

Essential Professional Qualities and Skills of an Effective and Modern Teacher

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Abstract Identification of qualities and skills of an ideal teacher in the current modern world has been a significant concern across the globe. The reason for this assertion is that the education sector is typically associated with many advancements, such as the use of technology to educate the students. Besides, education holds a pivotal role in empowering students to be fit to handle the challenges of the world. Teachers play a significant role in empowering students. As a result, they should possess qualities and skills that will enable them to relate with the students and foster the development of social and technical skills among the students. The primary aim of this research is to identify the qualities and skills that are regarded as essential to a modern teacher. One of the key findings of this particular research is that the pedagogical knowledge, as well as the personal traits and beliefs of a teacher, are the essential factors to consider when identifying an ideal teacher. The quality of a teacher is critical in the sense that it is associated with the quality of education.

Keywords: *modern teacher qualifications, pedagogical knowledge, characteristics of teachers, professional knowledge, teachers' personal traits*

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1. Introduction

Education is the process of acquisition of knowledge as well as instruction, especially in schools. It involves the transfer of skills and knowledge from the teacher to the students. Moreover, the main goal of schools across the globe is to ensure that the performance of the students is exemplary. To achieve this goal, the schools must ensure that the schools have competent teachers who can relate well with the students and impart knowledge [1]. The schools should ensure that the students enjoy equal opportunities so that they can be motivated to learn. Besides, in the current modern world, schools are associated with significant changes as compared to the past. These challenges include multicultural co-existence, the use of technology in the education process, as well as the evolution of the science curriculum. These changes have resulted in problems for the teachers since they are expected to renew their knowledge regularly to adapt to the changes.

Also, the modern world is evolving in every aspect of human life, including social, economic as well as technological. As a result, policymakers, educationist, and teachers experience complex problems [2]. Moreover, it is perceived that the economic well-being of society typically relies on the quality of education in that particular society. The quality of education relies on the quality of the teachers in the society. Every individual is

aware of the role that the teachers play in ensuring the academic excellence of the students. Teachers not only teach the students to perform in class but also to be dedicated and committed to solving the challenges of the modern day world. This begs the question of what attributes are essential for a modern teacher? The answer to this question is based on the role of a teacher in preparing the students to cope with the challenges of the modern day world. An ideal modern teacher should be committed to impart soft skills to the students as well as set meaningful goals to the students. The teacher should be motivated to meet the needs of every student at every level to ensure that the students meet their goals. Besides, modern teachers should motivate their students through their professional qualities as well as their personal attributes, skills as well as their beliefs [2]. The personal qualities of a modern teacher include but are not limited to adaptability as well as confidence.

1.1. Teachers Preparation

Teaching is not an easy job, and for this reason, teachers should be well prepared to perform their roles effectively. The teacher education programs are typically tailored in a manner that balances research-based knowledge with practical, theoretical knowledge as well as world techniques [3]. Balance in teacher's education programs is essential in the sense that it will ensure that the teachers will be well prepared to teach the students. Besides, the teacher's education programs provide the

teachers with tools as well as the necessary skills required to begin a teaching career. The programs are tailored in a way that teachers will have the opportunity to spend time in real classrooms. This is important since it ensures that the teachers will become conversant with the teaching styles that will work effectively for them.

1.2. Research Questions

The following research questions guided this research;

1. What are the essential professional knowledge and skills of modern teachers?
2. What are the essential personal traits, attributes as well as beliefs of a modern teacher?
3. What skills are deemed essential to modern teachers and can help the teachers to perform their didactic and pedagogical duties effectively?
4. What should the individuals staffing schools consider as essential qualifications that can guarantee the effectiveness of teachers in performing their duties?

1.3. Research Objectives

The research questions are essential in the sense that they aid in identifying the aim as well as the objective of the research. Also, research questions will ensure that the general purpose of particular research is consciously defined. The research objective should be realistic. It should regard what is achievable. In this case, the research was designed to assess the qualities as well as skills deemed essential for a modern teacher. The general objective of the research is to identify the benefits of having effective teachers in school and what should school staffing boards consider while selecting teachers. Moreover, the research has a specific objective, which is to explore the main reasons that call for having an ideal teacher. The specific objective is essentials since it ensures that an individual gains insight that is useful as well as relevant to complete the research. It indicates the topics as well as the issues that will be investigated to achieve the comprehensive research of the study.

2. Literature Review

Over the past years, the notion of teacher's qualifications that will ensure they effectively perform their didactic as well as pedagogical duties has been a major concern across the globe [4]. Besides, there have been arguments about the qualities and skills that render teachers fit for the current modern world. Individuals posit that ideal modern teachers are motivated and will invest their time into their students to ensure that they meet their personal goals. Others argue that with the evolvement of technology, ideal modern teachers are those that have the ability to use technology in teaching. Teachers should be able to pass knowledge, convey the truth as well as clarify doubts that the students might have. Ideal teachers should act as role models to inspire their students.

Moreover, effective teachers have been associated with qualities such as confident, systematic, professional,

intelligent, regular as well as active [5]. Effective teachers should have the ability to organize and manage a classroom. Ideal teachers should be able to plan as well as understand their students to gain an insight into the direction of their students. They should adopt teaching techniques that are in line with the direction of their students to ensure that they can impact knowledge to their students. Even though a lot has been said about the qualities of an ideal teacher, the review of relevant literature has indicated that ideal teachers should have a wide range of qualifications.

However, the characteristics of effective teachers can be reviewed based on two main characteristics. These characteristics include professional and personality traits [2]. Personality traits are characteristics that are congenital to an individual or characteristics that might have developed from certain life experiences. According to research, the personality traits that makeup teachers go a long way in determining the effectiveness of the teachers in performing their roles. Besides, it is crucial to have professional teachers since students are typically affected by the quality of their teachers. The reason for this assertion is that the students interact with the teachers in the classroom. A professional teacher will ensure quality interaction with the students and strive to meet the need of every student in the classroom.

2.1. Professional Qualities

Professional qualities are typically the professional skills that a teacher possesses. These qualities are essential in the sense that they enable teachers to teach the students effectively. Professional qualities form a base for quality interaction between the students and the teacher. Professional qualities can be cognitive skills, learned skills as well as psychomotor skills [2]. Examples of psychomotor skills include the ability to the operator a computer in teaching as well as the use of multimedia. Also, professional qualities include the aspects of an effective EFL teacher such as being trained, knowledgeable as well as proficient. Besides, the body of knowledge that can be used to identify the professional competency of a teacher is very diverse. It is made up of various knowledge fields

2.1.1. Self-Knowledge

Self-knowledge refers to the knowledge of the teachers to their sensation, beliefs as well as other mental states. It is associated with how the teachers view their responsibilities, roles, philosophy, values, working conditions, professional development, as well as their training and development [2]. Self-Knowledge is typically connected to the professional development of a teacher. The professional development of a teacher is contributed by key aspects including reflection of the teacher, learning through teaching as well as the working condition of the teacher. It is asserted that the manner in which the teachers perceive their role plays a vital role in the effectiveness of the teachers. It also holds a vital role in how the teachers will use their knowledge and the methodologies that they will use to teach their students.

2.1.2. Knowledge of Context

Knowledge of context refers to the ability of teachers to evaluate the context that they teach and act accordingly. Teachers can implement certain research findings as well as principles to aid them in the interpretation of the context that they teach [2]. Moreover, ideal teachers are expected to use different strategies and techniques in different situations to gain a vast knowledge of the context.

Also, knowledge of context necessitates that modern teachers are knowledgeable on the environment as well as the circumstances in which they work. This implies that modern teachers should be aware of the state, region as well as the school which they teach. Besides, the teachers should be knowledgeable about their students and their backgrounds. Teachers should be aware of the education system, the administrative structure of education as well as the management and organization of the school unit.

2.1.3. Knowledge of Students

Ideal modern teachers should be aware of the biological, physiological as well as social knowledge of their students. The teachers should assess the cognitive development of the student and their level of understanding. Such knowledge of the students will ensure that the teachers adopt effective techniques to ensure that they transfer knowledge to the students. The modern teachers should be knowledgeable about how the students interact with each other in groups, what motivates the students, their learning difficulties as well as behavioral problems.

2.1.4. Pedagogical Knowledge

Ideal modern teachers should have the essential knowledge that will ensure that they have the ability to create as well as facilitate effective learning and teaching environments to the students [6]. This can be achieved by organizing the classroom, motivating the students, and ensuring that the students are focused on achieving their goals. Pedagogical knowledge is essential in the sense that it will help in improving the performance of the students. The reason for this assertion is that the knowledge will ensure that the quality of teaching is improved. Moreover, this knowledge helps the teachers to plan how they will conduct their teaching. According to research, quality teaching enhances students' gain. As a result, the performance of the students will improve.

2.1.5. Subject Knowledge

Subject knowledge refers to the actual knowledge that teachers are required to have to teach a particular subject. For instance, for a teacher to teach physics, the teacher is expected to have thorough knowledge in all the major concepts of physics. According to research, ideal modern teachers should have the ability to approach the subject which they teach with specific questions such as how the subjects relate to social norms, what is the value of the subject as well as the social issues associated with the subject. Besides, an ideal teacher should be in a position to ensure that the students do not misinterpret any of the concepts in the subject. They should use all the crucial procedures that could guide the student in the acquisition of skills and knowledge connected to the subject.

Moreover, an ideal teacher should develop a holistic approach on a subject so as to be effective in teaching that particular subject.

2.1.6. Curriculum Knowledge

The curriculum is typically the lessons or academic content that is being taught in school or a specific program. The ideal modern teachers should have the ability to apply theoretical principles in the implementation of a particular curriculum model. For this reason, the teachers should be aware of the textbooks that they will use, the curriculum, rules as well as the laws of the education system as a unit. Further, ideal modern teachers should critically approach the curriculum. A critical approach will ensure that the teachers can effectively plan the content that they will teach. Also, it will ensure that teachers meet the needs of the curriculum.

2.1.7. Knowledge of the Method of Teaching

The modern teachers should be knowledgeable on all the teaching methods that can be used to facilitate the understanding of the students [2]. Besides, teachers should choose the teaching method that meets the needs of all students. To ensure that the teaching methods that they are using are effective, the teachers should conduct a survey from the students to know which methods promote understanding. The teachers can evaluate the performance of the students to determine the teaching method that is associated with excellent results. Moreover, ideal modern teachers should be able to arrange content in thematic units. Also, they should be able to transform teaching materials into teachable knowledge. They should have teaching goals and effective plans that will ensure that they meet their teaching goals. This will enhance their performance in their teaching roles and responsibilities.

2.2. Personal Qualities

The personal qualities of a teacher typically refer to the traits associated with the professional role as well as the responsibilities of the teacher [7]. These roles can be developed and natured through training and education. Such traits include confidence, adaptability, and a global mindset. Moreover, the qualities relate to the belief as well as the attitude of the teachers towards their role. The personal qualities are essential in the sense that they can impact how teachers conduct their roles, how they comprehend and evaluate the teaching knowledge that they acquire. Personal attributes can affect the commitment of teachers toward performing their duties. For instance, teachers who have a positive attitude are always committed to perform their duties and ensure that they meet the demands of every student in the classroom.

Besides, teachers that are learning-oriented will set high goals for their students and implement ways that they will use to assist the students in achieving the set goals. A teacher who have an interest in the personal life of the students will monitor the student and have high expectations for the students. Also, a teacher should be trustworthy as well as able to interact with other individuals. The reason for this assertion is that teaching typically involves interaction with the students [7]. As a result, teachers can interact well with the student. Quality

interaction is typically related to quality teaching. Moreover, quality teaching results in good student performance. This implies that the personal qualities of teachers not only ensures that the teachers perform their roles effectively but also ensures that the general performance of the students improves. The personal qualities of a teacher are made up of various character traits.

2.2.1. Confidence

An ideal modern teacher should be confident. The reason for this is that confidence will improve how the teachers perform their roles. Moreover, students have the ability to notice that a teacher is not confident. In such cases, the teacher will experience class management challenges. Even though teachers may lack confidence, there are various means that can aid in boosting the confidence of the teachers. One of the effective ways ideal teachers can boost their confidence is by realizing their strengths [8]. After realizing their strengths, teachers should use their strengths to their advantage and ensure that they use the strengths to overcome their negative thoughts as well as perception.

2.2.2. Desire to Learn

Learning is typically associated with adaptability. Ideal modern teachers are expected to value learning as a lifelong process. Even though the teachers educate their students, they should find the time and learn new skills and concepts that may aid them in performing their roles. Moreover, as a teacher, there are always new things to learn. The reason for this assertion is that the education system is typically associated with changes; hence, a teacher must learn new skills in managing the changes. In the current modern world, teachers who value learning and are always learning new things tend to succeed and progress as compared to the teachers who do not learn.

2.2.3. Adaptability

In the current modern world, ideal teachers are expected to be adaptable as well as flexible [9]. They should be able to adapt as well as adjust to changes that may affect how they perform their roles. This may be changes in the education system, curriculum as well as context. Besides, teachers may be assigned new roles in areas where they lack past knowledge. Despite this, ideal modern teachers are expected to assume the roles without complaining and learn how to perform the new roles. Moreover, new technologies may be introduced. Modern teachers should always be prepared to use the new technology.

2.2.4. Listening Skills

An ideal modern teacher should be a good listener. This is essential since it will ensure that the teacher is able to listen to the students. Besides, there will be effective communication among the teachers and the students. The reason for this assertion is that when the teachers listen to the students, they actively involved in communication with the students. Communication is an important factor since it enhances the effectiveness of the interaction between the student and the teacher. Moreover, ideal

modern teachers should use their listening skills to evaluate the understanding of the student. For instance, teachers should ask their students contextual questions then actively listen to how they will respond. Teachers with superior listening skills are effective compared to teachers who lack proper listening skills.

3. Research Methodology

3.1. Research Background Statement

Research methodologies are crucial because they play a significant role in how research or a project is done. As a result, it is essential to select the right research methodologies since it will ensure that the key goal of the research is achieved [10]. The typical steps associated with research methodology ensure that the researcher examines and understands the major necessities of the study as well as the problem statement of the precise research. The key goal of this project was to identify the qualities and skills deemed essential for an ideal teacher. Moreover, the research will make use of secondary resources. The resources will be analyzed with the key aim of determining the personal attributes and professional skills a modern teacher should possess.

3.2. Overall Research Design

3.2.1. Research Approach

This particular research paper utilized the deductive research approach method. A hypothesis is developed on the essential personality traits, attributes as well as beliefs of a modern teacher. It is important to note that the above hypothesis is based on secondary data that exist on the research topic. Data that was collected by other authors concerning the skills and qualities of an ideal teacher is re-analyzed to address the issue of how the teachers can use their skills to ensure they promote excellent learning outcomes from their students. Also, the paper used quantitative methods. A quantitative approach is typically deductive. Moreover, a quantitative approach is crucial because it helped in identifying reliable sources used for this particular research paper.

3.2.2. Research Design

This particular research paper utilizes a deductive research approach. In this case, secondary sources used will be analyzed to identify the skill and qualities of ideal teachers in the current modern world. Moreover, quantitative research was implemented in this research. The method was essential in the sense that it aids in instituting a connection between various variables. Also, the method ensured that it was possible to approach this research from different perspectives. A deductive approach was crucial in this research since it provides the opportunity to evaluate the relationship of the variables from the different secondary sources used in the research. This was essential since it aids in determining the characteristics of ideal teachers and their adaptability to the rapid changes experienced in the curriculum, context as well as technology.

3.2.3. Research Strategy

Each research strategy should be unique when conducting research. This implies that a researcher should not use similar approaches or procedures when conducting new research [10]. The primary aim of conducting research is to find the answers to the research question. Moreover, the research question forms the base upon which the research was conducted. It is important for a researcher to identify the type of information that will be used in the research to aid in fulfilling the research objectives.

A deductive approach was used in the research where secondary sources, as well as facts on the qualities and skills of modern teachers, formed the base for the research. Moreover, the data available was analyzed to fulfill the key goals of the research. The research strategy for this study acted as a guide for the research. It was an effective strategy since it helped in identifying the methods of collecting and analyzing data for this particular research. Choosing the right research strategy is crucial since it will facilitate as well as ensure that the research is conducted effectively.

3.2.4. Research Instrument

Research instruments are the set of the method used to gather essential information as well as data that will be used for the research. There are various research instruments for collecting data used in research. The type of instrument selected typically relies on the nature of research. In this research, the instruments used include journal articles, as well as books on qualities of a modern ideal teacher, were used. Besides, the advantage of using the above-mentioned research instruments is that they are readily available as well as easily accessible. As a result, they do not consume much time. Besides, the instruments provide empirical evidence. This ensures that the research is typically based on accurate data as well as facts.

3.2.5. Sampling Plan

The research paper involved the analysis of secondary resources on the qualities and skills of ideal modern teachers. The primary purpose of the analysis was to establish a base upon which the research paper can be done. In such a case, sampling helped in assigning the secondary sources in the particular groups that they will be researched. Sampling is important since it makes it easy for researchers to start the research process.

3.2.6. Data Types and Methods of Collecting Data

Research is important since it is guided by valuable data. However, the type of data is an important factor to consider when conducting research. Also, it is essential to consider the techniques that will be used to identify as well as collect the data for the research. In this research, the data was collected from books and journal articles.

Moreover, the data was obtained from relevant information sources. The method used to collect data for the research was effective. The reason for this assertion is that the sources provide access to a wealth of information about ideal modern teachers. Also, I gave a conscious view of the education sector and the role the teachers hold in the education system.

3.3. Research Ethics

Research ethics is maintained when a researcher upholds ethical values during research [11]. Ethical values and principles include the design of the project as well as the moral conduct of an individual during research. Besides, a researcher is said to have maintained integrity if the research has a positive attitude and follows all the appropriate ethical, legal as well as professional framework. Every research project is associated with certain ethical standards that a researcher should uphold while doing research.

In this case, there is the certain ethical standard that had to uphold while conducting the research. These ethical considerations include access to reliable resources on the qualities and skills of ideal modern teachers. Besides, the use of credible resources is essential since it ensures that the research objective is effectively met.

3.4. Research Barriers and Limitations

Generally, research is typically associated with challenges that may impact the quality of research. The major barrier in this research is the implementation of a deductive approach. This method was used because it was in line with the key goals of the research. Even though this project used this method, the information used in the research is not biased.

4. Results

Didactic training, as well as subject knowledge, are regarded as the essential qualifications of effective teachers in the current modern world. Ideal modern teachers use a didactic approach to teach their students. This method is effective as it enhances the ability of the teachers to impart knowledge to the students. Besides, sufficient knowledge on the subject that a teacher teaches is essential. The reason for this is that the teacher can impart knowledge on the same subjects using various approaches that will facilitate the understanding of students. Also, the personal traits of teachers, continuous training, as well as pedagogical training, are key factors to consider while evaluating the effectiveness of modern teachers. A study on factors that enhances the effectiveness of an ideal modern teacher revealed these factors as crucial, as shown in the Table 1.

Table 1. Factors that enhances the effectiveness of ideal modern teachers [2]

	N	Not very / Only slightly	Average	Very important / quite important
Knowledge of teaching subject	711	0.5%	8%	91.5%
Didactic training	697	1.1%	10.5%	88.4%
Pedagogical training	702	1.5%	10.5%	88%
Continuous learning	694	1.7%	22.3%	76%
Personality traits	692	2.3%	22.8%	74.9%

Further, teaching is typically associated with various challenges as a result of the changes experienced in the education sector. The pedagogical skills of teachers are essential in this case since it can enable them to manage the challenges. According to a survey conducted on teachers, 50% of the teachers reported that they solved the challenges they experienced during teaching using pedagogical skills, practices, and techniques [2]. A smaller percentage of the teachers revealed that they did not use their pedagogical skills to deal with the challenges. Besides, ideal modern teachers should have the ability to discuss issues that tend to affect their students. They can discuss with the students, their parents, as well as the school heads. The survey conducted revealed that the teachers use discussion as a way of dealing with the challenges they experience performing their roles. Table 2 below contains the results of the survey:

Table 2. How teachers deal with the challenges associated with teaching [2]

	Classroom heterogeneity	Lack of learning motivation	Behavioral problems	Learning difficulties	Lack of co-operation
Refer to qualities and personality traits	2.8%	1.6%	12.9%	8.7%	12.3%
Refer to pedagogical and didactic skills and techniques	53%	55.1%	40.4%	41.2%	9%
Refer to professional development practices	1.4%	0.4%	4.1%	9.2%	2.3%
Discussions / Conferences	1.8%	12.6%	55%	6.2%	24.9%
General references, actions with no prior theoretical basis, wrong actions	40.6%	31.8%	17.3%	31.5%	46.4%
Lack of action / Do not consider to be their problem / refer problem to others	3.8%	3.8%	3.1%	16.2%	19.5%

5. Discussion and Conclusion

The quality and skills of modern teachers not only rely on their professional skills and competence but also relies on personal characteristics. Besides, the personal trait of teachers are the key factors used to determine whether the teachers will effectively complete their roles. Teachers should be adaptable to the changes experienced in the education system as well as the curriculum. Such changes include technological changes. Ideal teachers should be

able to use new methods of technology to teach their students.

Even though the personal attributes of the teachers are essential in ensuring that they perform their roles, there are other challenges that require the professional skills of the teachers. Professional skills hold a pivotal role in the manner in which teachers perform their duties. The skills are essential in the sense that they will ensure that a teacher can plan work effectively to facilitate the better understanding of the students.

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Conflict of Interests

The author declares no conflict of interests.

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