



The Importance of Counselor in Shaping the Learners

Dr. A. Satyaswaroop , Incharge of English Department, Coordinator, IGNOU Study Centre (0110), Ideal College of Arts and Sciences, Kakinada.

Abstract: Nowadays it became quite common and the word is almost generalized. That is to say in the past the word is used for specific purpose. But nowadays for admission, recruitment and promotions it is often used. Our Telugu teacher liked to take the meaning of a mall. Presently in our distance education this word occupies highest importance. For us it is guidance. We all know well, guidance differs from teaching. Guide means to show the path, to take in proper direction. As we know in distance learning, ours is not traditional class room teaching. Thus the student may have some short fall. But in our system there is more time and scope for interaction and clarification of doubts. One who counsels the person is the counsellor. Thus a counsellor should be a fitting personality and he should be in a position to deliver the goods to the best of his ability.

Key Words: Counsellor, Teacher talk time, Student talk time.

Introduction: Whether it is theory or practical a counsellor should create an impression in the minds of the learner that there is lot of benefit for them if they attend the class and they lose a lot if they do not attend a class. If such a feeling is there in the minds of the distance learners definitely they turn up to the class and they make the class lively and interesting. By the by they contribute their ideas to the class. As the saying goes, "a great teacher inspires", "Education in its widest sense is how to produce balanced personalities capable of meeting without undue stress, the contingencies and vicissitudes of life (Smt. Indira Gandhi)". Thus education should make a man a complete man.

Personal Experience as case in point (on Role of Counsellor) :

I feel it not out of context to bring my **own example** here. In my graduation with chemistry main, actually we were supposed to concentrate more on our group subjects which decide our class.

Surprisingly some of us were habituated to concentrate more on English than on our group subjects. It was because of the inspiration we received from our great teacher Sri V. Chalapati Rao. If we analyse the characteristics of a good counsellor, we have to state that a counsellor should have a research mind. Not that he should go on guiding research scholars. The idea is that he should constantly go on thinking the ways to find new and different types of examples to simplify the subject and to present a relevant example to the learner.

Again **Own experience** as a Mathematics student in earlier classes. My Maths teacher in the class was unable to come down to our stage in teaching Algebra, which is filled with x,y and z. Soon this part of the subject became a nightmare. Luckily my father, who was a science and Maths teacher for advanced classes made Algebra simpler. In our class room most of us were unable to understand $5x + x$ becomes $6x$. My



father simply said "If we have five cows now and buy one more cow it becomes six cows. From then on we again started loving Algebra. Thus if the counselor puts forward relevant cases before his learners they themselves would start loving the subject and make others also love the subject.

The Counsellor has to make use of the popular cases relating to various firms for case studies. He has to make the learners feel like managers and managing directors. The learner should have a feeling that whatever he has learnt in the class should be useful for him for his professional growth. Again a good counselor should like to be in the company of his learners. Sometimes the counsellor also gets educated through his learners. Sometimes, when I make visits to the classes, I find the students narrating experiences in the organizations where they are working. A counsellor should develop personal rapport with his learners.

I always advise my counsellors to give their cell phone numbers to their students. This facilitates the learners to clear off their doubts as and when they arise. I too give my cell phone number to my traditional learners.

Time Management : A good counsellor should be a good manager of time. The balancing of T.T.T. (Teacher Talk Time) and S.T.T. (Student Talk Time) is very much important. If the talk is only one sided where is the scope for the learner to open his mind thereby express his ideas or wrong notions? A separate discussion on this aspect is highly desirable. A good counsellor shall never feel the raising of a doubt by a learner or the expression of his ideas on a topic as cross talk. It so happened sometimes at our centre, that I

dashed to the lecture hall fearing that there were clashes in the room. Surprisingly it was the emotion of the students that made the class room appear like that. Of course a lot of training also needs to be given by the experts to make the counselling sessions better. Definitely our counsellors are not that much experienced in this field. Infact distance education in India is not that much old as in other countries. In India the concept of distance education dates back to early sixties only, where as in the U.K. it is in existence since 1858 (Felton, 1997).

Conclusion : A Counsellor should always try to find better examples for his ever changing learners. He should inspite the learners and motivate them through innovative ways. A lot of training also needs to be given by the experts to make the counselling sessions better. Definitely our counsellors are not that much experienced in this field. Infact distance education in India is not that much old as in other countries.

References :

1. Felton, 1997
2. Smt. Indira Gandhi's Convocation address at the University of Delhi in 1983.