

Exploring the Role of Teachers in Changing Educational Scenario from Teacher Centric to Child Centric Education

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ABSTRACT

Education is the key for the growth and development of any nation and teachers are also the backbone of any education system. Teachers are responsible for the holistic development of students. Overall holistic development cannot be achieved in a single day, it requires professional skills and patience of teachers to inculcate all necessary skills in students. Making such capable and skilful teachers is a challenge for every education system, especially in India where Bachelor of Education do not hold much importance among masses. For the past few decades the number of teacher training institutions has increased drastically, but their quality of teacher training decreased even more drastically. Earlier teachers were the centre of education in the classroom, almost every policy and guideline were totally focused on teachers for education. But with changing time and education scenario, are policy makers realise this mistake and begin to focus on 'Child Centric Education'. Even during Covid-19 lockdown the role of teachers changed drastically. New education policy 2020, also focuses on Childs and education. This paper tries to analyse the role of teachers in this changing educational scenario, whether the teachers are able to achieve the goal of child centric education or not.

Keywords: *Child Centric Education, Covid-19, NEP2020, Holistic development and Indian Education System*

Education has been the backbone of human society, with teachers traditionally playing a central role in imparting knowledge to students. But with the duration of time the landscape of education has undergone a profound transformation shifted from teacher centric approach to one that places the child at the centre of the learning process that is child centric education. This paradigm shift is not only changing the role of teachers but also redefining the goals and methods of the learning process. For centuries, education has been teacher centric, where the role of teachers to serve as the family source of knowledge and authority learning process. In this traditional method, students were expected to follow the instructions of teachers and passively observe the information delivered by teachers. The teacher's role was that of an expert who delivered knowledge to students and success was often measured by how well students replicate this knowledge in tests and exams. Child centric education recognises the diverse learning needs in the classroom and plans the

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lessons accordingly. In child centric education teachers focus on understanding individual strength, weakness and learning style to tailor instructions accordingly.

This personalization allowed students to develop and progress at their own pace and foster a deeper understanding of the subject matter. In child centric education teachers become facilitators rather than instructors, they guide students in exploring topics, encouraging critical thinking, problem solving and creativity. This approach empowers students to take ownership of their learning journey. Evaluation and assessment in child centric education shift from rote learning, memorization and standardised tests to a more holistic approach.

Objectives of Study

- To highlight the changing role of teachers after Covid-19.
- To study the role of teachers to achieve the goal of child centric education.
- To study the impact of ICT and technology towards child centric education.
- To study the potential of child centric education you achieve holistic development of the children.

METHODOLOGY

This research paper is based on primary data; the data is collected by surveys through a set of questionnaires. The data is collected from teachers of various schools. This paper tries to find out the changing role of teachers and their contribution in child centric education.

Role of teachers towards child centric education

In the ever-evolving landscape of education, the shift towards child-centric learning approaches has gained significant momentum. This transformation places the child at the centre of the educational experience, emphasising their unique needs, interests, and abilities. While this shift requires a collective effort from all stakeholders, teachers play an irreplaceable role in facilitating child-centric education. Child-centric education represents a fundamental departure from traditional teacher-centred methods. It recognizes that every child is a unique learner with distinct strengths, weaknesses, interests, and paces of learning. Child-centric education aims to create a nurturing environment where each child can thrive, not just academically, but also emotionally and socially. Child-centric education involves tailoring teaching methods to suit each child's learning style and pace. Teachers are tasked with identifying these individual traits and adapting their instruction accordingly. This personalised approach ensures that no child is left behind and that every student can reach their full potential. Teachers are responsible for fostering an inclusive classroom where diversity is celebrated. They must create a safe space where every child feels valued and heard, regardless of their background or abilities. This inclusivity extends to accommodating children with special needs, ensuring that they too have access to quality education. Child-centric education places a strong emphasis on nurturing a child's natural curiosity. Teachers encourage questions, exploration, and experimentation. They facilitate discussions that promote critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity, helping students become lifelong learners. Teachers in child-centric education serve as emotional anchors for their students. They recognize the importance of a child's emotional well-being and provide the necessary support and guidance. This includes helping children manage stress, anxiety, and emotional challenges that may arise during their learning journey. Instead of relying solely on traditional exams, teachers in child-centric education employ a variety of assessment methods. They provide constructive feedback to help students understand their strengths and

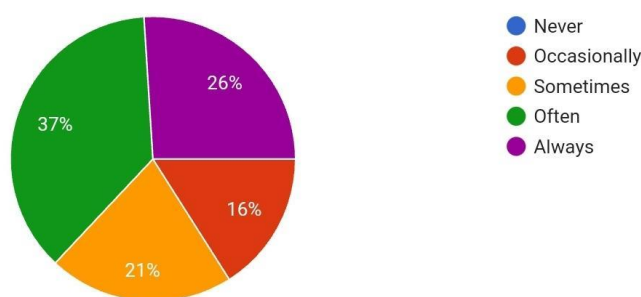
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areas for improvement, encouraging a growth mind-set. Teachers actively engage with parents as partners in their child's education. They communicate regularly, sharing insights into the child's progress, strengths, and areas requiring attention. This collaboration ensures that the child's educational journey is consistent both at home and in the classroom. In a child-centric education system, teachers are also lifelong learners. They continuously update their teaching methods, strategies, and subject knowledge to keep pace with evolving educational trends and the unique needs of each generation of students.

Data Analysis

Q1. To what extent do you engage in personalized learning strategies for students.

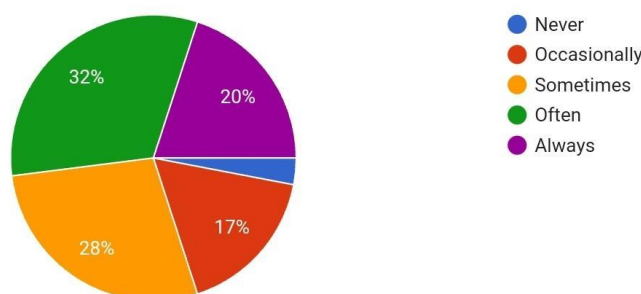
100 responses



Question 1 reflects that about 37% of teachers often personalised their learning strategies for students, 21% of teachers sometimes personalised the learning strategies. Clearly a good sign that most teachers customised and personalised the learning strategies according to the needs of students, this ensured a positive direction towards child and education.

Q2. How frequently do you collaborate with other educators and professionals for professional development.

100 responses

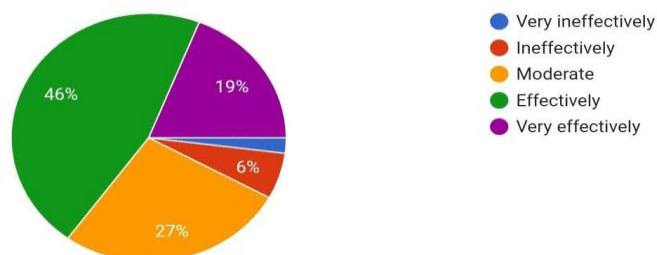


Question 2 reflects that 20% of teachers always, 32% of teachers often and 28% of teachers sometimes collaborate with other educators and professionals for their professional development which will ultimately improve the teaching skills of the teachers. Thus we see that teachers are taking steps to polish their pedagogical and teaching skills.

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Q3. How effectively do you adapt your teaching methods to cater, diverse learning styles and needs in the classroom.

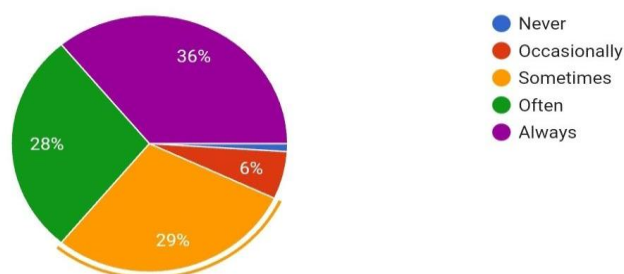
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Question 3 reflects that 46% of teachers effectively adapt various teaching methods to cater, diverse learning styles and needs in the classroom. This is a positive sign that teachers are now shifting the teaching learning process towards child's needs which will ultimately promote child centric education.

Q4. What is the level of your involvement in extra-curricular activities.

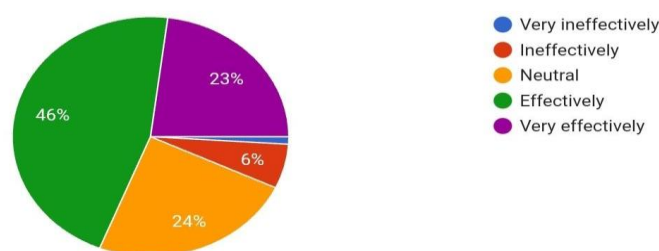
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Extra-curricular activities ensure active participation and learning of students. Question 4 reflects that 36% of teachers are always actively involved in extracurricular activities. This clearly states that more and more teachers are focusing towards extracurricular learning which ultimately focuses on child centric education.

Q5. How effectively do you incorporate project based and experience learning into your curriculum.

100 responses

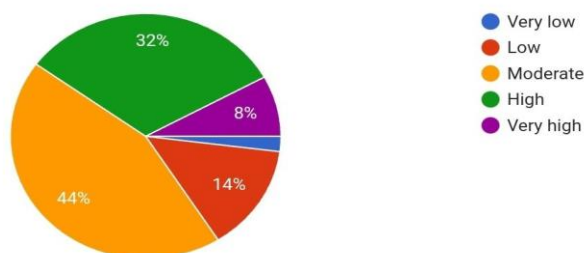


Question 5 reflects that 46% of teachers effectively incorporate project based and experience learning into their curriculum. Project based and experience learning often focuses on a child's need in the learning process. It is clearly a positive sign that more and more teachers believe in experiential learning and they incorporated project based learning into their curriculum.

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Q6. How you perceive your level of autonomy in the classroom.

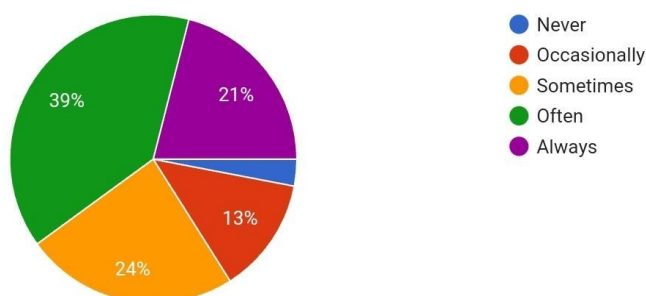
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Question 6 reflects that 44% of teachers have moderate autonomy in the classroom which means teachers still play Central role in the classroom whereas child centric education demands low or minimum autonomy of teachers in the classroom. Although it is not a negative sign, there is a scope of improvement if we really want to achieve child centric education.

Q7. How often do you engage in self directed professional development.

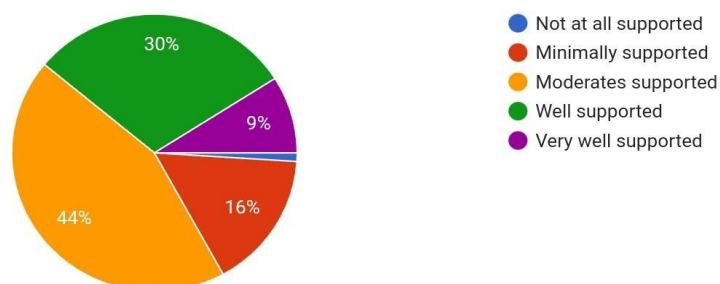
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To achieve the goal of child centric education it is very important that teachers should improve their professional skills. Question 7 reflects that 39% of teachers are engaged towards self directed professional development. Clearly it is a very good sign that more and more teachers are aware that they need to focus on their professional development in this changing educational scenario.

Q8. To what extend do you feel supported by your school administration in adapting to your changing roles.

100 responses

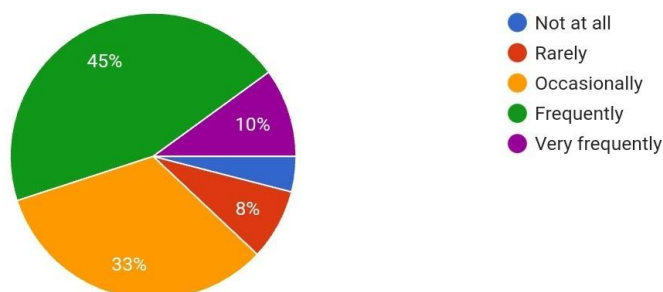


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To achieve the goal of child centric education, the role of teachers is very important but the role of school administration is also important. Every school needs to understand the importance of support and guidance to their teachers so that they can adapt their role in this changing educational scenario. Question 8 reflects that 44% of teachers have moderate support of their schools in adapting to their changing roles.

Q9. To what extent do teachers in your institution currently engage in collaborative lesson planning and resource sharing with their peers.

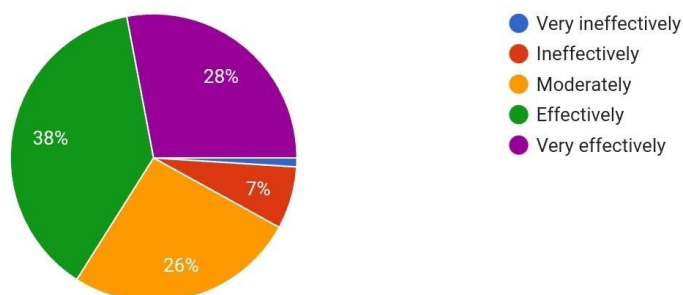
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Question 9 reflects that 45% of teachers frequently engage in collaborative lesson planning and resource sharing with their peers. Every teacher faces different problems in classroom teaching, does it become very important that teachers prepare their lesson plan together so that most of the classroom problems can be solved. In child centric education teachers need to focus on the teaching requirements and problems faced by children in the classroom.

Q11. Do you share your content or reference material on Google Classroom, WhatsApp, or Microsoft Team.

100 responses

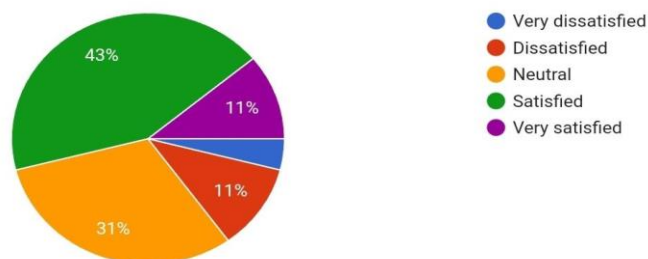


During covid-19 lockdown education became virtual, most of the schools shifted toward online education, which connected the teachers directly to parents. Even after lockdown teachers use those digital platforms to communicate with parents to discuss the child and to share educational materials. About 38% of teacher's efficiency shares the teaching content and reference materials through various online platforms.

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Q12. How satisfy are you with the professional development opportunities provided to you for improving your pedagogical skills and staying updated with educational trends.

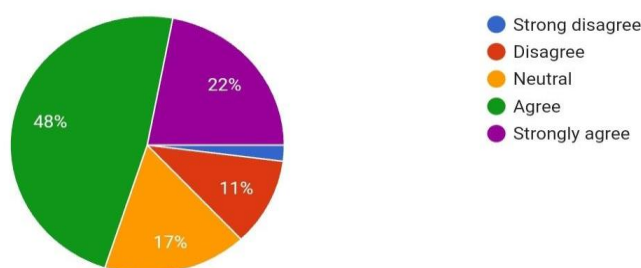
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Question 12 reflects that 43% of teachers are satisfied with the professional development opportunities provided to improve their pedagogical skills and staying updated with educational trends. It is clearly a positive sign that teachers are working beyond their traditional role and involved and satisfied with various professional development opportunities.

Q13. To what extent do you agree with the: "Teachers have adapted their teaching methods effectively in response to the challenges post by Covid-19".

100 responses

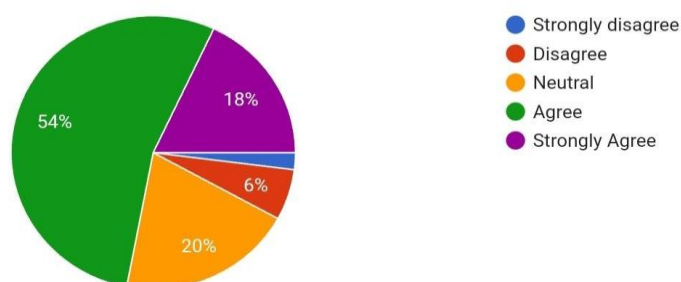


Question 13 reflects that 48% of teachers agree that teachers have adopted their teaching methods effectively in response to challenges post by Covid-19. It means teachers adopted themselves in the changing educational scenario.

Q14. In your opinion, has the role of teachers in supporting student's mental and emotional well being change significantly due to Covid-19.

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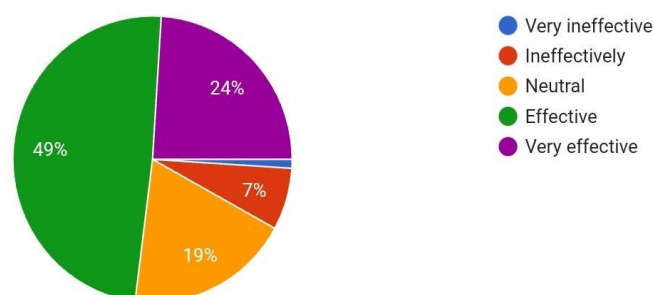


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Covid-19 lockdown was difficult for everyone, it was not only a physical but a mental challenge for everyone, especially children. Children's mental conditions were badly affected due to lockdown. Question 14 reflects that 54% of teachers agree that teacher's role changed drastically towards student's mental and emotional wellbeing.

Q15. How effective you have been in maintaining student engagement and motivation in the virtual learning environment during and after the pandemic.

100 responses



Covid-19 lockdown was the period when teachers began to change their educational strategies. It was a challenging situation for teachers to maintain student's engagement and their interest in virtual learning. Question 15 reflects that 49% of teachers were effective in maintaining student's engagement and motivation in the virtual learning environment.

CONCLUSION

This research highlights the transformative shift occurring in today's educational landscape. As we navigate an era of constant change, it becomes evident that the traditional roles of teachers are evolving. Instead of being mere transmitters of knowledge, educators are increasingly embracing a new focus on child-centric education. This shift signifies a recognition that fostering the holistic development of students, nurturing their individual talents, and providing a supportive and inclusive learning environment are paramount in preparing them for the challenges of the future. It is imperative that educational institutions and policymakers continue to support and facilitate this transition, ensuring that teachers are empowered to adapt and thrive in their evolving roles as facilitators of lifelong learning and champions of child education. In doing so, we can look forward to a more dynamic and responsive education system that equips our students with the skills and values necessary for success in an ever-changing world.

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Questionnaires, 15 questions are prepared on Exploring the Role of Teachers in Changing Educational Scenario from Teacher Centric to Child Centric Education. https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf8F9hQe6ouRgR7ST3iGMc5DPkucj-HS8JEwjgnuomtpt5eoQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

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Conflict of Interest

The author(s) declared no conflict of interest.

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