

VII Desired Qualities of Economics Teacher ✓

A teacher occupies an important place in the present-day educational system. He is like a role model for students. His personality has direct influence on his students' personality. He should have all those qualities which a good citizen should have :

1. Knowledge of Economics : A teacher can influence his students only when he possesses exhaustive knowledge of his subject. Students respect such teachers, so a teacher should not give up his studies and should continue to improve his knowledge and qualifications. He should remain a student all his life. If he does not do it, his knowledge of the subject will be limited, and he will not be able to guide his students. An economics teacher should possess the knowledge of not only economics, but also geography, history, mathematics and agriculture etc.

2. Impressive Personality : Success of a teacher depends on his personality to a great deal. Three things are essential for a good personality : (a) good physical constitution, (b) good moral character, and (c) administrative capability. These aspects of personality have profound impact on students, as they receive good habits, good character and other ideals from the teacher. A teacher should be equipped with such qualities as sympathy, patience, self-control, self-confidence, and he should be able to remain unprejudiced to his students. He should also have abilities of organisation, guidance, counselling, motivation etc.

3. Practical Knowledge of Psychology : The present educational system is based on psychological principles. So an economics teacher should have the knowledge

of psychology in general and child psychology in particular. This helps him in understanding his students well, and he obtains the knowledge of his students' interests, tendencies, aptitudes, attitudes, abilities etc. Education should be child-centred, so a teacher should know different systems of education, like kindergarten, Montessori, Dalton and project methods etc. He should also know about latest methods of teaching, techniques of teaching and teaching aids.

4. Training : Training is needed by a teacher to learn the art of teaching. It is necessary to make his teaching effective and impressive. Because, economics is a wide subject, so students' previous knowledge should be linked to new knowledge, and this task cannot be accomplished without training. It helps him know the principles of coordination and correlation, and it becomes easy for him to systematize learning. *Secondly*, he comes to know of modern methods and techniques of teaching, which he can use during the course of teaching. Thus, we can say that training is sine qua non for an economics teacher.

5. Sympathy and Liberality : Sympathy and affection are two means of conquering others' hearts, and the love got as such remains lifelong. It also results in good discipline. Discipline should not be based on repression, it should be emancipationistic. It should be based on sympathy, love, knowledge and personality. So, a liberal outlook should be adopted. Students' well-being cannot be possible without it. So, a teacher should be sympathetic and liberal.

6. Power of Control : Teaching work cannot be undertaken without suitable discipline. It is essential in the class for effective teaching. It cannot be maintained in the class if a teacher is not capable to maintain it. The three measures of control are punishment, personality and knowledge. Punishment or repression is the lowest as discipline maintained by it is short-term, while knowledge and personality are the best ones and result into long-term discipline. A teacher can control his class if he comes on time, does not waste his time in meaningless blabber, prepares well for teaching and never postpone his work.

7. Practical Knowledge : Economics is a social subject, so a teacher should possess its practical knowledge. It is on the basis of it that he can acquaint his students with practical importance of principles of economics. Without it, he will not be able to deal with the topics well. He should also be capable of treating his students well, it will help him become popular with students.

8. Character : In Indian tradition, a man with high moral character is respected. If a teacher possesses it, he is highly respected by his students, else he is looked down upon. Therefore, a teacher should possess a high moral character.

9. Dutifulness : A teacher should be faithful and loyal to his duty. He should not take his work as an occupation only, rather he should be devoted to it. He cannot become a successful teacher if he is not faithful to it. It should not be looked at from profession viewpoint. He should teach well, and cooperate his students in their enrichment.

10. Knowledge of Economic Problems : Economics is a social subject, and the society is dynamic. An economics teacher has to tackle several economic problems in the changing scenario, so he should possess latest knowledge about prevailing economic problems, and he should possess a vision how to tackle them, only then

he can be able to satisfy his students' curiosity. Without this knowledge, his learning will be considered half-cooked, and he will be counted as a failed teacher.

EXERCISE