

Qualities of a Successful Teacher

In the words of **Joad**, "*Teaching is not everybody's cup of tea.*" To become a teacher, book learning, passing the examination and the ability to instruct are not enough. He should possess a sterling character and certain physical, intellectual, social and emotional qualities which are per-requisite for success in teaching.

Essential Qualities for a Successful Teacher

1. Teacher's Character : A flower in bloom is loved by all and in this lies its glory. Similarly, man may be viewed as having achieved everything in life when he becomes perfect in character. In the best flowers among making take to teaching, society is abundantly enriched, their fragrance and beauty are then made the best use of. If the teacher becomes an embodiment of right conduct in thought, word and deed, the students by their association will learn virtue and develop manly qualities. They can be humanized and can live and act like normal human beings. They can become thoughtful, concerned and courageous.

2. Teacher's Personality : Every teacher must have a good personality. Radiant, pleasing and impressive personal appearance, refinement, pleasant manners, industry, enthusiasm, drive, initiative, open mindedness, etc., are some of the essential traits of an ideal teacher. External appearance has a psychological effect

upon the students. By attractive appearance he can win the love and affection of his students and can command respect. He should be frank, tolerant, kind, fair and straight forward so that he can stimulate learning.

3. Teacher's Mental Health : We speak of education as a lamp lighting another lamp, one life making another life and a spirit speaking to another spirit. We can achieve this objective, if the teachers have good mental health. Students develop interest in those subjects, which are taught by pleasing and genial teachers. The teacher makes the emotional atmosphere in the classroom. A neurotic teacher may spread fear, nervousness and worry in the classroom. A fanatic-teacher may spread hatred, prejudice and hostile feelings among the students. If he has a good mental health, he can create love, interest and enthusiasm for learning and a taste in the subject he teaches.

4. Teacher's Physical Health : A teacher should possess a sound body along with a sound mind. He should have a sound physical health, physical energy, vitality and he should be free from physical defects. This will make him alert, cheerful, happy, dynamic and enthusiastic. He can maintain emotional stability.

5. Teacher's Social Adjustment : Sociability is another important quality of a teacher. He should have a sound social philosophy and he should make his best contribution to the society. He should know how to adjust himself to the social surroundings in which he lives. He should not be quiet, retreating and introverted. He should be free from worry, anxiety and thinking and feeling about himself. He should mix well in society to have a large body of friends and to take a helpful interest in his neighbours. Normal social life outside the school will go a long way to give him happy social adjustments.

6. Teacher's Professional Efficiency : A teacher must possess a strong sense of vocation and true devotion towards teaching. He should have a genuine love for his calling. For his professional efficiency, he should have knowledge of physiology, educational philosophy, aims, contents, methods and materials of instruction, skill and interest in teaching. He must possess a fair knowledge of current affairs about his own country and other countries of the world.

7. Teacher's Academic Achievements : A teacher should possess knowledge of the fundamentals of the subjects he teaches. He should have a sound academic and cultural background.

A teacher must have the required professional training; without which he will commit serious pedagogical blunders. **Prof. Montague** in his book, "*Education and Human Relations*", asserts that, "*No one should ever be permitted to become a teacher of the young unless by temperament, attitudes and training, he is fitted to do so.*" Teaching is no doubt a profession. A man, it is essential that he should undergo necessary training to know the art of teaching. Thus for a successful teacher, sound academic achievement and professional training are highly essential.