

FABRICATING LIVES

- **SUPARNA SINHA**

Education is an independent field of study like other subjects of study which involves the process of development that covers not only the student or the child but the teacher as well. Learning can be positive or negative but when it comes to education, learning is always positive and fruitful in which the teacher as a philosopher tries to bring out a desired kind of individual from the student. Being a teacher I've been through many experiences that has made my journey scintillating, left me satisfied and has enlightened my path with a zeal to bring changes in life of many others. A teacher is bound to be an active organizer, an observer and a guide. The role of parents can not be ignored but the development of inherent powers of a child is not possible in the absence of a teacher. All the great men were once a child; and it's only with the guidance of the teacher we have great personalities like – Swami Vivekananda, Mahatma Gandhi, Lal Bahadur Shastri etc.

I believe that if we all understand the golden things, to love and to be loved – we would love one another as he has loved each one of us, It is not how much we give, but how much love we put into that giving.

“Putting love into giving” reminds me of a 13-14 year boy “Kaushlendra; whom I taught in Raibareli. For the correction when I collected the copies I noticed his incapability of writing simple English words. Deciding of giving extra personal attention in him I asked him to practice writing tough words 10 times everyday, but after few days, his absence made me feel impatient. When I enquired about him from the other teachers of the school. I got to know that being a dull student his pressure or absence made no difference. But to make every child was important. He came back after 15 days and on asking the reason of his absence he cried bitterly telling his mother passed away.

Again believing in putting love into giving I worked on him with a belief that love brings profound healing and understanding brings lessening of fear. I taught him with more attention and care & with this he scored good in his final exams & other teachers thought that he has been helped with the expected questions by me, but this was proved wrong when he achieved good marks in the other subjects as well.

Challenges of Non Performers:-

Experience gives us the confidence of accepting the challenges. It acts as a strong base on which we prove ourselves. As we all know with great work comes great responsibility & with it comes respect and reward. But while I was teaching in Jamshedpur I was stunned when my hard work, devotion and patience was repaid by appointment as the class teacher of 5th standard. Being a teacher of senior section this came to me as an insult with many questions in my mind I went to the principal and enquired whether it's a reward or a punishment; to which he answered that we'll talk about this in the next session.

I was misguided by many of the colleges that this in the humiliation of the principal to let you down this mixed reaction of the work place made me rethink and reevaluate my dedication towards my profession as a teacher.

Knowing that the next morning would come to me as a challenge, whole night was spent in restlessness. I kept on thinking whether it was a progression or retrogression; and then I decided of not going with the mind that spoke of quitting and I took the decision of accepting the worst, unaware of the fact that it will come to me as reward.

The next morning I went to the class where I couldn't find even a single thing at its place. The furniture were broken, the blades of the fan were folded so it didn't worked, the pane of the window were broken and all of 60 students were sitting on the floor with no light & ventilation facility in the class.

I was already told by my colleagues that the class is a conundrum and then I realized that this would be an extremely courageous experience to teach notoriously gusty type of children.

On the black board an image of Suparna Sinha was drawn with skeleton which was a representation of the teacher to a skeleton. Another caption on the black board said "we are dead souls; beware of us" The students described class, 5th as the haunted place. So, I started them keep over the gently place. Genius or impossible. Somewhere down the line I knew punishment want work with them, so I started taking the first class then way. I appreciated the drawing in the blackboard and told them that whom so even has drawn it can become an artist and having a knowledge of biology too. Setting them free I asked them to have their Tiffin & being a teacher I slowly and gradually increased my interaction with the students. I talked to them about the nutritional value of the food they brought to the School as per the chapter of the prescribed syllabus. Third or fourth day when I went to the class with the thought of teaching; I reached to the chalk bon which was kept upside down. As I turned it right a frog jumped on me. With many such notorious activities, the intimation between me and the students took the shape of a strong bonding. With more interaction I realized that over the course of time the children have developed an overlay of fear, anger, envy, insecurity and many other negative thought for themselves and the surrounding (i.e. the school authority) and these feelings had covered the beautiful inner nature of the children. I believe this outer coming was intensified and reinforced on them by the negative thoughts of the teachers who previously taught them.

Hate and prejudice can lead to incredible violence and pain where love is the consolation for all pain. I believe that one does not acquire personal standard in the same way he learns alphabets. Standard of teaching behavior are absorbed as we observe the example set by everyone around us, whether it be the seniors or colleagues. Our adoptions to those standards are ultimately unique to us as an individual.

Coming back to the children anger, insecurity, guilt and self doubt made them forget what they actually were and then I worked on them with love, balance, peace, compassion, forgiveness and faith. As a teacher my greatest task was to bring back the confidence by removing those negative and harmful emotions and attitude that plagued their lives by clearing and polishing away the outer overlay to discover the true diamonds which was hidden under the tar.

This helped in the identification of the hidden potential and then I started working on their strength by conducting various quiz programmes, art and painting

competitions and creative activities. I got satisfied when the other teachers also appreciated the hard work of the students and then I felt that I was a step ahead in my career.

At last the biggest day for the honour of teacher "Teacher's Day" came when all the 60 students turned up to celebrate it. After the celebration was over in the school the student came to me with the gift which I refused to accept. I told them, for me the biggest gift would be their result. After the school I went back home and at around 4 pm my maid came up to me and informed me that few students are waiting on the road to see me. As I reached for them a boy named Manish came up with the gift and requested me to listen why they are presenting me this particular gift. He said, "Ma'am this a wall clock for you. All the 60 points denoting 60 minutes of the time is the representation of 60 students. Second hand is you, minute hand denotes other teachers and an hour hand is our Principal. Being a second hand of the clock you watched us every second.

The explanation was beyond my imagination that left me speechless. He requested me to put the wall clock in my bed room so that they'll be in my memory always and be blessed whenever I see the time.

This batch was one of the most brilliant batch from which a total of 15 students were selected in IIT.

After a long time the result was declared and the decision of accepting the challenge was fruitful and came to me as a reward. Every situation or experience leaves an impact on us and this was something that changed the entire concept and I understood that one of our greatest fault is that we prejudge any situation negatively when in anger or under stress. Being judgmental that whatever is happening is wrong and I don't deserve it shows lack of positivity and fear. Instead of worrying about specific outcomes and results we must just do the right thing the right way reach out unselfishly, hope for the best were hope is fine and expectation is not, because when expectation is present, disappointment is always lurking nearby. Whether it be in personal life or professionally one must understand that preoccupying with result creates unnecessary anxiety, fear and unhappiness.

The anxiety of our performance, what if our performance doesn't measure up? What if I fail, what will others thing. This is how harshly we judge ourselves. The fear relates to the loss of the desired goal or object. If we fail, we are convinced we will not get what we want, but instead we should focus on the completion of the task by choosing the right path with a right state of mind.

I have also learned that sometimes even the smallest thing can mean the most. Security in the relationship comes from the present loving actions. All of us need to receive love as well as to give love and we must try to communicate without criticism, without judgment and without any intension to hurt or harm. It is safe to love completely, without holding back. You can never be truly rejected. It is only when the ego is involved that we feel bruised and vulnerable. Love itself is absolute. Reaching out with love to help others without concern for what you may game. Whether we reach out to a few or many is not important, the numbers do not matter but the act of reaching out with caring does.

Gender Sensitization

Gender Sensitization claims the modification of the behavior of the parent or the teachers towards the children. In this regard gender equality cannot be neglected. It should be made clear that sex and gender are two different things often confused as one. Sex refers to the biological difference (male & female), where as Gender refers to the socially constructed roles and responsibilities of women and men. As per the role of a teacher my greatest achievement would be when I love my children beyond the social, economical, educational and sectional segregation and treat each other equally. Education is beyond sex, beyond hormonal changed and no biological barriers can bound it. Being a teacher means renouncing violence, hate, dominance and anger and always coming up every time with acceptance, compassion, hope, faith and cooperation. Whether it be a boy or a girl, both have positive as well as negative tendencies like boys are suppose to be aggressive, over ambitious and outspoken, on the contrary girls are peace makers , modest and soft spoken. It is the duty of the teacher to make them learn to overcome the entire negative biological tendencies in order to manifest our true spiritual nature completely.

Conclusion

Justifying the profession I must conclude with my own thought that wrong fabrication in childhood results into a disaster which brings immense pain to self and the society as well. Role of a teacher is just like weaver or potter. I, now feel proud to be a weaver of lives.

Acknowledgement:-

My first thanks to Mrs. Partima Upadhyay(My school teacher) who taught me to love this world with all the even and odds. I am also thankful to my father Late Dr. Shiv Kumar Narayan who developed passion towards literature and culture of our Nation.

I would like to express my deep gratitude to Dr. Kaushal Kishore Sharma (retired Professor Jamshedpur Co operative College, Dept. of Zoology) who enhanced my knowledge at college level.

A very warm thanks to Ms. Neha Singh who has been a great help in writing this article.

Finally I wish to thank all my loving students who gave me such experiences and made me what I am.

Abstract:-

The abstract is all about experiences with the students where I felt my heart is in their hands. It is because of the long association of years with the students, because me and my students learnt together, because we often broke and bound with each other.

Gathering my experiences, coming across qualities of the students I really survived my life with full contentment as the year went on, my students became more and more intrigued which was the at most achievement of me being a teacher.

Introduction:-

Principal Jeevandeep Public School, Baralalpur, Chandmari, Post – Lamahi, Varanasi – 221007.

Born and brought up in Jamshedpur.

- Schooling from DM Madan Girls Highschool, Jamshedpur
- Graduation (B.Sc.) and Post Graduation (M.Sc. Zoology) from Ranchi University
- B.Ed. from Kolkata.
- I belong to an educational family where my grandfather was a teacher in govt. school, maternal grandmother was a gold medalist at matriculation level. Father was a Professor in Jamshedpur Workers' College and mother served Tata Steel School as a teacher.

DECLARATION OF AUTHENTICITY

I, the undersigned, Suparna Sinha, declare that this dissertation is my original work, gathered and utilized especially to fulfill the purpose and objectives of this study and has not been previously submitted to any other journal for publication. I also declare that the publications cited in this work have been personally consulted.

Signature

Date

Name in Block