

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Key Requirements For Achieving Pedagogical Mastery

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Abstract

This article discusses the teaching profession and the key requirements placed on it. It explains the importance of deep professional knowledge and its close connection with today's advanced era, pedagogical mastery and educational approaches, moral maturity and exemplary behavior, keeping pace with the times, as well as the significance of patience and kindness. The essence of these main requirements, their role in teacher–student relationships, their advantages in the educational process, and their importance for students' learning are highlighted.

KEYWORDS

Teacher, student, school, requirement, education, knowledge, thinking, ability, mastery, competence, skill.

INTRODUCTION

The teaching profession is one of the oldest professions in the world, and its social importance never diminishes and never fades. Teaching is a highly responsible profession, and it must meet a number of important requirements. In a teacher's activity, pedagogical mastery is primarily manifested. In order to achieve pedagogical mastery, a teacher is required to possess the ability to manage his or her professional activity, high-level knowledge, and sufficient competence and skills. To develop pedagogical mastery, a teacher must thoroughly master the subject, be able to analyze his or her work continuously, view the work through students' eyes, and constantly strive to eliminate shortcomings. In the teaching process, for a teacher's activity to be effective, the teacher needs to know pedagogical technologies well, be able to create new approaches, and work creatively as a skilled professional. To achieve pedagogical mastery, a teacher must be able to generalize the processes occurring around them, manage both their own activity and that of students, and possess strong knowledge, competence, and skills. The teacher should be able to reveal students' abilities and guide them toward comprehensive development of personal activity.

V. D. Sukhomlinsky emphasized that every word spoken by a teacher "...in the schoolyard should be carefully thought out, rich in reason and reflection, and directed toward a specific educational purpose" [1].

"Developing children's thinking talent and cultivating thought is an extremely necessary and sacred duty. Therefore, it is 'supported by the teachers' attention and entrusted to their conscience' and is 'in the utmost need of their help.' Because 'the strength, refinement, and breadth of thought' largely depend on the teacher. Children's thinking is also connected with the educator's scope of thinking and striving, and their level" [2].

Teaching is not merely a profession, but a great responsibility before the people, society, and the future. A teacher is a respected and honored person in the community who is not only a provider of knowledge, but also a leading advocate of spirituality and upbringing. For this reason, high demands are placed on the teaching profession. These requirements serve to shape an individual who loves the profession, is honest, devoted, and able to meet modern standards of teaching.

The first requirement is deep professional knowledge. Above all, a teacher must possess thorough knowledge in their specialization. In order to provide students with knowledge, increase their interest in the subject, and explain new topics effectively, the teacher must be well-prepared in every respect. Today, as the era develops, new approaches are entering education. Therefore, teachers must stay informed about innovations, continuously work on self-development, and master modern methods and technologies.

Having deep professional knowledge is an important factor that determines the effectiveness of pedagogical activity. Comprehensive knowledge includes a teacher's strong preparation in the subject area, understanding of the fundamentals of pedagogy and psychology, and mastery of teaching methods and modern technologies. The professional development of the teacher's personality is directly connected with their knowledge, skills, and reflective activity [3].

Professional knowledge primarily ensures the quality and substance of education. According to pedagogical theory, a teacher must not only have deep knowledge of their subject, but also fully master the methodology of delivering it to learners. This supports the systematic and thorough acquisition of knowledge. A teacher's professional knowledge is a key factor that ensures the quality of education, the effectiveness of upbringing, and the comprehensive development of the learner's personality. Its development should be carried out through continuous education, independent learning, and pedagogical collaboration. Only through постоянное inquiry and ongoing renewal can a teacher form as a mature specialist capable of meeting the demands of modern education.

The second requirement is pedagogical mastery and an educational (upbringing) approach. Pedagogical mastery and an educational approach are among the leading components of a teacher's professional competence. In the educational process, a teacher functions not only as a specialist who provides knowledge, but also as the main agent responsible for educating and shaping the learner's personality. A teacher's professional maturity is determined by their expertise, pedagogical culture, and ability to exert educational influence.

In the pedagogical process, every aspect of the teacher's personality has educational significance. The teacher's speech, communication style, behavior, aesthetic taste, and moral stance directly influence the formation of students'

personalities. According to Ushinsky, in the process of upbringing, the influence of the teacher's personality is the strongest factor and cannot be fully replaced by any method or tool [4]. Therefore, the educator should pay special attention to personal example and follow the principles of fairness, kindness, and appropriate demandingness in relationships with students.

One of the important aspects of the educational approach is deep knowledge and consideration of students' psychological characteristics. According to Vygotsky's theory, personality development is inseparably linked with the social environment and pedagogical influence, and the teacher must be able to correctly identify the learner's "zone of proximal development" [4]. Here, the principle of an individual approach plays an important role. A pedagogical approach organized with consideration of each student's unique abilities, needs, and learning pace significantly increases the effectiveness of teaching and upbringing.

Pedagogical mastery is a necessary condition for the successful implementation of a teacher's professional activity. The concept of pedagogical mastery expresses the integration of a teacher's professional knowledge, methodological preparation, communication abilities, and personal qualities. Pedagogical mastery is the teacher's ability to successfully organize the educational process and influence students in accordance with predetermined goals.

In modern educational conditions, pedagogical mastery develops further through the use of innovative and interactive technologies. Effective use of interactive methods and educational technologies increases learners' developmental activity and forms independent thinking skills. Taking these factors into account, the teacher should organize each lesson in accordance with didactic objectives in a logical and systematic way, create problem situations, and establish reflective practice.

An important component of pedagogical mastery is closely connected with the effective implementation of educational (upbringing) tasks. Pedagogical competence is not limited to providing knowledge; it also includes developing students' social, moral, and communicative competencies. During lessons and in extracurricular activities, the teacher should cultivate such qualities in students as responsibility, discipline, teamwork, and social engagement. Pedagogical mastery and an educational approach are integral parts of a teacher's professional activity and are among the main factors that

determine the quality of the teaching and upbringing process. Along with delivering knowledge, the teacher also assumes responsibility for shaping a well-rounded personality. Therefore, the teacher must continuously enrich professional knowledge, improve psychological and pedagogical preparedness, and develop professional practice in accordance with modern educational requirements.

The third requirement is moral maturity and exemplary behavior. This requirement is highly important, because a teacher should stand out in society through moral maturity. The teacher's honesty, fairness, and exemplary ethics have a direct influence on the younger generation. If a teacher cannot serve as a moral example, the knowledge they provide will not be effective. For this reason, every teacher must always pay close attention to their behavior, communication style, dress culture, and all human virtues. Moral maturity is characterized by a person's conscious adherence to moral norms and values accepted in society and by the ability to evaluate one's actions from the perspective of social responsibility. In pedagogical activity, this concept has special significance because the teacher constantly appears as a person who exerts educational influence.

As Ushinsky emphasized, in the process of upbringing the moral character of the teacher is the strongest means of influence, because a child first of all imitates the educator's personal example [6]. Therefore, a teacher should embody such qualities as honesty, justice, patience, responsibility, and conscientiousness. Moral maturity is also manifested in a teacher's professional activity through adherence to the requirements of pedagogical ethics. Pedagogical ethics is an important system that defines moral norms in teacher-student relationships and shapes the spiritual and moral climate of the educational process. Students often pay more attention not to the teacher's words, but to their everyday behavior, attitude, and manner of interaction. According to Slastenin, the exemplary nature of the teacher's personality is a key factor ensuring the effectiveness of upbringing.

A teacher with exemplary conduct should treat students with respect, adhere to the principles of justice and impartiality, observe standards of speech culture and etiquette, and demonstrate discipline and cultural behavior in personal actions, fully understanding professional duty and responsibility. The teacher's exemplary behavior directly influences the formation of positive moral qualities in students. A skilled teacher instills not only knowledge, but also life

values. The moral image of the teacher directly affects students' upbringing, the moral environment of the educational process, and the prestige of the teaching profession in society. Therefore, in professional activity a teacher must consistently follow ethical norms and, through personal example, contribute to raising a well-rounded generation.

The fourth requirement is keeping pace with the times. A modern teacher must have a solid command of information technologies and know how to use digital tools sufficiently for teaching practice. Under conditions of globalization and digitalization, the education system is undergoing a stage of profound change. The rapid development of information and communication technologies requires updating the content, forms, and methods of the pedagogical process. In this regard, today's teacher is expected not only to possess traditional professional knowledge and methodological preparation, but also a high level of digital competence. Innovative technologies have become an important means of improving the quality of education and are turning into a factor that determines the effectiveness of a teacher's work.

Today, interactive whiteboards, multimedia tools, e-textbooks, virtual laboratories, online platforms, and distance learning systems are widely used in education. These tools make it possible to visualize lessons, increase students' cognitive engagement, and organize individualized instruction. The use of information technologies in education supports the development of students' critical thinking and independent learning competencies. Introducing information technologies into the pedagogical process significantly enriches both the content and methods of teaching. With interactive whiteboards, teachers can explain complex topics visually and use animations and graphics. Through online platforms, distance learning, independent assignments, testing, and monitoring systems can be organized. In addition, video lessons, electronic libraries, and open educational resources expand learners' access to knowledge sources. According to Klarin, innovative technologies enable effective implementation of differentiated and individualized approaches in the learning process. A modern teacher must not only be familiar with technical tools, but also possess digital culture. Digital culture includes the ability to select, analyze, evaluate, and use information wisely. At the same time, the teacher should teach students to use internet resources safely and purposefully.

In a digital learning environment, the teacher is less a traditional “knowledge transmitter” and more an organizer, facilitator, and advisor of the learning process. Therefore, teachers need to continuously improve their qualifications, master new platforms and software, and introduce modern methods into practice. Only under such conditions can they organize education in accordance with current demands and effectively develop students’ digital competence.

The fifth requirement is patience and kindness. Pedagogical activity is a complex socio-psychological process that demands not only high-level professional knowledge from the teacher, but also certain personal qualities. Among these qualities, patience and kindness hold a special place, because a teacher constantly communicates with students who differ in character, ability, and developmental level. As Slastenin emphasizes, the humanistic orientation of the teacher’s personality is an important factor that determines the effectiveness of the teaching and upbringing process.

Patience is characterized by the teacher’s emotional stability, the ability to remain composed in difficult pedagogical situations, and adherence to pedagogical tact. In the educational process, teachers work with students of different levels; their behavior, discipline, and learning pace are not the same. Under these conditions, patience becomes a necessary requirement for successfully carrying out professional activity. Kindness reflects the teacher’s humane, caring, and sincere attitude toward students. In pedagogical literature, this quality is closely associated with empathy—the ability to understand and share others’ emotional states. A pedagogical relationship built on kindness creates a trusting psychological environment between teacher and students. This environment increases learners’ interest in learning, encourages active participation in lessons, and provides a foundation for independent thinking.

Pedagogical activity organized on the basis of patience and kindness strengthens students’ motivation to learn and positively influences their regular preparation for lessons. A positive emotional relationship between teacher and students is an important condition for effective education. Such an approach also contributes to increasing the teacher’s authority. Students respect a kind and patient teacher and strive to fulfill the teacher’s requirements consciously. As a result, a healthy psychological climate is formed in the classroom, and discipline and mutual respect are strengthened. In addition, patience and kindness enhance the

effectiveness of the upbringing process. In moral education, influence based on care and humanism produces the most stable results. Through their attitude, the teacher helps shape students’ social qualities such as compassion, tolerance, and solidarity.

All the requirements listed above demonstrate how responsible and noble the teaching profession is. The more knowledgeable, well-mannered, modern, and devoted a teacher is, the more solid the upbringing of the younger generation will be. This is because today’s student will become tomorrow’s leader, scientist, engineer, doctor, artist—in other words, a member of society in every sphere. How they are educated depends primarily on the teacher. Therefore, every person entering the teaching profession must deeply understand the responsibility of this path.

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