

Teaching, more even than most other professions, has been transformed during the last hundred years from a small, highly skilled profession concerned, with a minority of the population, to a large and important branch of the public service, the profession has a great and honorable tradition, extending from the dawn of history until recent times, but any teacher in the modern world who allows himself to be inspired by the ideal of his function to teach what he thinks, but, to instill such beliefs and prejudices as are thought useful by his explorers. In former days a teacher was expected to be a man of exceptional knowledge or wisdom, to whose words men would do well to attend. In antiquity, teachers were not an organized profession, and no control was exercised over what they taught. It is true that they were often punished afterwards for their subversive doctrines. Socrates was put to death and Plato is said to have been thrown into prison, but such incidents did not interfere with the spread of their doctrines. Any man who has the genuine impulse of the teacher will be more anxious to survive in his books than in the flesh. A feeling of intellectual independence is essential to the proper fulfillment of the teacher's functions, since it is his business to instill knowledge and reasonableness into the process of forming public opinion.

In our more highly organized world we face a problem. Something called education is given to everybody, usually by the state. The teacher has thus become, in the vast majority of cases, a civil servant obliged to carry out the best of men who have not his learning, who have no experience of dealing with

the young, and whose only attitude towards education is that of the propagandist.]

Questions

- (a) What change has occurred in the profession of teaching during the last hundred years? (7)
- (b) What do you consider to be the basic functions of a teacher in the olden days? (7)
- (c) What handicaps does modern teacher face as compared to the teachers in the olden days? (6)

(a)

Profession of teaching has witnessed many changes in its scope and essence in the last hundred years. Teaching was a high skilled profession with limited numbers of teachers who were devoted to their jobs. It were the teachers who decided what to teach. They were not influenced by students and authorities of that time. But nowadays, the numbers of teachers have raised significantly. The modern teachers do not teach what they consider is better for the students but they teach students what they think is good for themselves.

(b)

The basic function of a teacher in olden days was to nourish the minds of people with his knowledge and intellect. They were so wise that people put great efforts to listen to them. In olden times, there was no organized profession of teaching. ~~The teachers~~ ^{Teachers} in olden days propagated their own opinions without any influence. Teachers like Socrates and Plato were punished ~~due to~~ ^{because of} their genuine ideas. A true teacher always propagate the truth without fear of punishment.

(iii)

State owned education for everyone and organization of teaching as profession have handicapped modern teachers. They do not teach what they want to teach. They teach what they ought to be taught. Moreover, dealing with high number of students is also a problem for modern teachers. The modern day teacher is not an absolute authority in his subject. He has no experience to deal with students. The modern day teacher has become a propagandist.

