



# **ROLE OF HISTORY TEACHER IN NURTURING HUMAN VALUES**

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A conscious and well-informed teacher makes the students more confident, competent and value -bounded. A teacher of History can play a very pivotal and important role in nurturing human values, moral values and in addition to that, he creates historical outlook and understanding to understand our own problems and present chaotic situation of the nation. Nirmal Yadav has rightly said that, “The success or failure of a course in History rests mainly with the teacher. The most important factor in entire educational programme is the teacher. It is the teacher on whom the real success or failure of any method, aid, device or procedure depends.”<sup>1</sup> A History teacher is well-acquainted with the course of history and he knows ups and downs of the mankind of different ages, he can evaluate the present things and issues in keeping in mind the past history and suggest good, applicable and practical ways for the better future of the nation, society as well.

History is a very important, interesting and comprehensive subject. We can say, it is a “queen” or “mother” of the social sciences. In the words of B.M. Laddell Hart, “History is the record of man’s steps and slips. It shows us that the steps have been slow and slight: the slips, quick and abounding. It provides us with the opportunity to profit by the stumbles and tumbles of our fore-runners. Viewed a right, History is the broadest studies, embracing every aspect of human life. It lays the foundation of education by showing how mankind repeats it errors and what those errors are. Bismarck used to remark, “Fools say that they learn by experience. I prefer to learn by other people’s experiences. This study of history offers us that opportunity. It is universal experience- infinitely longer, wider and more varied than any individual’s experience.”<sup>2</sup>

Both history and history teacher can play a very significant role in inculcating human and moral values into the students. A history teacher can teach universal human values like Truth, Love, Tolerance, Peace, Non-Violence, Brotherhood, Harmony etc., which are very useful for the progress and peaceful co-existence of the mankind. He can encourage to the students by giving inspirational and motivational examples from the past and present in such a way that students can gets good and noble lessons to their personal life and social surrounding, too.

A history teacher can play a role of guide, an educator, torchbearer, lighthouse, candle and more moral inspirator too. He can create enthusiasm, new zeal and adventurous spirit among his students. He can teach the history in scientific and rational manner that helps to the students to develop a unbiased and just views of human society. By teaching great values, he can develop a good sense of national pride and our heritage and more our cultural and social ethos, he could develop into the people. He can do anything if he genuinely wishes. But he should be neutral, just and unbiased. He can arouse the feelings of nationalism, patriotism in a very noble and humble way. In the words of Nirmal Yadav, “A history teacher should be patriotic but he should never have national bias. He should try to develop the international understanding in himself and his people.”<sup>3</sup>

A history teacher can instill a feeling of communal harmony, brotherhood, solidarity and peaceful co-existence between the different castes and races. He can arouse our soul about the irrational and cruel practices of untouchability which is prevalent throughout the course of history. A history teacher can break away the parochial caste hierarchy, cruelties towards women and depressed classes by teaching good and noble values. He can develop a sense of enquiry, questioning and more rational, scientific approach, too. By advocating social and moral values, he can create just society and good citizens for the welfare and development of the nation and mankind.

## **AIMS OF TEACHING HISTORY**

- Development of qualities of ideal citizenship.
- Development of qualities of leadership.



- All round development of personality.
- Development of character building.
- To promote self-understanding.
- To develop the consciousness in the pupils about society and social values.
- To help the students in having in a correct idea about the importance and meaning of liberty and freedom.
- To help the students to understand the influence of historical facts and situations upon life.
- To develop the spirit of patriotism.
- To enable the pupils to assess the values and achievements of their own age.
- To teach tolerance.
- To have a clear idea of historical facts and to give them a shape in order to have their practical utility.
- To cultivate valuable intellectual attitudes.
- To teach moral values and universal values.
- To cultivate a forward look.
- To help resolve our contemporary social and individual problem.
- To develop international understanding.
- To arouse awareness towards local history.
- To arouse awareness towards subaltern history.

### **HISTORY TEACHER AND HUMAN VALUES**

A history teacher can better inculcate human values into the students and brings better and applicable solutions of the present issues which we all are facing. He must have a faith and more important thing is that to have a positive attitude towards History and to his day to day life. If he himself is not clear or rather confused, he will not be able to inculcate morality, humanity and universal values among his students. Nirmal Yadav has rightly said that, "Unless a teacher has faith in his subject, he will not be able to acquire thorough knowledge of it. This faith also encourages the teacher to learn more and more. This faith also enables the teacher to realize the utility and the value of teaching history."

#### (1) History Teacher as a Torchbearer of human values.

A history teacher is a torch-bearer of human values and he can teach human values to the students in such a way that the students will be a better human being with all kind of basic values and basic ethos within oneself. He can show the torch of knowledge to the students which can kindle their personal life as well as their surroundings. A history teacher can nourishing basic human values like Love, Affection, Sympathy, Pathos, Sentiment, Feeling, Harmony, Peace, Non-Violence and Truth among his students. By giving anecdotes and teaching the lessons of great personalities from the past and contemporary history, he can inculcates those noble human values and ethos to his students in a proper manner. So, we can say, history teacher is a torch-bearer of human values and ethos. Further we can say, he is guide and harbinger of the people, of the mankind and of the nation.

#### (2) History Teacher as a Lighthouse of Moral Values.

We can say, history teacher could be a lighthouse of moral values and he can impart moral values among his students and prevalent society, too. He can teach moral values like be dutiful and faithful to personal or other's work, be truthful to any circumstances, be helpful to needy and poorer, be humane to any odds, be rightful, be courageous and be a lighthouse of moral values to the students, society as well. He can provide best examples from history like Gautam Buddha, Mahavira, Confucius, Socrates, Jesus Christ, Prophet Mohammad, Martin Luther, Mahatma Gandhiji etc., who were the moral preacher of morality and good human being.

#### (3) Inculcation of Noble Ideas and Thoughts.

According to Rapson, "History is a connected account of the course of events and the progress of ideas." A historian's true duty is to analyze any events in a proper way in context to present environment for generating good sense to understand present politics, society, religion and human development. A history teacher can teach noble ideas and thoughts by teaching noble values of great thinkers of the world like Socrates, Plato, Buddha, Mahavira etc. In this way, he is opening the gates of knowledge, containing great and noble ideas before the students and by this; he makes them to be a good and tolerant man. Even, he can present the experiences, struggling events and hardships they suffered at the hands of society in a very justified manner before the students. He himself could be a good history teacher by imbibing and implementing those noble values and thoughts in day to day life. Noble values and thoughts could not be remained only on books while teaching. It should be practised in present life.

#### (4) Creating Awareness towards Social Values.



By knowing the history of society of different ages, a history teacher is well-informed and well-acquainted with the development of man's struggle for survival and their social values. He teach social values in such a way that students get clear and proper knowledge of the past society and by that, he helps us to make balancing and just society. He picks up the good lessons from the history and clarifies the great social values of various civilizations and cultures of the world like Indus Valley Civilization, Vedic Civilization, Mesopotamian Civilization and the socio-cultural transformation of the human being.

(5) Helper in framing good future of mankind.

History teacher is studying and teaching the past history of mankind in context to present world for creating good and better world for living. He is exploring the past history of man's development and through his research; he propounds the proper ways for further and good present life. According to Nirmal Yadav, "The present social life of man has been a result of evolution through centuries of human efforts in various directions. Modern History helps us in understanding the process of evolution and how society has come to its present form. It also helps us to discover and explain how this adjustment has taken place in the past and how it taking place today. It is likely to give us not only a sense of national patriotism and an appreciation of national heritage but also a sense of world unity and world citizenship." In this way, history teacher teaches chronological order of the human progress and inculcates human values that responsible for the development of society, polity, religion and cultural ethos.

(6) Creator of Social Worker.

A history teacher can create good social workers from their students. He can create strong enthusiasm, zeal, good sentiments among his students and teaching the lessons of noble social service. He himself can play the role of good social worker and imparts human values, social values among his students. He can give right direction to the youths by which one day; these students would contribute to their society and nation by doing good social service. He can inspire the youths by teaching the life of great social worker like Buddha, Mahavira, Raja Rammohan Roy, Swami Dayanand Saraswati, Swami Vivekananda, Annie Besant, Mahatma Gandhiji, Mahatma Jyotiba Phule, Vinoba Bhave, and Dr. Ambedkar, Pundit Ravishakar Maharaja, Baba Amte etc. In this way, he is motivating to the students to fight against superstitions, conservatism, social evils and dogmas.

(7) Messenger of Peace and Righteousness.

A history teacher can be a peace, non-violence and righteousness. He can create good sense of world peace, harmony and brotherhood by giving true facts of human history where man is responsible for his success and failure. S.K.Kochhar has rightly said that, "Modern concept of history lays emphasis on history as an evolution, growth and development of human civilization through the ages. How man evolved from a wild life to civilization is theme of history. Great men are simply taken as the point of intersection of great social movements. To taken an example, Buddha's teachings of piety, peace and righteousness were the reflections of lessons of men who were thinking silently for centuries together. A personality or an individual is simply a culmination point of a great movement- the important point to be studied in history is the evolution, growth and development."<sup>4</sup>

(8) To develop a Rational and Scientific Attitude.

This is one of the important and striking features of teaching history and historian, too. A biased and irrational historian will never last his/her impression upon the students. Such historians are more dangerous to the society, nation as well. A history teacher can develop rational and scientific attitude among his students by properly teaching about rationalism, humanism, secularism, humanity and role of science in human development. The aim of history and history teacher is to create scientific knowledge and rational attitude among his students and youths. According to Nirmal Yadav, "The history teacher should have clear knowledge of the aims and objectives of the teaching history. The teacher must also have a faith in these aims and objectives. With such a faith, he becomes interested in the subject and tries to impart knowledge in a scientific and interesting manner to suit the students and society both."

(9) He Can Develop International Understanding.

History teacher can develop international understanding among his students and youths, too. He can arouse the feeling of co-existence, co-operation, unity, peaceful living and harmony among different classes and races. S.K.Kochhar has rightly written that, "History is one subject which can promote international understanding in the best possible way. It can destroy prejudices existing among nations; it can also overplay the fundamental unity and interdependence among nations and underplay the sources of disunity. In this way, people of the world may develop understanding and sympathy for each other."<sup>5</sup> In the world of global village, he has to think globally and universally but do the work locally in such a manner that universal human values could not be endangered. He has to teach to the students in this manner that they can be able to understand the relation between the two nations and different races. To teach the history of injustice and chaos is one thing and to find out the ways, solutions and



remedial measures for the mass interests is as much important as first one. For that matter history teacher could not be indifferent to past mistakes and misfortunes done by particular groups or nations deliberately. In this regard he has to be an impartial moderator, neutral evaluator and global ambassador irrespective of caste, creed or colour.

## **CONCLUSION**

Thus, history and history teacher could play a vital role in nurturing human and moral values. A history teacher can inculcate good sense of national and international understanding by way of proper teaching. The report of Kothari Commission (1966) has rightly defined the aim of history as, "To increase productivity, achieve social and national integration, accelerate of modernization and cultivate social, moral and spiritual values."<sup>6</sup>In this regard the responsibility and duty of history teacher is higher as much as the chief justice of the Supreme Court. History teacher himself is the architect of the present and future society, mankind as well. He is the nation's builder and for that matter his job is so sensitive, noteworthy and significant.

History and history teacher has immense value in shaping the future of any nation as well as creating a good universal citizen for the peaceful living of mankind. Today, the world is on the verge of destruction, bloody wars, caste conflicts and in addition, terrorism has become rampant and beyond control, a history teacher could play a role of messenger of peace, fraternity, harmony by way of teaching past and present history in just, appropriate and neutral way and more balanced manner. He should be impartial and un-biased. In this regard the Kothari Commission report (1966) says, "Of all the different factors which influence the quality of education and its contribution to national development, the quality, competence and character of teachers are undoubtedly the most significant."

We are the nation of multi- cultured, multi- ethnicity, multi- religions, multi-linguistic even though we have been living cordially, peacefully since long times. In spite of many tensions, conflicts have been arisen in course of history, today we are united and sharing our joys and pains collectively. This composite culture is our identity and we can say, it is our glorious heritage and we are bound to preserve it any cost.

History Teacher is having much more responsibility on his shoulder. As teacher of history, he must know the aims, objectives and present- future plans of his subject. He must have refrain from personal and communal biases. Henderson has rightly said that, "We teachers, need to know where we want to go. Otherwise we may walk a long way, get very tired and accomplish practically nothing."<sup>7</sup>

## **REFERENCES**

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