversial. Some learners would prefer a strict instructor for an effective learning process, safety and mutual respect. However, the classroom atmosphere should be more interactive. This can be achieved when both the educator and learner have to participate and get involved in the learning activity. It should not only be one-way communication, where only the lecturer spreads information and the students are just passive receivers.

Through the students' responses to questions 2 and 7 of set B, it can be understood that students expect lecturers to be friendly and open-minded. The lecturers also need to have moderate behaviour. In addition, it is important to use up-to-date technology to deliver an attractive lecture. The lecture capture module (Audio Visual Service) could be one of the best suggestions. It provides supplementary resources for students like archived lectures, tutorial experiments for lab work and presentations by guest speakers. In addition, it allows students to review topics at their own pace and convenience [3]; offers flexibility in note taking and permits students to catch up with missed lectures. The teachers need to do some additional work by spending time with the students beyond the class hours and by letting the students participate in events beyond the curriculum syllabus like the latest technological implementation competition, paper presentations, event management etc.

The responses from both the teachers and students to question 2 indicated that the learning process can definitely be more enjoyable if both the teachers and students spend some time in a non-class environment. This will bring them closer and make the class environment more friendly and interactive.

The survey also shows (questions 3 and 4) that most teachers concentrated on the behaviour and approach of the students. Teachers feel with the negative attitudes of students, sometimes teaching becomes difficult. Furthermore, the survey indicates that the academic backgrounds of students need to be improved. The teachers need to play a leading role here. They require good understanding of capacity and demand to be prepared to accept all kinds of misbehaviour and shortcomings of the students. Spending more time and paying personal attention to the students are the major tools, which can be used for this task. The teacher obliges to give lots of motivating sessions to boost the spirits of the students. The students, on the other hand, should also put sufficient effort into developing and fine-tuning themselves. Students are delicate and their feelings are fragile; the teachers just need to handle them with care and passion. Therefore, teachers should have a clear understanding of the needs of their learners, including those with learning difficulties/disabilities; those of extraordinary capacity; those with English as another language; and be able to use and assess distinctive teaching approaches to engage and support all of them. In order to involve and stimulate the students, lecturers

need to manage classes effectively by using appropriate approaches to learners' needs. Educators should describe clear expectations to their learners. The educational institution's rules and regulations must be practical and continuously reinforced and reviewed. In these situations, learners' trust in their instructors will increase and the students will steadily recognise that their educators have their best interests at heart.

The response of teachers and students to questions 5 and 8 shows that teachers need to put in an additional effort to help students discover their talents and groom their natural skills. Students need to be rigorously trained with specific skills based on their interest and market demand so that they can directly cater to industry demand. The department should take a step ahead and procure industrial software and industrial training modules. Students will be able to train meticulously in these industrial tools. These efforts will no doubt make the relationship between the teacher and learners strong and long-lasting. Lecturers are supposed to create an active dialogue in the class to build up a good trust and to promote participation. The dialogue is about connecting theoretical thoughts to practical approaches to enhance critical thinking [9]. There are different types of dialogues, for example, :

- Question and Answer Dialogue: it is the most common method teachers use to create an active dialogue in the classroom. Students are allowed to interrupt the teacher during lecturing which will assist in building an effective learning environment because students can be involved with the teacher throughout the lesson.
- Different Group Discussions: this type of dialogue also works to enhance interaction between peers. It is a good opportunity for students to get into a discussion with each other for a single problem. At the same time, it is a great opportunity for the instructor to design and assess different problems for each group.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

An outstanding lecturer is not a person who just explains and demonstrates. In fact, an exceptional educator is someone who is able to inspire students and make them truly believe that their dreams and careers are within their grasp.

The goals of this paper were to highlight the best teaching and learning practices. It has been observed that the best way to reach the heart of the students is by establishing good behaviour and having a friendly relationship with them. Results show that major problems can be solved when good and trusting relationships are built between the educators and their students. The various methods discussed in this paper could be a major tool used by both teachers and students to make the teaching and learning process a wonderful experience [10]. The methods could be summarised as below,

- Sustain a decent relationship and positive attitude between teachers and students.
- Spend some time in and out of the class environment (on campus, using office hours) to develop a personal attachment between educators and learners.
- Apart from knowledge and skill transfer, teachers need to be approachable and open-minded.
- Lecturers Pay particular attention to understanding the weaknesses of the students and how to overcome them.
- Instructors, also, have to encourage their students to improve their natural talents.
- Students should be encouraged to be self-learners and inspired to come up with their own innovative ideas.
- Teachers' personality, vitality, enthusiasm and thoughtfulness always refresh the atmosphere inside the classroom and warm students' hearts.
- Educators are supposed to create an active dialogue in the class to build up a good trust and to promote participation.

When these methods are applied efficiently and effectively, the education system will absolutely deliver the best teaching and learning practices. The learning activity can be thrilling only when students feel happy and well-motivated towards education. Thus, once the receiving end is ready, the transferring of knowledge and skills becomes easy. "Every interaction, neither of which is a humanitarian curriculum such rules, roles and relationships, potentially affecting the values and character of students and shaping it to be good or bad [8].

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