



**SIES School of Learning and Leadership Development (SISSLDD)**

**TRAINING NOTE (012/2026-27)**

**on**

**The Ideal School Teacher in the Changing  
Educational Landscape: Roles and Responsibilities**

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SIES School of Learning and Leadership Development (SISSLDD),  
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### **Backdrop:**

Teaching has always been one of the most respected professions, but in the twenty-first century it has also become one of the most challenging. Rapid technological advancements, changing student expectations, increased competition among educational institutions, and evolving policy frameworks have transformed the educational landscape. The implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has further accelerated the need for teachers to redefine their roles and responsibilities.

Today's teacher is expected to be much more than a transmitter of knowledge. The teacher must act as a facilitator, mentor, motivator, counsellor, and lifelong learner. To meet these expectations, educators must understand the complexities of the contemporary environment and adopt practices that promote holistic student development.

### **Understanding the Contemporary Context:**

Educational institutions today operate in a highly dynamic environment. The technological explosion has made information readily available to students. Knowledge is no longer confined to textbooks or classrooms. Students can access learning resources from across the globe through digital platforms, artificial intelligence tools, and online learning systems.

At the same time, teachers face increasing pressure from various stakeholders, including students, parents, management, and society. Generation Z learners are technologically savvy, independent, and often expect interactive and personalized learning experiences. Institutions also compete not only with local counterparts but with national and international providers of education.

Against this backdrop, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 seeks to transform Indian education by promoting flexibility, multidisciplinary learning, skill integration, outcome-based education, and holistic development.

## **Key Educational Reforms under NEP 2020:**

NEP 2020 introduces several significant changes that influence classroom teaching and learning.

These include:

- A new schooling structure of 5+3+3+4
- No specialization at 11<sup>th</sup> standard
- Adoption of Outcome-Based Education (OBE)
- Greater focus on life skills and employability
- Integration of vocational skills and entrepreneurship
- Transformation of assessment systems
- Promotion of Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS)
- Reforms in teacher education through ITEP and revised B.Ed. programs.

These reforms require teachers to move beyond traditional content delivery and focus on meaningful learning outcomes.

## **Challenges Faced by Teachers:**

The role of an educator has become increasingly complex due to several challenges.

**Diverse Student Population:** Today's classrooms are highly diverse. Teachers may encounter learners from different social, cultural, economic, and linguistic backgrounds. Some classrooms may include students with special educational needs, including Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and other learning differences. Inclusive teaching practices have therefore become essential.

**Changing Expectations:** Students and parents increasingly view education as an investment and expect measurable outcomes. They seek quality teaching, career guidance, skill development, and personal attention from institutions and teachers.

**Student Engagement:** Maintaining student engagement has become difficult in an age dominated by social media, digital distractions, and shortened attention spans. Traditional lecture-based teaching often fails to sustain learner interest.

**Resource Constraints:** Many educators continue to face infrastructural limitations, large class sizes, and unfavourable student-teacher ratios. Administrative and ancillary responsibilities further reduce the time available for teaching preparation and student interaction.

**Motivational Issues:** Both students and teachers may experience motivational challenges. Sustaining enthusiasm for learning and teaching requires continuous innovation and support.

### **Responsibilities of an Ideal Teacher:**

To address these challenges effectively, teachers must embrace a broader and more learner-centred role.

**Creating a Positive Learning Environment:** A teacher should establish a classroom climate that is safe, respectful, inclusive, and conducive to learning. Students learn best when they feel valued, accepted, and encouraged to participate.

**Adopting Inclusive Practices:** An ideal teacher recognizes the uniqueness of every learner and adapts teaching strategies accordingly. Inclusion is not merely about accommodating diversity but about ensuring that every student has an opportunity to succeed.

**Demonstrating Empathy:** Empathy is a hallmark of effective teaching. Teachers who understand the emotional, social, and academic needs of students can build stronger relationships and foster greater trust.

**Developing Emotional Connections:** Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) is increasingly recognized as a critical component of education. Teachers should nurture emotional intelligence, resilience, collaboration, and interpersonal skills among learners.

**Promoting Outcome-Based Education:** Teachers should align teaching-learning activities with clearly defined learning outcomes. The focus should shift from completing the syllabus to ensuring meaningful learning.

Bloom's Taxonomy provides a useful framework for designing learning experiences across six cognitive levels:

1. Remembering
2. Understanding
3. Applying

4. Analyzing
5. Evaluating
6. Creating

Effective teaching encourages students to progressively move from lower-order thinking to higher-order thinking skills (at least upto 3 / 4).

**Using Engaging Pedagogies:** Teachers must employ innovative and interactive teaching methods such as:

- Case studies
- Problem-based learning
- Project-based learning
- Collaborative learning
- Flipped classrooms
- Experiential learning

These approaches enhance student participation and deepen understanding.

**Mentoring Beyond the Classroom:** The teacher's responsibility extends beyond classroom instruction. In both physical and virtual environments, teachers should guide, support, and mentor students throughout their learning journey.

**Value Education and Citizenship:** Education is not limited to academic achievement. Teachers play a crucial role in inculcating values, ethics, integrity, social responsibility, and patriotism. Character formation remains one of the most important objectives of education.

**Continuous Assessment:** Assessment should be viewed as a tool for learning rather than merely a mechanism for grading. Regular formative assessment helps identify learning gaps and provides timely feedback for improvement.

**Holistic Development:** An ideal teacher focuses on the intellectual, emotional, physical, social, and ethical development of students. Education should prepare learners not only for employment but also for life.

**Ethical Use of Artificial Intelligence:** With the growing use of Artificial Intelligence in education, teachers must guide students in using AI responsibly and ethically. AI should be leveraged to enhance learning while preserving academic integrity and critical thinking.

**Moving from Efficiency to Effectiveness:** Efficiency refers to doing things right, whereas effectiveness means doing the right things. A teacher may efficiently complete the syllabus, but true effectiveness lies in ensuring that students genuinely learn, grow, and develop competencies. The ultimate measure of teaching success is student transformation rather than content coverage.

**Practices to Avoid:**

Teachers must consciously avoid behaviours that negatively impact learning.

These include:

- Poor time management
- Entering class without adequate preparation
- Excessive teacher-centred instruction
- Physical or mental harassment of students
- Bias, discrimination, or favouritism
- Judging students based on isolated incidents
- Unnecessary use of mobile phones during classroom sessions

Professionalism and fairness are essential attributes of a respected educator.

**Additional Roles of Teachers:**

Educators should also contribute beyond classroom teaching through:

- Mentoring and career counselling
- Limited but meaningful research activities
- Community engagement and social outreach
- Institutional development initiatives
- Participation in quality assurance initiatives,

These responsibilities strengthen both individual growth and institutional excellence.

### **Moving Ahead:**

The role of a teacher has evolved significantly in response to societal changes, technological advancements, and educational reforms. The ideal teacher today is not merely a subject expert but a facilitator of learning, mentor, counsellor, innovator, and role model.

As education moves towards learner-centric and outcome-based approaches, teachers must embrace continuous professional development and reflective practice. The ultimate goal is not simply to produce academically successful students but to nurture responsible, ethical, competent, and compassionate citizens.

Every educator should aspire to be an inspirational and transformational teacher rather than a transactional one. Such teachers leave lasting impressions on their students and contribute meaningfully to nation-building. Teachers are in fact the true nation builders.

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