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**ESSENTIAL QUALITIES OF GOOD FACILITATOR**

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**ABSTRACT**

*Teaching is a practice that involves passing of knowledge to people considered ignorant in the field of study that is being taught. A teacher can be a person of any age provided that the person is well versed in a particular sphere. In this paper we will clearly display the qualities of a good facilitator. Teachers must show a good command of confidence; qualified teachers are able to portray mentorship. They should be able to develop positive attributes in their students. A good sense of humor of teachers helps relieve the tension between them and students. Teachers are supposed to be respectful. A teacher must be a good planner. Good teachers are always enthusiastic.*



**KEYWORDS:** *Crystal, Crystals, Crystal structure, Magnetism.*

**PASSION FOR TEACHING**

There are numerous ways through which this quality can manifest itself. It is easy to know when a teacher is passionate about teaching. While some teachers may portray it in the way they teach in class, some teachers manifest this quality in not so clear ways - students have to be observant and quiet to be able to notice it.

**LOVE FOR CHILDREN**

For most people, this is a quality that is very much overlooked yet it is an equally important one of qualities of a good teacher. Most teachers love teaching and even love the subjects they teach, but very few remember to even mention how much they love their students. Most teachers use fear and intimidation to manage their classes, which is the complete opposite of motivating the students. It is important to care about the students to bring out the best in them.

**LOVE THEIR SUBJECTS**

This is equally important. It is important for teachers to love the subjects they teach. It can be amazing to sit and watch a physics or math teacher teaching the subject with so much passion, especially if you do not get the concept. By loving the subject, they will take the time to come up with the best ways to make the students understand and pass their exams.

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### **UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF SCHOOL**

School is much more than simply the number of classes and subjects a student takes. This is also the place they spend the better part of their life. It is a place for growth, finding their identity, exploration and where they can find their joy. Teaching and learning takes place beyond the four walls of a classroom. It can happen in the playing field, coffee shop and even dining area. The best teachers will equip their students with skills not only to pass their exams, but also to make it easy for them when interacting with other students.

### **WILLINGNESS TO CHANGE**

This is one of qualities of a good teacher that can be overlooked. Teachers should not always be looking to change students through teaching. They should also be open to change when interacting with students. It is possible for a teacher to change from interactions with the students.

### **POSITIVE ATTITUDE**

- Accept each individual as valuable in his or her own right
- Trust in the ability of each individual to discover his or her own solutions to problems
- Recognize individual strengths and efforts to change
- Focus on the individual, not the behavior
- Provide feedback that focuses on observations rather than judgments.

### **ORGANIZATION SKILLS**

This is a quality most teachers struggle with. It entails proper time and work planning. Organized teachers will have an organized way of teaching and this rubs off on the students. It is, therefore, important for teachers to have a structure for organization. This makes their work and that of the students much easier.

### **WILLINGNESS TO ALWAYS IMPROVE**

Even with many years of teaching, teachers should always remember that there is room for improvement. Some teachers have confessed that all their teaching career life has been a constant lesson for them as they learn of better ways to serve their students each day and better ways of teaching and interacting. A good teacher is open to challenges and finds amicable ways of overcoming them.

### **ENOUGH COURAGE TO FACE HARD DAYS**

There are times when a teacher can go through a tough season, enough to make the faint hearted want to quit. These days can leave a teacher's ego bruised and disappointed. The best teachers remember that these tough times do not last and that there are better days ahead. A good teacher will get up and live to teach another day, even after a rough patch.

### **A LOT OF HUMILITY**

There are times when the teacher can forget that what they do is not about them but about their students. Ego can make teaching the worst career since the teacher is likely to turn teaching into a competition between the teacher and students. It is important to remember that teaching is more of a group activity and it is possible to learn something new from your students. A teacher does not always have to have the final say or all the answers.

### **ABILITY TO COLLABORATE WITH STUDENTS**

This ability is also included in good qualities of a good teacher. It is important for any teacher to understand that they are part of a larger school community which goes beyond their classrooms. For this reason, a good teacher works towards making the school a better place for everyone. As the teacher perfects in class, they should also have positive impact in the school.

**A SENSE OF TIMING:**

The facilitator needs to develop a “sixth sense” for time: when to bring a discussion to a close, when to change the topic, when to cut off someone who has talked too long, when to let the discussion run over the allotted time, and when to let the silence continue a little longer.

**RESOURCEFULNESS AND CREATIVITY:**

Each group is as different as the people involved. Despite a well-planned agenda, sometimes the discussions do not unfold as expected. To that end, a good facilitator is able to think on his or her feet. This may mean changing direction in mid-stream, using other creative approaches to engage the group, or entertaining ideas from the group on how to shift the agenda. Good facilitators always have tricks up their sleeves that will help a group move forward while still keeping an eye on the overall objective of the meeting.

**A SENSE OF HUMOR:**

As in most human endeavors, even the most serious, a facilitator’s appreciation of life’s ironies, ability to laugh at themselves and to share the laughter of others enhances the experience for everyone.

**Few following Qualities & Skills should be available in good Facilitator**

Knowledge of Self (personal qualities)	Knowledge Base	Facilitation Skills	Technology Skills	Online Interaction Experience
Tolerance for ambiguity	Adult learning principles	Active, effective listener	Email	Social online communities
Accepting of others, hold others with unconditional regard	Communication styles	Encourage open communication	Email list software	Chat, live events
Authentic, congruent, honest ... e.g. walks his/her talk	Learning styles	Feedback skills	Threaded discussion tools	Email lists
Caring, compassionate	Cultural competency	Attentive to when participants are/aren't "walking the talk"	Linear discussion tools	Virtual teams/virtual workgroups
Charismatic (How? When is this appropriate?)	Group and interpersonal dynamics	Questioning (as opposed to telling) skills	IM (instant messaging) tools	Cross cultural groups
Conceptual <i>and</i> systemic thinking (able to put it all together)	Group facilitation	Clarify experiences for additional insights	Chat tools (IRC, java, html, voice)	
Concern for quality (and able to describe it)	Knowledge of/assessment of audience	Create or nurture constructive conflict or "creative abrasion"	HTML	
Empathetic (ability to see the situation as the other sees it)	Subject/content matter expertise	Focus -- keeping the discussion on track	Web page publishing	
Flexibility, versatility,	Teaching/training	Listen from a non-	FTP	

(ability to switch gears at the last moment)		judgmental place		
Inspirational		Listen for understanding and context	Groupware tools	
Objective/neutral (no vested interest in one solution over another)		Maximize gaining of knowledge and skill in the time available		
Open to self-growth		Observation skills		
Self knowledge and awareness (strengths, weaknesses, ego, impact on others)		Pacing skills -- change the level of the discussion at the appropriate time Presentation skills		
Sense of when to stay quiet		Problem solving		

**CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, a good teacher should have all the above-mentioned qualities. These are not only qualities of an excellent teacher, but the basic indicators that a person is an expert.

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