

## The Characteristics of Passionate Educators and Their Role in Education

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**Abstract:** In this research, it was investigated what passion is, who is considered a passionate teacher and the characteristics of a passionate teacher. According to the findings of the study, the genuine definition of passion includes enthusiasm, desire, effort, dedication, and commitment. These are the most significant contributors to the success of education and teachers. These attributes play a significant effect in the academic success of kids. The teaching profession has been characterized differently by different authors and academics. Among these include being loyal, shaping the destiny of a nation, being the parent of a student, being patient, being productive, and setting an example. They are the fundamental factors that affect the fate of societies.

The results of the studies show, the component that influences the future of a nation is the teacher's passion. He is the individual who prepares all professions for life. They are the military, police, politicians, cleaners, and attorneys; in short, everyone. All of these concepts will be brought to life by passionate educators.

**Keywords:** Dedicated Teacher, Passion and Education, Passionate Teacher, Passion for Teaching

### 1. Introduction

A teacher is a crucial component of the learning and teaching process since he or she holds the key to success. Students' academic progress and the quality of their education are dependent on the ability of the instructor who instructs them (Sitanggang, 2021). There are numerous prerequisites for becoming a teacher, including professional qualifications. The most important factor in achieving success is the strength of the student-teacher relationship. This link enables the learning process to occur. Educators that are dedicated to the teaching profession will guarantee this accomplishment (Agustin, 2022). Educating people is a very challenging and time-consuming job. The enthusiasm and dedication of educators to their work is the fundamental elements required for this to succeed. (Day, 2000). In addition, education is a complex and demanding field. At almost every moment of the day, teachers need to engage with their work with all their hearts, not just what they know (Nias, 1996). Passion is the key element an educator needs to achieve the above. Passion is not a luxury, a show-off, or a trait of a few teachers. Everyone must acquire this quality in order to describe all forms of education with a creative approach (Day, 2004).

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In other words, passion is a motivating and inspiring factor for instructors. It is also a significant aspect for educators to remain in the education profession. Teachers with a strong sense of dedication provide the optimal learning environment for their pupils and contribute to the enhancement of their students' academic potential. It is a crucial instrument for achieving productivity among educators. Teachers who have a passion for teaching are devoted educators who can discover the simplest solution in difficult situations. Educators that are devoted to the institutions for which they serve provide an education that is beneficial for both students and colleagues (Mart, 2013).

For a teacher, there is nothing more wonderful than witnessing his students' progress academically in a variety of life domains and become deeply engaged with life. Students that incorporate passion into their life achieve academic success and become valuable members of society. Therefore, the importance of passion in education cannot be overlooked (Vallerand et al., 2020).

## **2. What is Passion?**

Passion may sound irritating, but it will always be the core of education. (Fried, 2001). Passion is the closeness and attachment that a person shows to an object, activity, thought or people they are keen on. People's dependence on anything requires a person to spend time and make sacrifices (Vallerand et al., 2020). Vallerand et al. (2003) classified passion as either harmonious or obsessive. Both interests are associated with people's life experiences, habits, and accomplishments. People with a love for harmony believe that the activities they engage in are related to their interest and help them comprehend life. Harmonic passion is the enthusiasm that arises through the internalization of activities. It is a significant factor in people's participation in activities without constraint.

Passion is also described as unrestrained desire, want, greed, and pleasure. Passion inspires and enables teachers to concentrate on their work. Teachers' passion helps them to effect change in their pupils' lives. Passion is not something that can be learned through extensive training or courses. If a student is fortunate, he will encounter an enthusiastic teacher who will help him relate his ideas to the real world. Educators that embrace their passion as the backbone of their lives serve as guides for their students (Celik, 2017).

In another study, Serin (2017) described passion as learning something new and valuing learned knowledge. Passion is constantly trying to research and learn the new. It has an essential place in putting plans into action. It is a motivation, the desire to seek the new, and the will to learn. It is something that you cannot touch but influence your thoughts deeply. It is like a compass which directs you to find your rotation and reach your dreams.

On the other hand, passion is a cause of burnout because people become too attached to one thing and have no time to spare for other things (Marcil, 1991). Huberman (1993) highlighted that despite all the obstacles, passion in education is one of the most significant components for the future of education and schools.

## **3. Who is a Passionate Educator?**

When it comes to improvements and innovations at a school, educators take the lead. If changes are to be implemented in a school, educators are prepared from the outset and play an active part (Bakkenes et al.,

2010). Today's fast-changing society requires its teachers to be ready and willing for these changes (Fullan, 2013). Educators are indispensable to a school. They are lifelong learners and teachers with patience and enthusiasm. They are constantly up to date. They are always in quest of innovative and instructional approaches (Eteläpelto et al., 2013).

Without a teacher, the school, the students, the school rules or the curriculum are meaningless. It is educators who give schools significance. Educators are the educational branch that reaches out to the students. Educators strive to improve the quality of education and infuse the curriculum with life and vitality. They assist extend pupils' perspectives and facilitate self-learning. Inadvertent errors, laziness, harshness, and ineptitude on the part of educators can diminish the quality of education. Instructors are the key determinants of educational quality, regardless of their quality (Peterson et al., 1990).

A passionate educator believes that education is vital to guidance. Teaching assists individuals in discovering themselves. They begin to believe that they previously could not achieve or envisage. A passionate educator enjoys working, values serving others, and considers teaching to be filled with optimism. Teacher's enthusiasm inspires him to believe that with small efforts, he can accomplish great things. The devoted instructor assists the learner in discovering himself and revealing his talents. It provides students with a sense of responsibility and assists them in making their aspirations come true. Passionate teachers are always receptive to new information and ready to fix their pupils' concerns. In conclusion, both enthusiastic and passionate educators are vital components of education (Celik, 2017).

Today, passionate teachers are required all around the world. Due to their workload and financial challenges, teaching has lost a small bit of its former popularity. However, it is still possible to encounter dedicated educators both in our local community and in other areas of the world. Olson (2003) emphasized the importance of passion with these words, if we find out our passion in the area of learning and teaching, we will share them with other people, the impossible will be possible, and everything will be reachable. The passionate teacher will never sit and plan the next lesson traditionally. He will not wait for the information to come himself. Otherwise, he will seek the new, and he is the one who can examine the situations from different perspectives (Serin, 2017). Teaching is a challenging job that requires commitment. Anyone can be an educator, but teaching with dedication requires work and affection.

Educators encounter a variety of challenges, including stress, behavioral issues among pupils, low pay, and inadequate support from the school administration. But dedicated educators can overcome these obstacles (Ingersoll, 2001). Because of this, many educators are forced to resign from their jobs over time. The remainders are passionate, sincerely devoted teachers who deserve praise (Elliott & Crosswell, 2001).

Not always do devoted educators encounter pleasure. They also encounter challenges and barriers in certain aspects of their existence. They may have to compromise certain life priorities. Among them are his family and personal requirements. About 40% of educators who are highly dependent on their jobs said that their personal and family lives were impacted. This may be due to excessive reliance on the job, the desires of the school administration, or the individual's own considerations (Dinham, 1997).

The passionate educator is the one who seeks and finds at all times of his life. He makes everything accessible for the benefit of his students and tries to help his students find the easiest way to reach their

target. Their dedication to the teaching profession enables them to update their skills and implement these advancements in their classrooms. In addition, passionate teachers are devoted to their work and exert extra effort for the schools for which they work (Altun, 2017). Passionate teachers constantly strive for the development and excellence of their students (Dannetta, 2002). Passionate educators are always ready to spend time with their students and follow their academic progress. While completing all of these tasks, these teachers face a number of challenges, which they solve by employing a variety of strategies. It is tough for someone who dislikes their profession to overcome these obstacles. The educator with the greatest ability to resolve such circumstances is the one who is driven by compassion (Garrison & Liston, 2004). Teachers' passion and dedication to their work is at the heart of education. This has an important role in professionalization, helping students reach their goals and fulfilling the profession's requirements (Billingsley & Cross, 1992).

Day (2004) described the following as his fondest school recollections. Educators that have a place in my life are not those who are always doing something new, but rather those who have the ability to exert control and are more concerned with their lessons than their students. But among them were instructors who fostered a passion of learning in their students. There were those who, upon discovering an error, made the most refined corrections. These teachers altered my perspective on life and allowed me to see things from a different angle.

Educators who are passionate about their work are those who are devoted to their profession. They are persistent in their efforts to engage students and enrich their learning approaches. They strive to learn as much as can about themselves, their environment, and the world, and they encourage others to do the same (Zehm & Kottler, 1993).

#### **4. The Characteristic of a Passionate Educator Who Is Open to Changes**

Heijden et al. (2015) described a passionate educator who is open to changes as following 4 categories,

1. Lifelong Learning
2. Mastery
3. Entrepreneurship
4. Collaboration

##### **4.1 Lifelong Learning**

Teachers study and teach throughout their lives. There are significant disparities between school teachers. Some are receptive to inquiry and education. There are individuals who are perpetually inquisitive, as well as those who block their eyes to innovation (Eekelen et al., 2006). Educators that are receptive to lifelong learning play a crucial role in shaping the future and the learning processes of their pupils. As teachers and lifelong learners, educators are in a perpetual state of research and inquiry. They adapt the work they accomplish in school and outside of school due to their interest (Hattie, 2012).

#### **4.1.1 Being Eager to Learn**

Educators who are receptive to innovation are open to being first in all aspects of their lives and positively influencing students. The following is how Heijden et al. (2015) described a participant in his investigation. I am always on the lookout for ways to develop myself. He stated that he had been a teacher for twenty years and that each year had been different. He even claimed that when he reached the age of sixty, he would employ a different manner of instruction.

#### **4.1.2 Being Reflective**

A skilled educator is also able to think clearly and make appropriate conclusions. The quality of their instruction and interactions with students is anticipated to be strong. Being critical is one of the most compulsive aspects of being reflective. The school's principal who participated in the study reported the following. The reflective instructor says anything he desires in a discussion-based environment. This conversation is not a mutual exchange. He does not believe what is said with his eyes closed. The last thing he does is what the government orders, but he seeks for what is right and wrong (Agustin, 2022).

### **4.2 Mastery**

Mastery is a crucial characteristic of educators and a significant aspect in the field of education. Educators are dedicated and skilled in their subjects. They are at the forefront of problems encountered in all aspects of their life and play a crucial role in their resolution. Hattie (2012) noted that teachers are receptive to innovations and boost the rate at which students adopt them. Teachers' confidence in students' ideas and efforts fosters a relationship of trust between students and teachers. This makes success possible. Educators' dedication to their kids is the most crucial factor in the academic performance of their students. And Hattie noted in her presentation that these characteristics are transmitted to pupils because educators themselves are passionate, enthusiastic, and inspirational. Teachers demonstrate the mastery traits of effective educators (York-Barr & Duke, 2004).

#### **4.2.1 Giving Guidance**

According to the collected data, an educator who is receptive to innovation fosters the growth of students and provides them with positive guidance. They have enhanced their classroom management skills and create conducive environments for student collaboration.

The following was reported by the primary school teacher who participated in this phase of the study. I value students' perspectives while still imposing some requirements on them. They perceive that I am always there for them. If necessary, I explain things to them multiple times. I aid them in reaching their objectives (Agustin, 2022).

#### **4.2.2 Being Accessible**

Another characteristic of educators is their accessibility to pupils and parents. Teachers do not always adopt a firm stance. They should also possess a sense of humor, which will strengthen their familiarity with students and foster a stronger bond (Landrum et al., 2002).

#### **4.2.3 Being Positive**

Educators must be optimistic about their field and professional growth. They are required to have high motivation. They strive to provide the greatest education possible to the pupils. The elementary school instructor who participated in this phase added the following: I strive to improve myself with the assistance of others and constructive criticism. I do this for both myself and my pupils because I want them to achieve a high level of achievement. I anticipate that they will be in tune with their surroundings (Tsui & Cheng, 1999).

#### **4.2.4 Being Committed**

A competent educator must be loyal to his school, his students, and their parents. An educator must be passionate about teaching and education. The academic life of an educator is intimately tied to his dedication to his profession. A committed instructor is receptive to new concepts. The ideal educator becomes a role model for both his peers and his students (Firestone, 1996). Becoming a professional educator requires passion. If a teacher lacks this commitment, he risks becoming burn-out over time (Nias, 1996).

#### **4.2.5 Being Trustful**

A good educator must have compassion for his students and those around him, as well as provide a safe environment. In the event of any difficulty, he should be prepared to assist his students with courtesy. The elementary school teacher's explanation in the research is excellent. The educator should make the pupil feel so safe that they will miss school when they return home. They need to feel secure at school. They must feel significant (Heijden et al., 2015)

#### **4.2.6 Being Self-assured**

Professional educators must possess self-assurance. Teachers should recognize their significance in the growth of their students. Passion has a primary relationship with enthusiasm, care and commitment, which are the main effective elements of education (Day, 2004).

### **4.3 Entrepreneurship**

A competent educator is also a successful entrepreneur. He possesses this trait because he takes risks, makes decisions, motivates his coworkers, or confronts a negative outcome at his school or any other institution where he works (Delmotte, 2008). Innovation in the classroom is all about taking risks. The educator who does not take risks in his professional life will stay resistant to innovation and will not be able to advance as intended. Risk-taking and receptiveness to innovation are essential to an educator's long-term success (Le Fevre, 2014).

#### **4.3.1 Being Innovative**

A competent educator must always be receptive to new innovations and creative concepts. In addition, he rejects any innovation in the sphere of education that is not supported by research. He investigates the positive and negative effects of a proposed school modification and presents his findings. He uses classic

teaching techniques, but blends cutting-edge technology and emphasizes what works best for the pupils. A teacher's willingness to embrace innovation demonstrates his dedication to his profession and his desire to instruct (Fried, 2015).

#### **4.3.2 Feeling Responsible**

An experienced teacher attempts to give the most effective lessons in his or her own classroom and throughout the school. They feel responsibility not only for their own development but also for their students and coworkers. An educator who participated in the study at this level shared his thoughts: It feels good to be accountable, and I do not hesitate to assume responsibility. All teachers should feel accountable for their obligations, and schools should foster this sense of accountability. This should be our job to do everything possible to improve the quality of education at school, not only for your class and course. To be effective, educators must feel committed to their schools and pupils (Day, 2000).

#### **4.4 Collaboration**

Collaboration is an essential quality for educators. Collaboration is often beneficial for both student and teacher development. A successful instructor is able to get along with his peers and develops constructive relationships with them. He makes generous offerings to his pals and assists them in achieving their objectives. In addition, they contribute to students' access to knowledge and the development of their schools' curricula (Lukacs, 2009).

#### **4.5 Being Collegial**

Educators who are open to change know how to work collaboratively with their colleagues. They see collective work as a part of learning and use it actively in their education life (Tyree, 1996).

### **5. Basic Characteristics of the Teaching Profession**

There are numerous interpretations of the concept of teaching profession. They use terms such as subject knowledge, self-development, high cultural level, intelligence, and liberalism to define teaching. The teacher is an instructional instrument who maintains classroom order and enforces the regulations. Additionally, the teacher is a parent, colleague, person of trust, and student adviser. Teachers are the architects of this country's future. They are the educators who train the nation's engineers, cops, attorneys, cleaners, and soldiers, in short, every member of a country. Teachers play a crucial role in shaping the destinies of nations. Teachers are expected to play a crucial part in the growth of a nation, ensuring peace and tranquillity in the community, and passing on the culture and values of societies to future generations (Çelikten, 2005). Çelikten, (2005) divides the qualities of a good teacher into 3 main categories, as personal, inside the classroom and professional.

#### **5.1 Personal Characteristics**

- Being objective and helpful towards students,
- Considering the expectations and wishes of students,
- Using scientific methods to investigate the issues encountered in education,

- Considering the differences among pupils in education,
- Being receptive to new ideas and technologies and continually updating oneself,
- Capacity to comprehend and comment on societal changes,
- To closely monitor the technological changes in education,
- Continuously conducting new research and possessing investigative competence,
- The conviction that their kids will achieve success,

## **5.2 Characteristics Inside the Classroom**

- Acts patiently and can control her emotions in the face of events,
- Approaches people of different faiths with respect and easily solves the problems that may arise,
- Sets an example for others with his clothes and behavior,
- Open to self-improvement and criticism,
- Does not interfere with her personal problems and does not disturb people with these problems,
- Being a person who can be taken as an example with her thoughts and behaviors,
- Tolerant and friendly towards students,
- Creating an educational and constructive environment in the classroom,
- Having leadership qualities,
- Being successful in influencing students, colleagues, and parents,
- Being encouraging and supportive,
- Establishing authority in the classroom and applying punishment individually rather than collectively,
- Following and controlling the homework given,

## **5.3 Professional Characteristics**

- Using time effectively, starting and finishing the lesson on time,
- Collaborating with administrators and teachers,
- Knowing the psychological and emotional causes of student problems and acting accordingly,
- Helping students solve their problems in a systematic way,
- To train individuals who can use what they have learned in practical life,
- Preparing students for real life,
- Following all the developments related to education and applying them in the classroom,
- Objective evaluation of student achievement,
- To be able to explain to students that education is a lifelong concept,

When all of the characteristics are examined, it becomes clear who the ideal teacher is, and the ideal teacher's portrait may be recalled (Çelikten, 2005).



## 6. Conclusion

Teachers play a major role in shaping the future of their communities. They give direction to people's lives, sometimes with a small touch and sometimes as a result of long efforts. Passionate educators help uncover mysteries inside people that people are unaware of. According to all the researches and articles, passionate educators play an important role in the academic success of students. Passion not only helps a teacher benefit student but also contributes to their own academic success and motivation. On the other side, being passionate has some negative implications. A person may occasionally forget his family, overwork, or experience health issues. Therefore, passion must be contained within specific parameters. No matter how poor the results are, an educator who lacks compassion for his or her work cannot achieve the academic achievement desired. He is a dedicated educator who is also an entrepreneur, an expert, a mentor, and a friend to his students. There is a need for educators with these qualities today. We believe that this research will be valuable for teachers who are just beginning their careers or who are becoming tired with their work.

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