



The Role of Teachers as Educators and the Dynamics of Challenges in Today's World of Education

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ABSTRACT

Teachers are the main pillars in the world of education who not only act as transmitters of material, but also as character builders, learning facilitators, and agents of social change. In the context of modern education, the role of teachers has developed significantly, demanding multidimensional competencies that include pedagogical, socio-emotional, technological, and cultural abilities. This study aims to examine the role of teachers as educators comprehensively and identify the challenges faced in today's world of education. By using a qualitative approach through literature studies, data were obtained from various relevant scientific literature, and analyzed using content analysis techniques. The results of the study indicate that teachers have a strategic role in shaping students into individuals with character, who are critical, and adaptive to change. The theory of humanistic education, constructivism, and educational ecology reinforce the urgency of the role of teachers in creating an inclusive and meaningful learning environment. However, teachers also face complex internal and external pressures, such as work stress, technological demands, and student diversity. Therefore, systemic support and ongoing professional development strategies are needed to shape flexible, reflective, and progressive teachers. This research is expected to contribute to improving the quality of education by strengthening the role of teachers in the era of globalization.

1. INTRODUCTION

One of the main pillars in the world of education is teachers, who have an important role in building students' character, knowledge, and skills. ([Jannah & Rindaningsi, 2024](#)) As the main actor in the learning process, the teacher not only acts as a source of information, but is also an important figure who has a significant impact on the general development of students. ([Wati & Ritonga, 2024](#)) In contemporary education, the role of teachers has expanded far beyond their traditional function as transmitters of subject matter. Teachers are expected to help students reach their full potential, both academically and non-academically. ([Putri et al., 2023](#))

Teachers can also enhance students' intrinsic motivation by encouraging, building, and maintaining their enthusiasm for learning. Given the various conditions and characteristics of students, this role is very important. A personalized and empathetic approach is needed to ensure that each student feels valued and supported during the learning process. Teachers also help create a fun learning environment and encourage students to actively participate. As facilitators,

they help students learn to think critically and creatively. These skills are essential to addressing the challenges of globalization and changing times. ([Camila, 2023](#))

Teachers must also be good role models for their students. Because children and adolescents are very susceptible to imitating the behavior of adults they admire, teachers must demonstrate a high level of professionalism, integrity, and social awareness. The role of teachers as educators is therefore very important and strategic because it influences students' academic achievement as well as the formation of character and personality that will determine the future of the country. ([Novita & Bakar, 2021](#))

However, the rapid development of the era has created increasingly complex problems for the world of education. With dynamic social changes, major advances in digital technology, and demands for multidimensional competencies, teachers must continue to develop. Teachers must not only understand the subject matter, but they must also have knowledge of educational technology, social emotional skills, and the ability to adapt to the cultural and social differences of their students. Innovative and creative learning approaches and classroom management must be updated to remain relevant and effective. ([Nofijantie, 2012](#))

To address these issues, it is essential to have a deep understanding of the tasks of teachers and the dynamics of educational challenges. Educators and education stakeholders will be able to use this information to create appropriate competency development strategies and supporting legislation. Consequently, the purpose of this study is to study the role of teachers as educators as a whole and identify the various dynamics of challenges faced in today's education world. By understanding the research thoroughly, it is hoped that the results can provide a clear picture and become a foundation for improving the quality of education through the formation of a flexible and progressive teaching profession that can handle the demands of the ever-changing era. ([Purnamasari et al., 2024](#))

In addition, teachers' tasks are increasingly complex as a result of the demands to act as agents of change in society. In addition to imparting knowledge, teachers must teach tolerance, nationality, and democracy to their students. Teachers have an important role in creating an inclusive and harmonious classroom atmosphere in a pluralistic and dynamic society. Teachers can build cross-cultural understanding and strengthen social cohesion among students through interactive and dialogical learning. This is very important to produce a generation that is able to live well and can contribute positively to society. ([Marhaenenti & Trisiana, 2023](#))

In today's computer and internet era, teachers must be able to use technology in the learning process. Digital literacy skills are a primary requirement in facing the transformation of education that is increasingly dependent on digital devices and platforms. Teachers are expected not only to be able to use technology, but also to be wise in choosing and implementing digital learning media that suit students' needs. Effective use of technology can increase students' learning motivation, expand access to information, and enhance their learning experience. Therefore, improving teachers' digital skills is an important component of ongoing professional development. ([Judijanto et al., 2024](#))

Teachers also act as counselors who help students emotionally and psychologically. This is because many students face pressure from various aspects of life, such as family problems, academic pressure, and social interactions. Caring teachers will help students create a safe learning environment. This method will improve positive relationships between teachers and students, which is an important foundation of a comprehensive educational process. ([Amelia, 2023](#))

In addition, continuous reflection and evaluation of the teaching practices carried out by teachers is very important. Reflective teachers will be able to find strengths and weaknesses in their approach to teaching and dare to try new things to improve the quality of learning. This can be achieved by taking training, working with colleagues, or getting involved in professional learning communities. ([Zuhra et al., 2024](#)) To face the changes and demands of the profession that are constantly changing, teachers must have a culture of lifelong learning. Therefore, teachers are not only teachers but also true learners who continue to develop and grow. ([Westari & Sumarsono, 2025](#))

Based on the description, the main focus of this paper is to examine how the role of teachers as educators develops in facing the challenges of the ever-changing world of education. Teachers are not only required to deliver subject matter, but also to shape students' characters, facilitate active and enjoyable learning, and be able to adapt to technological advances and social dynamics. Therefore, the purpose of this paper is to provide a deeper understanding of the strategic role of teachers in the context of modern education and to highlight the importance of developing teacher competencies in order to be able to answer the demands of the times. It is hoped that this paper can be a contribution to strengthening the teaching profession that is responsive and progressive to change.

2. THEORETICAL BASIS

Various educational literature and theories have investigated the role of teachers in the world of education, which shows how complex and broad the responsibilities carried by a teacher are. In the past, teachers may have only been seen as conveyors of information or implementers of the curriculum, but in the context of modern education, their role has evolved to be more meaningful and strategic. Teachers are now not only tasked with transferring knowledge, but also act as moral guides, learning facilitators, motivators, and even agents of social change. This change reflects a paradigm shift in understanding the essence of education itself, from a material-centered approach to a learner-centered approach. As pedagogical thought has developed, various theories have emerged to explain and strengthen the role of teachers in the teaching and learning process more deeply and comprehensively. ([Uno & Nina Lamatenggo, 2022](#))

One approach that has greatly influenced our understanding of the role of teachers is the humanistic theory of education. This theory is based on the belief that every individual has unique and valuable innate potential, and is able to develop optimally if given a supportive and humanizing learning environment. In this context, teachers are no longer the sole authority in the classroom, but rather facilitators who accompany the process of student personal growth. Carl Rogers, a leading figure in the humanistic approach, emphasized the importance of three main aspects in the teacher-student relationship, namely authenticity (congruence), unconditional acceptance, and deep empathy. Teachers are required to create a warm, open learning atmosphere that respects individual differences. This approach not only encourages cognitive development, but also helps shape students' emotional and social character, thus producing critical, reflective, and morally aware learners. ([Suryana, 2021](#))

In addition to humanistic theory, constructivism pioneered by Lev Vygotsky also made a major contribution in shaping a new perspective on the role of teachers. Constructivism views that knowledge is not something that is simply given by teachers, but is actively constructed by students through experience and social interaction. In this framework, teachers act as facilitators who accompany students' knowledge construction process, by paying attention to the zone of proximal development (ZPD), which is the area between the abilities that students have independently and the abilities they can achieve with the help of others. Through scaffolding strategies, teachers provide tailored support and gradually reduce intervention until students can learn independently. By creating a collaborative and meaningful learning environment, teachers help students develop higher-order thinking skills such as analysis, synthesis, and evaluation, and shape them into active learners who are able to adapt to various situations. ([Wicaksono, 2020](#))

The ecological theory of education developed by Urie Bronfenbrenner expands our understanding of the role of teachers by emphasizing the importance of environmental context in individual development. This theory divides the environment into several interrelated systems, ranging from micro systems such as family and school, to macro systems such as educational policies, culture, and socio-economic conditions. In this perspective, teachers not only interact with students in the classroom, but are also in a complex web of external influences that can affect the learning process. Therefore, teachers are required to be sensitive to the various social

and cultural factors that affect students' lives. A teacher who understands the context of the student's environment will be able to develop more relevant and inclusive learning strategies, and bridge students' personal needs with increasingly complex global demands. ([Ibda, 2022](#))

However, behind this important role, teachers also face internal challenges that are no less severe. One of them is psychological pressure due to work stress, as explained in the stress theory proposed by Lazarus and Folkman. Stress arises when individuals feel that the demands they face exceed their resources or abilities. In the world of education, teachers are often faced with heavy administrative burdens, demands to always keep up with technological and curriculum developments, high expectations from parents and the community, and the dynamics of relationships between fellow educators. If not handled properly, this pressure can disrupt the mental and physical health of teachers, and reduce the quality of the learning process. Therefore, it is important for educational institutions to provide psychosocial support, stress management training, and reflection space for teachers so that they remain enthusiastic and resilient in carrying out their roles. ([Nur et al., 2023](#))

Through the presentation of these theories, we can see that the role of teachers in the world of modern education is very complex, dynamic, and demands multidimensional readiness. Teachers must not only master teaching materials and learning methods, but also need to understand student psychology, be able to communicate effectively, adapt to technology, and be sensitive to social and cultural dynamics. Today's teachers are expected to be humanistic, reflective, collaborative, and innovative educators. In the era of globalization and digitalization that continues to grow, the role of teachers is expanding not only in the context of formal education, but also in shaping the character of the future generation who are highly competitive, ethical, and ready to face various life challenges. Thus, investment in teacher quality is the main key to creating a superior and sustainable education system. ([Hapudin, 2021](#))

In Islamic education, teachers have various roles. They not only function as transmitters of knowledge ('alim), but also as murabbi (moral and spiritual educators), muaddib (instillers of manners), and mu'allim (teachers of knowledge). This view is in line with the concept of tarbiyah, which emphasizes the development of a holistic personality, which includes elements of faith, morals, and deeds. In Islam, a good teacher must be a living example (uswah hasanah) for his students in addition to teaching them. This shows that educators teach through attitudes, behavior, and social interactions in addition to speech. Therefore, Islamic education provides a strong foundation for strengthening students' character and spirituality in facing the challenges posed by the contemporary world. ([Sari et al., 2023](#))

In addition, the idea of value-based education is important to strengthen the role of teachers as character builders. Teachers are at the forefront of maintaining the cultural and moral identity of the younger generation amidst the current of globalization that brings new values that often conflict with local and religious values. Education that emphasizes principles such as justice, tolerance, integrity, and responsibility must be instilled in the entire learning process. Here teachers must create a learning process that focuses on academic achievement and the formation of a strong personality. This method will produce students who are not only intellectually intelligent but also emotionally and spiritually mature. ([Suryani, 2021](#))

In addition, the rapid digital transformation is driving educators to use new educational methods such as blended learning and rotating classes. These methods allow students to learn independently through digital media before class meetings, and class time is used for practice, problem solving, and in-depth discussions. This model changes the role of teachers to be information centers; instead, they act as facilitators who help students explore and understand what they are learning. This model faces challenges in terms of how teachers can create engaging, relevant, and inclusive digital content to ensure that all students have equal access to technology. Teachers can contribute to creating a more adaptive educational ecosystem to the times by improving digital and pedagogical skills. ([Hariansa et al., 2023](#))

In addition, social-emotional learning (SEL) approaches should be considered. This method allows teachers to help students become more self-aware, learn to manage their

emotions, create healthy social relationships, and make informed decisions. Social-emotional skills are critical to students' success in life in an increasingly complex and stressful society. It is essential to their success in academic settings and the wider community. By implementing SEL in their daily learning, teachers will create a supportive and inclusive classroom environment. They will also encourage students to become empathetic, resilient, and collaborative. ([Rajab, 2023](#))

Therefore, improving the role of teachers involves improving technical skills as well as improving the quality of human resources in education. Comprehensive training, support, and appropriate rewards for teachers' hard work and moral responsibility are essential. Policies and work environments that support teacher professionalism are created by the government and educational institutions. The quality of teachers affects students' academic achievement and the future of the country, which depends on a generation that is educated, moral, and has a strong identity. Therefore, one of the important components of sustainable education reform is the formation of a strong and transformative teacher role. ([Ekawati, 2023](#))

3. RESEARCH METHODS

This study uses a qualitative approach with a library research method. Data were collected from various literature sources in the form of books, journals, scientific articles, and official documents related to the role of teachers and the dynamics of today's educational challenges. The data analysis technique used is content analysis, which is to systematically examine and interpret the contents of the data to gain a deep understanding.

The qualitative approach was chosen because it allows researchers to explore educational phenomena holistically and in-depth. Literature studies are relevant because they can provide a comprehensive theoretical and empirical picture without requiring time-consuming field data collection.

In addition, this study also uses source triangulation techniques by comparing various references to ensure the validity and reliability of information. Thus, the results of the study are expected to accurately describe the role of teachers and the challenges faced in the context of today's education.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Role of Teachers as Educators: Teachers have a very strategic role in the education system, namely as the main actor in the process of character formation and development of students' potential as a whole. The first and most basic role is as a teacher, namely delivering learning materials systematically, interestingly, and in accordance with the applicable curriculum. However, this role is not limited to the transfer of knowledge alone, but also requires pedagogical skills in building active, interactive, and meaningful learning experiences.

Furthermore, teachers function as mentors, who accompany students in facing both academic and non-academic problems. In this role, teachers help students recognize their potential and obstacles, and direct them to constructive solutions. Effective guidance strengthens the emotional relationship between teachers and students, which has an impact on increasing students' self-confidence and independence.

The third role is as a motivator. Teachers need to create a learning atmosphere that inspires students' enthusiasm and passion. This is done through positive reinforcement, empathy, and emotional support that is tailored to the individual conditions of the students. Teachers who are able to build good interpersonal communication will be more successful in fostering intrinsic motivation in students.

In addition, teachers also act as learning facilitators, who encourage students to actively build their own understanding through discussion, experimentation, and exploration of ideas. Teachers need to design a learning environment that is challenging and open to critical

questions, collaboration, and creativity. This role is in line with the constructivist approach that emphasizes the active role of students in the learning process.

Equally important, teachers also serve as role models that reflect ethical values, integrity, and professional attitudes. Students tend to imitate the behavior and attitudes of their teachers, so that the character and morals of teachers directly influence the formation of student character. Therefore, teachers must consistently demonstrate behavior that reflects honesty, responsibility, and social concern.

Thus, the role of teachers in education is multidimensional and holistic. Teachers are required not only to excel in academic aspects, but also to have high emotional and social intelligence. The success of the educational process is highly dependent on the teacher's ability to build empathetic and trusting relationships with students.

Dynamics of Challenges in Today's Education World: The contemporary education world is faced with new, complex and ever-evolving challenges. One of the main challenges is the advancement of digital technology that fundamentally changes the paradigm of teaching and learning. Teachers are now required to integrate technology into learning, such as the use of digital platforms, multimedia, and Learning Management Systems (LMS). However, on the other hand, easy access to technology also has the potential to cause distractions, such as dependence on gadgets or invalid information, so teachers must be able to manage and direct the use of technology wisely.

The next challenge is social and cultural diversity in the school environment. Students come from diverse backgrounds in terms of ethnicity, religion, economy, and culture. Teachers need to have cultural sensitivity and develop an inclusive approach in order to create a safe, harmonious, and respectful learning environment. This is important to form values of tolerance and cooperation from an early age.

Dynamic changes in education policy and curriculum also require teachers to continue learning and adapting. The development of competency-based curriculum, project-based learning approaches, and assessment models that emphasize 21st-century skills are challenges for teachers. Therefore, teachers need to develop adaptive pedagogical competencies and a spirit of lifelong learning.

Another pressure is psychological stress experienced by teachers and students. Administrative burdens, pressure to achieve academic targets, and social problems such as bullying or family conflicts often have a negative impact on the emotional condition of teachers and students. In this situation, teachers need institutional support such as stress management training, counseling, and work welfare policies that support mental health.

Today's teachers are required to have multidimensional competencies that go beyond the traditional boundaries of teaching. In addition to pedagogical competencies, mastery of information technology and digital literacy is essential to maintain the relevance of learning in the digital era. Interpersonal communication and social-emotional skills are also crucial in creating a collaborative and inclusive learning climate. Teachers are required to be innovators, facilitators, and agents of change who are able to respond to the dynamics of education adaptively. This complex role requires creativity, critical thinking skills, and cross-disciplinary collaborative skills. Therefore, teacher professionalism is no longer static, but must continue to be developed sustainably.

Teacher professional development is a vital element in responding to these competency demands. Training, certification, and participation in scientific forums must be an integral part of teacher capacity development. A systematic competency improvement program can bridge the gap between pedagogical theory and practice. Professional certification increases credibility and provides quality assurance for teacher performance in the eyes of education stakeholders. In addition, academic forums such as seminars and conferences allow for the exchange of ideas and the formation of productive professional networks. Competency improvement not only supports the quality of learning, but also strengthens teacher resilience in facing global educational transformation.

The complexity of contemporary educational challenges shows that the role of teachers is increasingly strategic and challenging. Technological, social, and cultural changes require teachers to have balanced intellectual, emotional, social, and spiritual readiness. Teacher education must be seen as a continuous process that begins from the pre-service period to professional development throughout a career. Without systemic support and supportive regulations, teachers will have difficulty adapting to the dynamic reality of education. Therefore, the success of national education is highly dependent on the quality of teachers who have adaptive competence and high professional commitment.

Optimizing the role of teachers is only possible in an adaptive and supportive education system. Flexible curriculum, autonomy in pedagogical decision-making, and growth-based evaluation are prerequisites for supporting teacher creativity. Public policy must also provide incentives, legal protection, and recognition of teacher contributions. In addition, strengthening learning communities and access to digital resources will accelerate the professional transformation of teachers. Synergy between the government, higher education institutions, and the community greatly determines the effectiveness of this support system. At the same time, individual teacher commitment to continue learning is the main foundation for the sustainability of education quality. Therefore, educational transformation requires a holistic strategy that places teachers as the main actors in human resource development.

5. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

a. Conclusion

Based on the description, the main focus of this paper is to examine how the role of teachers as educators develops in facing the challenges of the ever-changing world of education. Teachers are not only required to deliver subject matter, but also to shape students' characters, facilitate active and enjoyable learning, and be able to adapt to technological advances and social dynamics. Based on the explanation of the educational theories studied, it can be concluded that the role of teachers in modern education is very complex and multidimensional. Teachers not only function as transmitters of material, but also as facilitators, motivators, emotional guides, and agents of social change.

The humanistic approach emphasizes the importance of warm and empathetic interpersonal relationships between teachers and students as a basis for developing their full potential. Meanwhile, the constructivist approach directs teachers to create an active, collaborative, and contextual learning process through guidance tailored to the developmental needs of students. The ecological theory of education emphasizes that the role of teachers is influenced by interrelated environmental systems, so teachers need to be sensitive to the social, cultural, and policy dynamics that affect the world of education.

On the other hand, the internal pressure faced by teachers in the form of work stress, as explained in the Lazarus and Folkman stress theory, shows the importance of psychological support and effective stress management so that teachers are able to carry out their duties optimally. Therefore, the purpose of this paper is to provide a deeper understanding of the strategic role of teachers in the context of modern education and to highlight the importance of mastering theoretical foundations and developing teacher competencies in order to be able to answer the demands of the times. It is hoped that this paper can be a contribution to strengthening the teaching profession that is responsive, holistic, and progressive to change.

b. Suggestion

Given the complexity of the role of teachers in the context of modern education, synergistic efforts are needed between various parties to strengthen the capacity and professional resilience of teachers. First, the government and educational institutions need to formulate policies that support the development of teacher professionalism in a sustainable manner, through the provision of needs-based training, access to educational technology, and a fair

incentive system. Second, higher education institutions as producers of prospective teachers must update their curriculum to be responsive to the challenges of the 21st century, by emphasizing digital literacy, innovative pedagogy, and strengthening social-emotional competencies.

Third, school principals and policy makers at the local level need to build a collaborative, inclusive, and supportive school culture towards the role of teachers as agents of change. Fourth, teachers themselves are required to have reflective awareness and a spirit of lifelong learning, in order to strengthen their capacity in facing the dynamics of education that continue to develop. Finally, it is important for society to provide appreciation and social support for the teaching profession, considering its very strategic contribution in shaping the future generation. With comprehensive and sustainable support, the role of teachers as educators will be able to be carried out optimally amidst the increasingly complex challenges of the times.

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