

Feature Education

Qualities of a Good Teacher

Delwar Hossain Shaikh

Teaching is a complex activity. It includes giving information, asking questions, explaining, listening and a lot of other activities...

planning is essential for good teaching. The teacher's job is far more than standing before a group and delivering a series of correct statements about a subject to be taught...

The establishment of a proper relationship between a teacher and his class is vitally important. This determines whether the process of learning is going to be a co-operative one...

not evaluate his students, the students' achievement will be unknown to him. A study was done by sister Maria Gracia in 1983 on 'Teaching learning process'...



Science students of Dhaka University listening to an instructor at a regular practical class in a lab. — Photo: Jalaluddin Haider.

One cannot imagine a more fitting place to house the 'Memory of the Nation'. The historical quadrilateral formed by the mansions of the Hotel de Soubise and the Hotel de Rohan, in the heart of the Marais district in Paris, could only be intended for a prestigious institution...

A Nation's Memory

Philippe Chevalier

amount to storing a Himalaya of paper, so much of it is eliminated and only that which preserves the memory of the past and enables citizens to trace their roots is kept...

the number of readers corresponds to an ever stronger taste for history, a curator explains. 'In our fully changing industrialized society, our contemporaries increasingly aspire to delving into their origins...

being set up in Roubaix in the North, the micro-film store in Espeyran in the Gard department in the south of France (1,500 kilometres of film) and the archives of departments and communes scattered all over France...

Academic year: October to September University entrance

Tips on Study Abroad: Opportunities in Germany

Foreign students must hold a certificate that entitles them to study at a university in their home country and that is recognized as equivalent to German secondary school-leaving certificate (allgemeine and fachgebundene Hochschulreife)...

higher education (Fachhochschulen). Applications for admission should be submitted at least 1 year in advance (addressed to the Akademische Auslandsamt of the university or Hochschule concerned)...

Immigration requirements

It is recommended that foreign students apply for a residence permit at the diplomatic mission of Germany before leaving their home country. To obtain this, they are required to present a letter of admission from a German higher education institution and proof of financial status...

Institutes/German language courses for students from abroad are also held at most universities.

Information services

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (German Academic Exchange Service) (DAAD). Headquarters: Kennedyallee 50, D 53 Bonn 2; Branch offices in Brazil (Caixa postal 64, 20,000 Rio de Janeiro); in Egypt (6a Sharia Ismail Mohamed, Cairo-Zamalek); in France (Office Allemand d'Echanges Universitaires, 15 rue de Verneuil, 75007 Paris); in India (176 Golf Links, New Delhi 110003); in Kenya (P.O. Box 14050, Nairobi); in Japan (Akasaka 7-5-56, Mianato-ku, Tokyo 107); in the United Kingdom (17 Bloomsbury Square, London WC1A 2LP); and in the United States of America (535 Fifth Avenue, suite 1107, New York N.Y. 10017)...

Akademische Auslandsamt (foreign student services) or main offices of universities or Hochschulen (general academic information, preparatory and language courses, accommodation, etc). Allgemeiner Studentenausschuss (ASTA), or local union of students, in each university (information concerning reductions to students for railway travel, purchase of books, theatre tickets etc)...

World University Service, Katholische Studentengemeinde and Evangelische Studentengemeinde (Catholic and Protestant Student Councils) representatives in academic institutions (student welfare)...

Publications

Several publications (in English, French, Portuguese, Spanish, and German), giving more detailed information on study in Germany are available free on request from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)...

Feature Environment

Asia-Pacific Adopts Environment Strategy

BIANGKOK. The formulation in February of a regional strategy aimed at halting the decimation of Asia's environment goes a long way towards balancing development priorities with the preservation of natural resources...

Never before have regional planners made environmental concerns the top priority in development plans. Indeed, years of neglect have left Asia's environment devastated. Chemicals have been dumped into streams and rivers. The air in the grandest Asian cities is toxic with fumes...

The strategy wisely calls for a new 'polluter pays' principle, making companies and individuals bear the cost of their destruction, by Philip Gorton and a poor living environment. Development plans throughout Asia have benefited big business—of the determined to export resources abroad—at the expense of the poor farmer. But the new strategy offers hope...

there is a link between poverty and the environment that can no longer be ignored. Equal distribution of all resources to individuals, not big government and big business, was designated as a priority by government and non-government officials attending the Bangkok meeting last February...

economic and population growth must formulate its own national plan. Above all, human beings—their economic and social well-being—have been given a priority in the new strategy. Government need to first consider the benefits of development to rural villagers before implementing large scale plans...

tenure systems that marginalise farmers and landless peasants are often the culprit. One means of balancing growth with preservation is the providing of incentives for rural business enterprise. A concerted effort to do so can stem urban migration that has created vast, rat-infested ghettos in many of the region's leading cities...

Secondly, bureaucracies in Asian developing countries often stifle such initiatives. Top-heavy government planning, often keeps such strategies from trickling down to the village level. Thirdly, villagers have other priorities. Making a living is often easier to do exploiting the environment for quick pocket money. Animals and trees are targeted for fast money...

efficiency just do not have enough money to participate in new strategy. Money from outside, most likely from developed countries in the West, will be essential to get the plan off the ground. The strategy estimates very conservatively that this will cost US\$5 million annually. The best way to ensure the preservation of the environment is by including environmental assessment studies in a country's development strategy. For this to happen, environmental agencies need to be empowered to block unsound development plans. These same agencies need to be in a position to take legal action against polluters. The strategy wisely calls for a new 'polluter pays' principle aimed at making companies and individuals bear the cost of their environmental destruction. 'Mechanisms could be established to ensure that long-term social costs of depletion of natural resources are reflected in the price of goods and services,' reads the strategy. —Depthnews Science

NEW Zealand has embarked on a major campaign to encourage export sales of its fast-growing radiata pine as environmentalists voice concern at the threat to tropical rainforests. The New Zealand Forest Owners Association is spearheading the 'Renewable Radiata Pine Campaign' aimed at emphasizing the renewable nature of the country's forest products and the environmental acceptance of man-made plantation forestry...

N. Zealand Expands Man-Made Forestry

It is in a unique position to take advantage of the impending world timber shortage, by Derek Round export earnings by the end of the century. But there is also concern that logs at present account for a big proportion of exports and there are calls for more processing to be done here. The Ministry of Forestry has estimated that processing logs into sawn timber or pulp would produce two and a half times more in revenue than exporting the logs in their raw form...

The New Zealand Government has just given a boost to increased tree planting by announcing that costs of planting and maintaining forests can be claimed as a tax deduction in the year they are incurred instead of being deducted only when the trees are harvested. Revenue Minister Wyatt Creech says: 'We are in a unique position to take advantage of the impending world shortage of timber. Our large pine forest plantings maturing over the next decade will lead to a dramatic increase in wood production from the mid-1990s...'

The landmark has been set in the history of justice in Brazil with the trial and conviction of the murderers of the union leader and conservationist Chico Mendes. Darcy Alves Pereira, 23, and his father Darly Alves da Silva, 58, were each sentenced to 19 years in prison after a much-publicised trial that ended in December. Only seven of 1,200 cases involving people murdered in land conflicts in Brazil have made it to court. And the Mendes trial is the first time Brazil has seen members of a prosperous landowning family sent to prison for planning and executing a murder...

Mendes Trial Landmark for Brazilian Justice by Maria Helena Passos and that of his colleagues lay in the preservation of the rain forest as an economic resource and a home. With this ideal in mind, he conceived a conservationist strategy named 'empates,' which roughly translated means 'balance,' in Portuguese. The empates strategy involved persuading workers hired to cut trees not to go ahead with their work. The only weapon of the activists: words. Workers who went along with the idea would go to the forest, rest and wait. On their way back they would lie to the bosses, saying they had been cutting down trees. Because the forest is so big, the truth could not be checked. Mendes and his fellow workers peacefully carried out 45 empates - 15 were successful - over 12 years. One of the last empates headed by Mendes was in the rubber plant area of Cachoeira, within the limits of the Darly Alves property. The trees were not cut down and the government, pressed by a worldwide wave of clamour for preserving the area, soon transformed it into an 'extractivist reserve.' The concept of extractivist reserve was developed by Mendes and is basically an attempt to preserve an area for the sustained exploration of rubber trees. In contrast to the non-violence of Mendes, people like Darly and Darly Alves have learned since an early age to solve their questions by means of violence. The Alves family had reportedly often been involved with murder in almost every corner of the country. Impunity had built their path. In 1958, Darly's father, family patriarch Sebastiao Alves, caused the removal of the family from the state of Minas Gerais, Central Brazil, to the state of Parana in the South. The elder Alves, the story goes, had killed a man. It had taken five years for police to begin investigations in the small town of Ipanema. The family then managed to obtain a sentence which absolved its patriarch. The sentence was later cancelled and when the case was reopened the family moved southward. Later in 1973, in the city of Umuarama, in Parana state, Darly took his turn, killing sawmill owner Acir Urizzi. The presumed motive for the crime was a combination of a land dispute and a quarrel about the change of the name of the city. Only months before his own death, Chico Mendes had obtained from the Parana state court a mandate forcing the Xapuri police chief to question Darly about Urizzi's murder. Mendes had good reason for doing so. As he told the Brazilian authorities, politicians and foreign ecologists, he had already been threatened with death by a group of farmers that included Darly. The landowners of the state of Acre, normally a law unto themselves, would have been happy to see Mendes disappear. Mendes was trying to prove that Alves was a criminal and more ambitiously, trying to reverse the status quo. This was too much of a provocation for the local landowners. According to Brazilian law, Darly Alves, who committed the murder, and Darly Alves, who planned it, could spend from 12 to 30 years in jail.