

THE GST Gazette



It's the teacher that makes the difference, not the classroom.

– Michael Morpurgo

Amid the chaos of the pandemic, we all commenced this new academic year with a lot of uncertainties and ambivalence. We all feel nostalgic about our normal college days and anxious about the impending challenges regarding the new learning process that this crisis has brought with it. To make online learning facile for us, our esteemed teachers invested their substantial efforts. Despite the transformations that transpired in the conventional classroom, we all were able to adapt to these new learning environments because of the painstaking efforts put forth by our honorable teachers.

A teacher is someone who not only teaches you subjects pertaining to your field of study but also gives you life lessons. She is the greatest source of knowledge and inspiration for every student. A mentor, a friend, a guide, a moral supporter - a teacher plays all these roles impeccably. Teachers are the pedestals of a prosperous society. They mould the character of students by instilling veracious ideals in them. No other profession would exist without the presence of teachers.

With the inception of this new academic year, the Literary Team expresses its gratitude to all our beloved teachers and presents before you the Teacher's Day Edition of the GST Gazette wishing all the teachers 'Happy Teachers Day'.

A walk down the lane of India's mentor -Dr.Radhakrishnan!

"A good teacher is like a candle—it consumes itself to light the way for others."

The quote is apt for Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, the best mentor and teacher India had.

We have been celebrating his birthday, as Teachers Day across the nation since 1962 because it was our second President's idea to do so. His students and friends once expressed their wish to celebrate his birthday but he said and we quote "it would be my proud privilege to dedicate the day to all the teachers of our country."

Oh, and also this one incident which will definitely make us all go awestruck and smiling, his students out of respect and love had arranged for a flower-decked carriage and pulled it themselves to drop their beloved teacher to the railway station, when he had decided to accept an offer to teach in Calcutta. It sure was one-of-a kind farewell.

Walking down this memory road Dr Radhakrishnan had woven with his teachings, let us remember him, the light for all the reminiscing we do today. Remember his advice about education and teaching, and of building a bridge between the teacher and the taught.

Carrying a thread of understanding, weaving it into the fabric of his teachings, today, recalling the greatest Teacher of India, we wish all the teachers a great day. This indeed would be an appropriate tribute to Dr Radhakrishnan.

Happy Teachers' Day!

TEACHER

*Think of the teachers who challenged your mind,
Enlightening, eye-opening.*

Amazing and kind.

*Creating a class filled
with care and concern,
Helping their students
to happily learn.*

*Educators of children,
now your knowledge
impart,*

*Rejoice in the journey,
with vision and heart.*

*It takes a special skill
to teach a child in class,
To just keep his attention
in a world that moves so fast.*

*To show a child that he is unique,
with talents deep inside.*

*To help to build his confidence,
so he can beam with pride.*

*To show a little patience for a child who has lost his way.
To a child who feels abandoned, who has seen better days.
To inspire inspire and to motivate, so a child can learn
and grow.*

*To go into the big bad world, that has its highs and lows.
You are a special person, you always give your best;
And for every child who has your class, their life is
truly blessed.*



- Tanvi S, TE-IT

Interview with one of our guiding lights Mr. Ashwin Chavan

Prof. Ashwinkumar Chavan

Assistant Professor

Department of Humanities and Applied Sciences

SIES Graduate School of Technology

1) Why did you choose teaching as a profession?

I belonged to the family of farmers and resided in a small village. Apart from teaching and learning there was no other exposure to the world and different career opportunities. The first opportunity we saw as a profession was a teacher. It was my passion to observe our school time teachers, their knowledge imparting skills, dedication and last but not the least, the respect for this profession in our society, which helped me to jump in this field.

2) How long have you been teaching and how has your overall experience been?

I have dedicated 14 years in this field and I enjoy meeting the new passionate generation and finding ways to help them. Apart from this we get a platform to interact with youngsters, motivate and guide them for their career development and at the end of the day I feel that I was the learner.

3) Why did you specifically choose to teach math? Has math been your favourite subject since your childhood?

Yes, It is said that if you like a subject, it means that that subject teacher has created that interest in you. Mathematics has been my most favourite subject since primary school. All credit directly goes to my school teachers. They were magnificent. For selecting Maths as a career option, it's a small story and I won't hesitate to tell. As I already said, having a rural background and no guidance, my 11th standard admission procedure was done by my elder brother. Due to several myths of mathematics, he did not opt mathematics for me at 11th. Instead I had sociology as my optional subject. Throughout 11th and half of 12th standard I studied no maths, but the fascination towards maths had not ended. Then finally at the time of exam form filling, without asking anybody I opted for mathematics and somehow prepared for passing. It was the highest risk I had taken in my educational life, but it worked. In graduation (B. Sc) I deliberately chose maths as my main subject and stood first in the college in the final year.

4) What's the best and also the most difficult part in the teaching profession according to you?

The teaching profession has tremendous challenges nowadays. As we are dealing with humans, it's very difficult to know every person's abilities and limitations. The most difficult part of the classroom is to match the speed of every student. The feeling of upgrading anybody is the best feeling in this profession.

5) Can you single out a moment when you felt the proudest being a teacher? If so, what is it?

There are many such moments as we deal with the young adolescent generation at graduation level and additionally my subject Applied Mathematics is a nightmare for many engineering students. To name one, there was a student who had a drug history in 11th and 12th standard. Doctors had narrowed the chances of his survival but somehow he survived. He got admission in first year engineering. Being the class teacher, I observed his behavioural changes for a month and contacted his parents and got to know about his past. He had again started the consumption at FE, at lower rates. After several sittings of personal counselling he promised me that he will stop. For a few days we also stayed together to observe him and surprisingly he came out of that. Now he is normal again and enjoying a wonderful life. There are many such moments where we feel proud of being a teacher cum counsellor.

6) How are you handling all the technological pressure during online lectures because of COVID?

Before Pandemic, there was a thought that technology would slowly replace the teachers, but it has now proven that no machine can give the human feel in this noble profession. Yes, but technology can be the best tool in teachers' hands in many ways. Being a teacher in the technological field, you must be updated with the latest tools and advancements. I am a little tech-savvy, so it helped me to explore more in new methodologies of e-teaching.

7) What are the changes you observed in students now and before?

Most of the time we hear that today's generation is not serious about anything and they do not respect anybody etc, but in my opinion they have different methods to show their respect and the way of working. Their challenges also have changed from the past generation. They need to be more capable of handling the pressures and multi-tasking.

8) What does a normal lecture for you look like? What's your philosophy or mantra for a good lecture?

In my opinion, students should feel that 'yes, this teacher has come for me'. Many times, content is not important, rather your tuning with the student matters a lot. Your work is half done when you enter the class and the students accept you with a smile and are enthusiastic to learn. In the class, learning should be student centric as they are the final target, teachers should not be busy in proving themselves.

9) Do you think the education system in India is flawed? If so, how?

Our education system is now mixed in nature. Somewhere we are following western concepts blindly and somewhere insisting on a traditional ancient education system. Nothing is wrong if implemented wisely. Recently, in our field, the project-based learning is in discussion or partly implemented which was fully in force in the ancient Indian education system but in mid-time we dissolved it completely. Hands are to be given some activity when there are innovations playing in young minds.

10) In your experience, what is the most important quality a teacher should possess?

There are many qualities, a teacher should have. To name it specifically, firstly he should be sensitive enough about his profession which makes him an active element in the system. He should know his role which is more than just a teacher or a content deliverer. Children spend their time with us more than they do with their parents. With a little helping hand we can nurture and shape their personalities

11) What do you want to say to all your fellow teachers?

All my fellow teachers are senior to me and they are the most wonderful teachers I have ever seen. Rather I have learnt many things from them, it's a give and take relationship between colleagues. If we keep learning and helping mutually, we all can grow and help to conquer the difficulties. It's really great to work with equally intended people.

12) What values do you want your students to learn other than academics?

As I already said above, subject content is just a medium through which the values and skills can be embedded. Being a good person in your family suffices for most of the outcomes of education. Parents are the only people who love you unconditionally, not even real brothers or sisters, respect them.

13) What message would you like to convey to all your students?

Dear Students, the aim of education is not to take a piece of paper at the execution but to inculcate good values and skills and utilize all them for the development of the nation and mankind.



EMBASSY OF INDIA.
MOSCOW.

24th December 1956

My dear professor Schilpp,
I have your letter in which you ask me to make my introductory account a little more autobiographical than it is at present. I have added a few details but I do not think that you will be satisfied. Kindly, forgive me.
I am not persuaded that the events of my life are of much interest to the readers of his volume. Besides, there is a sense in which our writings, though born out of ourselves, are worth more than what we are. We take much trouble about them even as devoted parents do with their children. As for the emotions and desires, which make life so intense and interesting, how many years look straight into our souls?
I am now at work on the Reply to Critics and shall send it to you when all the papers reach me.
with admiring and grateful regards,
S. Radhakrishnan

शिक्षक

हम बच्चे मिलकर शुक्रिया करते हैं आप सबका जिन्होंने हमें सोचना और जीना सिखाया है। जो सदा हमारा खयाल रखते हैं, जिन्होंने हमें बड़ा किया और होते देखा है। शरारत करने पर डाँटते और डपटते थे पर हमारे रोने पर हमें प्यार भी ढेरों करते थे। अच्छा काम करने पर आपसे ज्यादा खुश कोई न होता है, आपको प्रसन्न देख हमारा दिल भी भर आता है। आप सबों को ढेरों प्यार और सम्मान एक शिक्षक ही है देश की शान।

- Ishita Paul, TE-CE

MICROFICTION

In the late hours of the night, the book seemed intimidating. With its perfect formatting and the vomit of information on each page, it almost seemed unapproachable. But the recorded lectures of his teacher proved to be the exact opposite.

-Yash M, TE-PPT



- Tanvi S, TE-IT

Open-Letter

Dear 'Teachers' from all walks of life,

Thank you to all the parents out there; the first teachers and the most important influences. From teaching us to walk to walking us down the aisle. Without the foundation you set up for us and the life lessons you gave us, we would not be anywhere. Thank you to all the siblings who are our emotional therapists, teach us things our parents are not able to. Always stand by strong as our pillars. The teachers we can get along with the best but at the same time could also land a punch on.

Thank you to all the friends and peers, for the nagging, the criticism and the advice. Without gravity, a person would fly off and these are teachers who ingrain into us that no matter what we should always stay humble and resolute.

Thank you to all the pets, who teach us that love, in its purest form, is unconditional and that the love we have for our pets should be actively mirrored in the love we show to our fellow humans.

Thank you to the odd watchman, the granny down the street or the old shopkeeper for giving us knowledge with a selfless intent. They say the younger generation's smartness cannot beat the older generation's wisdom. Whatever you taught us will surely help us in small, unnoticeable ways.

Thank you to all the blue-collar workers for teaching us that no work is too small or too unworthy. If you work hard, one day you will reap the rewards. No matter what anyone has to say, keep your head high.

Thank you to the one homeless man we see huddled up on the road who keeps going on, taking life one day at a time. You taught us to never give up and keep on going no matter what.

Lastly,

Thank you to all the actual teachers in our lives who raise us for 2 decades and make us the people we are.

Good teachers, bad teachers, ambitious teachers, considerate teachers, all of you are an integral part of raising the new generation and we will always respect your choice to be a part of this journey.

Yours sincerely,

A grateful 'student'

-Shlok Naik, TE-CE

Teachers' day in wonderland!

Remember when giving roses to teachers was all the rage on 5th of September? I used to have around 9-12 roses in my school bag. Everyone bought those pretty little red ones with less or nearly no thorns and flexing then was all about who had the big one or one with a different colour!

Ah, those were the good old days.

Nostalgia was hitting hard recalling the Teachers' day spirit last weekend; and wouldn't you just expect that it would happen at an online florist website where I had chimed in to find a small vase of some kind for my apartment.

I rounded on a corner surfing and there they were, a whole shelf of all the different coloured roses. The big black ones, the beastly blue ones, the cute yellows and our traditional red ones.

Zing, Teacher's Day Spirit hit!

Entering the school with those quirky extra bags just for the roses, showering our teachers with all our love and admiration in the form of these beautifully packed gifts. The speeches which only the high scorers were allowed to give, the run in the classrooms so as to give the favorite teacher rose first! Older students dressing up as their favorite teachers for the role reversal and teaching their subjects and I might as well add using the catchphrases and acts of our teachers was such a proud moment for all of us, wasn't it?

Zing, Teacher's day Spirit again!

Oh, heck, that's probably the only time we kids enjoyed giving gifts. I might as well admit it. I wish I had professor Dumbledore's pensieve, just a little swirl into it and I could reminisce all of this!

Let this innocent Gubraithian Fire of respect for our teachers out there never reduce, is what I pray to engulf on this occasion.

Zing, Teacher's day spirit hits harder this time!

-Vaishnavi, TE-EXTC