

**TOPIC: CHANGING ROLE OF TEACHERS**

**ADDRESS BY : DR.K.S.RADHAKRISHNAN – CHAIRMAN K.P.S.C AND  
FORMER VICE CHANCELLOR**

**20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2015**

Dr K S Radhakrishnan formally inaugurated the activities of IQAC for the year 2015-16 and addressed the teachers on the topic 'Changing role of teachers'. A summary of the talk is presented:

- There has been a paradigm shift in recent years. Earlier education was a cultural activity guided by moral forces now it is an economic activity guided by market forces.
- We are facing a dichotomy situation: cultural /economic.
- The aim of teaching (according to the concept of teaching as a cultural activity) is to create good human being useful for entire community. It aims not just to procure a job but to create a refined individual with integrity and character. Both which infuse self confidence in us.
- Today teacher's job in society has been reduced to 'selling' knowledge.
- In actuality, teacher should be able to instill self confidence – he / she should be able to lucidly explain the subject.
- Knowledge is for all and is our primary duty as a teacher to make it understandable for students.
- Teacher should be a role model, cross the barriers of the syllabi
- Bring the universe to the Classroom.

Role now → paradigm shift

- Teaching has had now become limited or changed its nomenclature to coaching.
- We are expected to coach the students to secure place in the job market.
- An institution is rated by the number of placements and not by the quality teaching it offers.
- Earlier there was a place of pride for teachers – V.K. Krishnamenon once said to the British  
--“You picked up English from Piccadilly, but we were taught by great Professors.

So, what is the role of a teacher--

- A teacher is basically a communicator.  
Primary quality → is being a brilliant communicator.  
The supreme example – the paragon is Christ himself. He could create a Peter.
- A teacher should establish a good rapport with students to communicate well.

- A teacher should be like a good shepherd – the Biblical story was to – though he has 99 sheeps he goes in search of one lost one.
- A true teacher should reclaim that one student on student who is ignored by the system who is lost in the wilderness. One not qualify that a teacher should have is that of a facilitator.
- He alludes to Krishna & Arjuna- driving Chariot(mentor /guide)
- Students are living monuments of teachers.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> quality that teachers should have is the ability to generate knowledge.
- Now information rushes to you, but now the life is like what T.S Eliot said in 4 Quartets.  
“Life that is lost in living  
Wisdom that is lost in knowledge.  
Knowledge that is lost in quick useless.
- The fault is in us – in our rush of information.  
“The fault dear Brutus is not between the stars but within ourselves”.
- The teacher should also be able to give a comprehensive idea of the subject we teach.  
We must be able to convey the relevance and utility of the knowledge attained.
- Attune them not to be like Dr. Faustus – “gaining the world at the expense of spirit.”
- We’ve had a number of economists but very few women economists - Barbara is one such . An explanation of money given by her is interesting--“Money is what money does”.
- “Man cannot live by bread alone”. Awareness should be part of education.  
In spite of the paradigm shift, we have to regain our students by restoring values.
- We have to give them opportunity to re-think.
- The unwritten path is the path of professional ethics.
- Wishing every teacher all the best, he concluded his speech. This was followed by an interactive session.

**ORIENTATION TALK FOR FIRST SEMESTER DEGREE STUDENTS AND PARENTS  
ON VIDYARAMBHAM DAY.**

**RESOURCE PERSON: DR. ALEXANDER JACOB**

**15<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2015**

A brilliant IPS officer and an excellent orator who can inspire, motivate and good people to action – This is how one can sum up Dr. Alexander Jacob.

On 15<sup>th</sup> July 2015, Baselius College was indeed blessed to have this mesmerizing speaker to address the undergraduate freshers and their parents. He simply took over the entire audience with his speech peppered with anecdotes.

His speech had a direction and was an organic whole. He said that to succeed in life one must have Vision in the eyes. He narrated the case of Tensing Norway and the vision of Everest that he had in his eye which gave the message that one must aim high and work to get there with passion.

The second point he stressed to have Voice in the Ears. If we have a detailed plan in mind our inner voice would constantly echo in our ears it would goad us to do better, strive harder and walk that extra mile. A thing well begun is half done so he asked the students to maintain a diary and to set a target of reading at least one book a day.

The third point he said is to have a Sword in the Hand. By this he want to remind us of the popular adage that there is no short cut to success & that there is no substitute Perseverance. He reminded us that whatever heights he has reached is because he burned the “midnight oil” when others slept on their Cozy beds.

The fourth thing which he stressed was to have a Divine Voice that sings in the Heart. He says without God’s grace, we mortals are worthless. He quotes Napoleon who says “Ability is nothing without opportunity” and this opportunity is God given.

He then give dietary tips so as to have a healthy body. A sound body is a pre-requisite to have a sound mind and parent should take care in the food habits of their children.

He also said that students should work hard and reach heights which make their parent & teachers proud of them.

Thus the ‘Vidyarambham programe’ for the freshers who joined the first semester undergraduate programmes was indeed an inspiring one.

**TOPIC: TEACHING - A DIVINE GIFT**

**RESOURCE PERSON: PROF.P.C.ALIAS**

**15<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2015**

Prof. P.C.Alias, PRO-Malankara Orthodox Church & former Principal, Baselius College addressed teachers on 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2015 as part of the Orientation Programmes organized by IQAC of the college. The theme of his lecture was 'Teaching: A Divine Gift'. He pointed out that of the various `daanams' - `Bhodaanam'(ഭൂദാനം), `Godaanam' (ഭഗവദാനം), Dhana daanam (ധനദാനം) and Vidya daanam(വിദ്യാദാനം), the most virtuous is the final one. It's also important to whom we shall impart knowledge. Education, said Nelson Mandela, is the most powerful weapon that you can use to change the world. Education may be applied for domestication and liberation. It's the bounded duty of each and every teacher to transmit what he has with him – not only knowledge but also virtues. What we impart shall neither be pure information nor pure knowledge, but actually wisdom. A teacher's job is really so powerful and meaningful. It is unparalleled. Prof. Alias quoted the famous poet Balachandran Chullikkadu who had once remarked that if he was lucky enough to be re-born, he wished to become a teacher who is qualified to teach *King Lear*.

Prof. Alias gave some tips of advice to young teachers. He narrated the story of Achilles from Greek Mythology. He also explained the concept of `Capitalist greed'. He opined that in the event of clash of individual interest & institutional interest, the latter shall prevail. Competition is not as important as co-operation. A teacher can have own targets and goals, but has to make sure that he plays for the team. He shall not land up scoring `self goals' in the match. A teacher has to be approachable, accessible to his student, but at the same time has to keep an ideal and dignified distance too, which he termed as `ലാഠനൃദൃരം '.

He also narrated the experience of people like Sri.E.Devadas IAS who was inspired by his teacher Mohanan Sir. Prof. Alias urged the teachers to give proposals for Central Govt. schemes like KAUSHAL which will enable us to provide skill based education. He concluded by saying that value based education is the need of the hour.

**GENERAL ADDRESS – STAFF MEMBERS**

**RESOURCE PERSON: H.G Dr. Thomas Mar Athanasius (Corporate Manager)**

**4<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2015**



The Corporate Manager Dr. Thomas Mar Athanasius addressed the staff members on 4<sup>th</sup> Aug 2015. The talk was a brief one, but really motivating and thought provoking. H.G. really focused on the role of teachers in transforming the society. At the outset itself, H.G. stressed on the secular feeling that shall be maintained in any public institution. We may be from different religions, we may believe on different powers, some may be atheist, but the institution shall function in a manner encompassing all the diversified thoughts and faiths. The teachers have to play a vital role in spreading a positive vibe. They are people who are entrusted with moulding the future. For that, mould the students. Teaching is not a job, it is a vocation; it is a 'divine call'. Make it meaningful and consider it to be part and parcel of life. Don't let extraneous factors intervene in discharging the profession. Of course, salary matters; but these professions shall not viewed from pecuniary angles only. Teaching is concerned with building relations which lead to satisfaction which in turn results in empowerment. If teaching is regarded as just a routing activity, it will be boring and disgusting. Try to be a change agent. Nurture students with value & virtues; let the students have vision and a sense of justice. Don't feel happy if u just see students adoring high position, but feel proud when they take a right stand with heads held high. Only when teachers guide the generation, there will be response. H.G. narrated the story of buffoons of a circus company in Denmark who tried to inform the villagers about fire at the tent, but people considered it to be just a joking act. So unfit people will not be able to build a nation. It's the moral responsibility of teachers.

**ORIENTATION TALK FOR FIRST SEMESTER P G STUDENTS AND PARENTS ON  
THE OPENING DAY**

**RESOURCE PERSON: DR V MATHEW KURIAN**

**18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015**

Dr Mathew Kurian began his lecture by giving general guidelines to the parents who had assembled for the session. He reminded them of the importance of Postgraduate education.

He then specifically addressed the students on various aspects of learning and research. He started with the quote of Aristotle. New education system is research oriented. Only hardworking students can survive. At a higher level, No one can teach others. Teachers provide only facilitation at P G level. – They can only force the horse to the water, but cannot make it drink.

You have to deconstruct and create a new style. You are no longer an object, but subject – You are your masters.

Alwin Toffler opined that world is made up of 3 waves.

First wave is agriculture. Second is Industry. The third is Electronic resolution-, information & communication. We are in the 3<sup>rd</sup> wave. Economy Today is information economy. Microsoft, Infosys – all generate information. Knowledge is the important and valuable resource these days. It is the era of knowledge management. It is a challenge as well as an opportunity. Educational institutions are supposed to create knowledge. So, in knowledge society, education institutions have a pivotal role.

P.G. education has three major roles.

- Diffusion of knowledge
- Extension of knowledge
- Manufacturing knowledge

Here comes the importance of research. Now the question is How should a P G student learn??

As A.P.J Abdul Kalam has pointed out, 'You should have a Dream' - have a vision and a mission. Do not be a person of just cut/paste attitude. Be Interactive -

Guru Nithya Chaithanya Yathi once said, 'I've travelled far and wide by bus,

Plane, train – the person sitting near me, I consider him/ her Guru as I know the limitation of my knowledge level. I've learnt much from such interaction during travels. So create a class room culture, flexible. Apply the principle of co-operation- each for all & all for each. Learn more from your class mate rather than from books or from teachers.

He also pointed out that six of the students of Lalithambika IAS's P G class reached heights only on account of such interactive class room culture. One has to be innovative.

The modern day slogan is 'Publish or perish'. Involve in active research . Develop the culture right from the first class onwards.

Now you have a wide avenue of opportunities thrown open by UGC and other bodies.

There are Research centres worldwide. Make use of the same.

Any knowledge has a related sociology. Understand the same and do justice.

There is also good scope for Entrepreneurship. With the importance given to start up, you are no longer going to be Job Seekers, but Job Creators.

Now throwing light on some points of Research

Research has two faces- Formal and Informal/. We do informal research on a daily basis.

Curiosity, reading habit, perseverance all are research related attributes. A P G student has to be Research minded with apparent anxiousness and craftsmanship. Research is like driving - you learn by stages of doing. The following points are worth mentioning in connection with research projects.

1. Proposing a research
2. Doing research accordingly
3. Writing the thesis
4. Defend
5. Publish

Regarding the Area of interest –, slice the broader area & find a space. identify the research gap through review of literature . Then arrive at the focus of the problem. Create a theoretical base - spell out the objectives- Come out with related Statements (hypothesis)- apply methodology- understand the limitations. Prepare the thesis with Bibliography and appendix.

Dr Mathew Kurian concluded his thought provoking address by wishing all the best for the new P G Students. Along with the Principal, various P G Department Heads, teachers and IQAC co-ordinator attended the session.

**TOPIC- MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCE THEORY AND ITS ROLE IN TEACHING**

**RESOURCE PERSON : FR.DR. K.M.GEORGE [PRINCIPAL, THEOLOGICAL  
SEMINARY]**

**23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2015**

Fr. K M George, Former Principal of Theological Seminary and Director of Sopanam Academy delivered a lecture on Multiple Intelligence Theory and its relevance in the education field. Fr. George began the lecture by highlighting the changes that have happened over years and how that has been reflected in the relation between the teacher & the taught.. At the very outset, he traced the meaning of the word 'Guru'. He said that a teacher is one who dispels darkness and dispenses knowledge. He then traced the trajectory of changes that has taken place in the teacher-student relation which correlated with the spacing and positioning of the same.

Earlier, the teacher was a person who dispensed knowledge. He was considered to be on a higher platform – the enlightened soul. He was the illumined person. In Shantinikethan, the teacher and the taught sat on the same level. The lessons were from the "Gurumukham"- Guru's enlightened self or from 'Prakashamukham'- the illumined soul of Guru. Fr George then half jokingly said that now it is the age of "Thirumukham", the thiru now is the 'thira' or the illumined screen. It could be the laptop, ipad, tab, phone etc.

He then delved into Multiple Intelligence Theory. In order to cope up with this changing scenario Fr.George says how the Multiple Intelligence Theory would help us. This theory was given to us by Prof. Howard Gardner, the Psychology professor at Harward. This has been detailed in his book The Frames of Mind. According to this different students have different strengths. One cannot measure his/her students with the same yardstick. There are various kinds of intelligences like

1. Verbal/Linguistic Intelligence
2. Mathematical/ Logical intelligence
3. Visual/ Spatial intelligence
4. Musical/ Rhythmic intelligence
5. Bodily/ Kinesthetic intelligence
6. Interpersonal intelligence
7. Intrapersonal intelligence
8. Naturalistic intelligence
9. Spiritual intelligence

Our classes do not contain homogeneous groups. There are students with different talents and interests. As takeaways, he summed up by saying how as teacher we should not treat students in a similar way. We must change our attitude in evaluating students. Some of the earlier ways would not be in the in the interest of the students, to ensure that their growth is not stunted. They are buds who should bloom with our aid.

**THEME: TEACHERS AS MENTORS**

**RESOURCE PERSON: DR. R SETHUMADHAVAN**

Scientist in charge – **Holistic Health and Education Mission, AP**

**27<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2015**



Dr Sethumadhavan began the session by encouraging interaction and active participation.

He said how teachers should be mentors and to be one of the truest kind, one must have clear understanding and thinking. To have clarity of thought and expression one must have 4 things: a) a sound body b) a sound mind, c) a sound intellect and d) a sound soul. Food and exercise shall ensure a sound body, rest and recreation a sound mind, learning and creativity a sound intellect and prayer and fasting a sound soul. Along with this, he said, meditation would help us tune our mind to alpha state.

He said that education is a dynamic process by which we aim at nourishing the taught. To facilitate this, we as teachers should have a balanced state of mind. We all have Fear, Loss, Anger and guilt emotions and these unpleasant experiences form neural networks. These tend to have an overbearing on our personality. This is where Sethumadhavan, the scientist aiming at holistic health comes to play. He emphatically says that to be a good teacher one must be a person free from unnecessary emotional baggage.

He said mind is the emotional sphere of the brain and intellect the rational. When mind overpowers personality the result is unrest. To regulate the imbalance Dynamic flow of energy is inevitable. The most practical way to regulate our energies is to combine Vit. C therapy (1 glass of lemon or orange juice) and sunlight. This would rejuvenate cell and every cell, it seems, has mind and intellect.

One must also practice Empathy. People like Dalai Lama has empathy neurons galore. He insists on developing discernment and emotional detachment. He goads us to view ups and downs in life as a witness. He asks us to 'dis-identify' with our problems and identify with others problems. He lets us know about the Cognitive Restructuring of the Brain and says that anxiety thought vibration does not affect the healing process of the child.

He then spoke about importance of self-discipline in the learning process. The learning process has 3 stages- comprehension, retention and Expression. He says that the 7 stages for Effective Learning Process are: 1) To think more and more, 2) Write more and more 3) Observe (not just see) more and more, 4) Listen (not just hear) more and more 5) Read more and more, 6) Communicate more and more 7) Visualize and act more and more.

He says how RSSC (Rostral Subgenual portion of Singulate Cortex) helps in higher mental activities where higher brain centers are involved- like observation and listening. And then he spoke at length about Super Brain Yoga and how practicing it would help us to effectively utilize our brain and emotions.

It was indeed a fruitful session and gave us food for thought and a motivation towards holistic living.