

THE HEART AND SACRIFICE OF TEACHING: A CLOSER LOOK AT EDUCATORS' LIVES

A story of success that came with a sacrifice, a candid conversation with an amazing english teacher Miss Lavanya Chintada who is not just an ordinary english teacher but someone who is trying to fight the stigma around mental health, mensuration, teen relationships etc.

When she quit working for a high-paying position at Del, Ms. Lavanya Chintada realized that teaching became her calling. She pursued her Masters in English Literature and graduated with a distinction. She began finding a pleasure in teaching and thereafter joined the Global Edge School as an English teacher.

As anyone with a fire to follow their passion, Miss Lavanya starts her day planning what to teach and how to make each class better than the previous one.

She utilizes her spare time to research extra information, stories, articles etc to share with her students in order to

not only draw a better connection to the chapter but to also expand her students' general knowledge.

When asked about filling in the generation gap, she jokingly says, "Teaching the current generation makes me feel quite old".She narrates a tale of how while teaching a batch of students in 2022, a lesson about Sachin Tendulkar excited her personally since she grew up watching cricket just for Sachin, however, her students were uninterested and did not seem to be fond of it.

This made her realize that in order to spark enthusiasm

among students, she had to come up with examples that the current generation could relate to.

She is a firm believer of the saying that the best teachers are those who show you where to look but don't tell you what to see. She makes her students truly engage in whatever she is teaching, and when they are not, she tries to mold her teaching style so it is better admired by all the students. Her day is filled with a range of activities, including group work, independent study, and inculcating spirited discussions.



Teachers constantly monitor and adjust their instruction to meet the needs of each student. They also have to manage behavior issues, ensuring that students are focused and respectful towards one another. In addition to teaching, she also has other responsibilities, such as attending staff meetings, collaborating with colleagues, and communicating with parents.

Teachers may also participate in extracurricular activities and professional development to stay current with the latest teaching strategies and trends.

One of the most significant sacrifices that teachers make is their time.

Teachers spend countless hours preparing lesson plans, grading papers, and providing feedback to their students. They also attend meetings and school-related events outside of regular school hours, which can take up valuable personal time. Many teachers spend evenings and weekends working on school-related tasks, sacrificing time that could be spent with their families and friends.

Another sacrifice that teachers make is their money. Teachers often spend their own money on classroom supplies and materials to provide the best possible learning environment for their students. They may also forgo other opportunities that require money, such as vacations or hobbies, in order to save money for their classrooms. The lack of adequate funding for schools and classrooms is a pervasive problem, and teachers often have to make up for the shortfall out of their own pockets.

Teachers also sacrifice their personal lives to meet the demands of their profession. Teaching can be a demanding profession that requires a lot of time and energy. As a result, teachers may sacrifice time with their families and friends to complete their work or attend school-related events. Many teachers are also involved in extracurricular activities or community service, which can take up even more of their personal time.

Furthermore, teachers may sacrifice opportunities for professional advancement or higher-paying jobs in order to stay in the classroom and continue to work with students. Many teachers have a passion for teaching and choose to stay in the profession even if it means sacrificing opportunities for career growth or higher salaries.

Teaching can also take a toll on a teacher's emotional and mental well-being. Teachers invest a lot of emotional energy into their work, which can be emotionally draining. They may also have to deal with challenging student behaviors or difficult classroom situations, which can be mentally exhausting. Teachers may also sacrifice their own health by ignoring their own needs in order to take care of their students.

Teaching can be a challenging and demanding profession, but it is also one of the most rewarding. The impact that teachers have on their students can last a lifetime. Whether they are imparting knowledge, developing critical thinking skills, or fostering social-emotional growth, teachers are making a positive difference in the lives of their students every day. Education is the most powerful tool there is, and to be able to spread it to people therefore makes teaching the most powerful profession.



Written by **Dhanvi**

I am 14 years old and am based in Hyderabad! I love having conversations with new people, writing, listening to Taylor Swift, and volunteering to teach little kids!

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"FROM THE CLASSROOM TO THE REAL WORLD : RAHUL'S STRUGGLE TO FIND JOB-READINESS SKILLS"

Despite holding a degree from a top-tier Indian University, recent Graduate, Rahul has been unemployed since ten months, as his knowledge and skill underscores the widening gap between traditional classroom education and the skills demanded by the modern job market.

Rahul had always been a diligent student, the kind who never missed a class and took meticulous notes. When he graduated with an honours degree from a reputed University, he felt confident that he would find a job in no time.

As we spoke further, Rahul shared about the struggles' his family took to get him the best of education, and now it was his turn to stand on his feet.

But as months went by, rejections piled up and Rahul realised that something was missing.

"It's not just about having good grades anymore". Rahul told me when we met at a cafe in Khan market.

"I thought that was enough, but it's not. The real world is looking for practical knowledge beyond the bookish knowledge".

Despite having a degree in Computer Science, most employers are looking at hands on experience in the latest software and programming language.

I never got that kind of exposure during my graduation," Rahul said, his voice tinged with regret. "We had theoretical classes, sure, but not enough opportunities to work on live projects or intern with companies.

I feel like I missed out on a lot."

Rahul's story is not unique. According to a report by the National Employability Report for Graduates, only 7%

of engineering graduates and other graduates are suitable for employment in the knowledge economy. The report cited a lack of practical skills, including communication, problem-solving, and critical thinking, as one of the main reasons for this.

A report by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) found that most Indian universities focus on theory and fail to provide students



with opportunities for hands-on learning.

In a survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO), it was found that only 7% of Indian workers have received any kind of formal training.

The education system in India is often criticized for its emphasis on rote learning and outdated teaching methods. While there have been efforts to introduce more experiential learning and Industry exposure these initiatives are still in their nascent stages.

"I realized that I needed to work on my soft skills," Rahul said. "So, I started taking online courses and attending workshops to improve my communication and presentation skills. It's not easy, but I'm determined to keep learning and growing."

Rahul's determination and resilience are admirable, but his story highlights a larger issue in the education system in India. The lack of practical skills and industry exposure leaves many graduates ill-equipped for the job market, despite having degrees in their fields.

To address this issue, experts suggest that universities and colleges need to incorporate more experiential learning opportunities, such as internships and live projects, into their curriculum. They also suggest that students should be encouraged to take part in extracurricular activities that develop their soft skills, such as public speaking and leadership.

"Enhancing Employability through Experiential Learning: A Study of Indian B-Schools" by N.K. Chadha and Niharika Vyas: suggested that B-Schools should incorporate more industry visits, internships, live projects, and simulations to provide students with practical learning experiences.

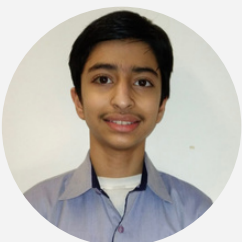
From the Industry point of view, employers are often faced with the challenge of having to invest significant time and resources in training new hires, who may lack the practical skills required to succeed in their roles. This can lead to lower productivity, higher turnover rates, and increased costs for businesses. Additionally, the lack of skilled workers can also hinder growth and innovation, which are essential for staying competitive in today's economy. As a result, industries are calling for a reform of the education system to ensure that graduates are equipped with the skills and experiences needed to succeed in the workplace.



Preparing for success with real world experience

Lastly, change can't happen overnight. It will require a concerted effort from all stakeholders, including educators, policymakers, and employers.

As I said goodbye to Rahul, I couldn't help but feel hopeful. Despite the challenges he's faced, he remains determined to succeed. His story is a testament to the resilience and grit of young graduates in India who are striving to make a difference in the world, one step at a time.



Written by **Krishay Raj Chandok**