

MENTORS ROLE IN KNOWING THYSELF & PLAYING VARIOUS ROLES

P. V. RAVI KUMAR¹ & A. PAVANI²

¹Associate Professor of English, K. L. E. F, Vaddeswaram, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh, India

²Assistant Professor of English, K. L. E. F, Vaddeswaram, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh, India

ABSTRACT

"To know thyself is the beginning of wisdom." This famous quote is often attributed to Socrates. But what exactly do you know when you "know yourself?"

The meaning of thyself is yourself. Know thyself means knowing and being aware of one's own personality traits, characteristics and habits with a self-introspective attitude. For this, one needs to pay attention to his or her own personality traits and examine the Lion's Share traits in specific situations so as to identify them as his or her characteristics. However, the process of introspection must be done genuinely, with an ideology and open thought process without any self-deception. Only after a genuine thinking process the characteristics are explored and will be understood by oneself. This thought process in exploring one's self is known as know thyself. This paper focuses on how to introspect and what are the parameters that could be used to judge oneself. Especially, the learning consultants after knowing of their own potential as mentors will be beneficial and are useful traits which could be applied in class room teaching in order to reach the learners' community. Hence, our paper focuses how to introspect oneself under the tag of Know Thyself and how their attributes can be turned over to enrich the class room teaching with quality. It is undoubtedly accepted that know Thyself is very useful and helpful to teachers or mentors as they directly deal with the public. The impact and influence of mentors is very high on the learners' community compared to other people as they are like role models to the learners. Hence, the mentor should know himself first and should adopt such characteristic features if he or she finds as there is a need to stand as a role model to the students. This paper analyses the technique of Knowing oneself and gives an extract on the need of multifaceted attributes of a teacher so as to transform the class rooms into the most useful and result oriented centers.

KEYWORDS: Socializer, Thinker, Relator & Director

INTRODUCTION

To know oneself, one should know the attributes of a human being. The human attributes can be classified into four main characteristics. They are: The Director, Relator, Thinker and Socializer which can be taken into consideration altogether based on the psychoanalytical theory. These four characters have various personal elements hidden in every individual in this world irrespective of gender, caste, creed, religion or region. However, one should know oneself after scrutinizing himself or herself exactly to which category he or she belongs to. This testing is called Know Thyself. This test includes some general questions and answers which are incorporated in the paragraph given below.

BEHAVIOURAL ATTITUDES BASED ON DAY TODAY THINKING

This is an innovative method framed to ascertain how we behave in our day to day activities. This helps us to have a bare gist of how we look at ourselves. On the given questionnaire, put a tick mark against letter A or B which depicts the one that suitably describes your personality.

- 1) A) I desire to be frank in knowing about people and developing close contacts with them.
B) I am not generally frank in trying to ascertain facts about people and in maintaining close contacts with them.
- 2) A) I respond quite late and do it wantedly.
B) I respond quite fast and immediately.
- 3) A) I generally take a good care about others encroaching my routine.
B) I don't mind people encroaching my routine.
- 4) A) I take initiative to approach others in public meetings.
B) I generally wait for others to approach me.
- 5) A) I give priority to others opinions, like and dislikes.
B) I give priority to tasks rather than to individual opinions.
- 6) A) I generally do not prefer to be dominant and act slowly.
B) I am dominant when the situation demands.
- 7) A) While taking decisions I give importance to facts.
B) Take others view while taking decisions.
- 8) A) I like to keep the ball rolling in a group.
B) I rarely allow chats to continue in a group.
- 9) A) I am a team member and prefer to work in groups.
B) I love to work alone.
- 10) A) I generally voice forth my posers on the spur of the movement.
B) I call a Spade a Spade.
- 11) A) I am task oriented.
B) I am both a task and relationship oriented.
- 12) A) I am a kinesics oriented man.
B) I do not give importance to kinesics at all.
- 13) A) I agree to what others say generally.
B) I disagree with what others say.
- 14) A) I often keep my personal issues confidential.
B) I like to share my personal feeling with others in an easy going way.
- 15) A) I don't involve in verbal tiffs and tussels.

B) I like to involve myself in tiffs and tussels.

16) A) I Prefer new experiences.

B) I like known situations.

KEY			
1	2	3	4
1A	1B	2B	2A
3B	3A	4A	4B
5A	5B	6B	6A
7B	7A	8A	8B
9A	9B	10B	10A
11B	11A	12A	12B
13A	13B	14B	14A
15B	15A	16A	16B
TOTALS			

Mention the number of ticks and write it on the spaces provided above in each column.

Later, Compare the 1 & 2 columns and circle the number.

1 or 2

Then compare the “3” column with the “4” column and circle the letter that has the highest total.

3 or 4

So what’s the Result????

If you circled the 2 and 3 you are Controller/Director

If you circled the 1 and 3 you are Promoter/Socializer

If you circled the 1 and 4 you’re a Supporter/Relater

If you circled the 2 and 4, you have Analyzer/Thinker characteristics.

SUPPORTER/RELATER

- Harmonizer
- Values acceptance and stability in circumstances
- Slow with big decisions; dislikes change
- Builds networks of friends to help do work
- Good listener; timid about voicing contrary opinions; concerned for others’ feelings
- Easy-going; likes slow, steady pace
- Friendly & sensitive; no person in unlovable
- Relationship Oriented

ANALYZER/THINKER

- Assessor
- Values accuracy in details & being right
- Plans thoroughly before deciding to act
- Prefers to work alone
- Introverted; quick to think and slow to speak; closed about personal matters
- Highly organized; even plans spontaneity!
- Cautious, logical, thrifty approach
- Thoughtful; no problem is too big to ponder
- Idea Oriented

PROMOTER/SOCIALIZER

- Entertainer
- Values enjoyment and helping others with the same
- Full of ideas and impulsive in trying them
- Wants to work and be a fun for everyone
- Talkative and open about self; asks others' opinions; loves to brainstorm
- Flexible; easily bored with routine
- Intuitive, creative, spontaneous, flamboyant approach
- Optimist; nothing is beyond hope
- Celebration Oriented

CONTROLLER/DIRECTOR

- Commander
- Values getting the job done
- Decisive risk taker
- Good at delegating work to others
- Not shy but private about personal matters; comes on strong in conversation
- Likes to be where the action is
- Takes charge, enterprising, competitive, efficient approach
- Fearless; no obstacle is too big to tackle

- Results Oriented

From the above information and data it is very clear that a person possesses all the four characteristics based on the above questions. Hence, it is clear that if one introspects oneself and finds the scale on which he or she stands, then they will understand and know which particular characteristic feature they possess. But it is well known that a person can exhibit all the characters based on various situations, however majority of the times whatever the characteristic he or she exposes those qualities are considered to be one's major characteristics.

For instance if a person exhibits Director Qualities in most of the situations, that person can consider that he is a director. Likewise if a person's attributes are dominated by relations rather than anything else in all the aspects then that person will be considered to be a relator. Now our point of focus is how these character attributes will be helpful to a mentor to give benefits to the learner community in achieving their goals in their life. We are very particular about a mentor in Knowing the attributes because it is the mentors only who are the people directly associated with the people rather than any other professional bodies after the profession of Doctors. So if a mentor knows his attributes accordingly he can mingle with the students freely and teach them in the class room successfully.

In this regard, the teacher must know the differences among the four attributes and their characteristics. Let us say one example that if a teacher assigns any home assignment to the students, if the student does not do it on time, how the mentor should react and what action should be initiated against that student. Say for example if the teacher exclusively acts as a director, and does not consider any other reason why the student did not complete the assignment, he can punish the student as the director gives utmost importance to work than anything else. But if the teacher is gifted with other attributes like socializing, will ask the student in a friendly manner, what are the reasons for his not doing the assignment and counsels the student just like a mother, father and of course based on the reciprocation and behavioral attitude of the student counsels as a friend and tries to make out the reason.

The mentor can be a relater or a thinker or a socializer but he or she must be aware of in what situations he should take the lead role of attributes. Only the mentor's role is fulfilled. As he is aware of all the characteristics, as off late the teachers role has been transformed into that of a mentor and then to facilitator and after that into a learning consultant. Hence, this sort of transformation makes every teacher understand the learner's attitude by adopting and applying various characteristics based on the situation and his timely approach with them in the class room for drawing the best outcomes. Hence, through this paper we strongly demand the concept that a teacher should have an overall idea in knowing you and him or should play all the four characters like socializer, relator, thinker and director according to the class requirements. We would like to quote some of the literary examples to justify our statement.

We would like to take one of the well known campus novels from Indian English Literature that is *Five Point Some One* by Chetan Bhagat, where he stresses upon the practical oriented studies with the help of his characters in the novel. He also emphasizes on the teachers where some of them play the role as directors where they only focus on studies irrespective of students psychological and physical conditions as their goal is task oriented that is to achieve good ranks. The character role played by Prof. Cehriyan, always degrades the students' morale through his words by insulting them before the other group of students. Due to this reason his own son commits suicide to overcome the pressure and stress created by his father. So our point is that had the Professor played the role of a Socializer or Relator, he could have saved his son's life by counseling him. In the same novel, we can see Professor Veera who plays the roles as Director, Socializer, Thinker and Relator motivates the students to gain good marks, makes the students understand what is right and

what is to be done for a better career which make the student community decide better careers in their life.

The mentors role is very vital and a learner consultant must possess all the four characteristics in him or her which is once again proved in a movie excerpt that is *Tare Jameen par* where the teacher's role is enacted by Amir Khan who plays a vital role in improving the student's abilities as that student is considered to be a late bloomer (slow learner) due to his physical and psychological inability. However, Amir Khan makes that student a brilliant and talented one with his counseling. Here he takes the role as a Thinker, Relator, Socializer and a Director so as to improve the student's inner and inbuilt capabilities.

CONCLUSIONS AND FINDINGS

With the above examples, we would like to state that a teacher must play all the roles according to the receivers pulse otherwise there is no difference between a teacher and a computer in the class room and there is no meaning in speaking of the effective class room teaching if the teacher is replaced by an electronic device. So Know Thyself is a concept of knowing oneself as a mentor to implement all the characteristics and personal attributes according to the situations and condition of the students in the class room. It depends on the wisdom of the teacher to apply those techniques accordingly and make the class room teaching as effective as possible.

REFERENCES

1. <https://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Socrates>
2. <http://www.sciencemag.org/career>.
3. The Platinum Rule by Tony Alessandra, Ph.D. and Michael J. O'Connor Ph.D. New York, New York, Warner Brooks 1996
4. *Five point someone*, Bhagat, Chetan.
5. *Hindi film 'Tare Jameen Par'*, Aamir Khan.
6. Microsoft word – Communications Style Inventory. doc