

The Teacher Development Podcast – World Teachers’ Day

Amie: Hello and welcome back to the teacher development podcast. In today's episode we will hear from three teachers in Pakistan talking about UNESCO's World Teachers’ Day. World Teachers Day is held annually on the fifth of October to celebrate all teachers around the globe. It commemorates the anniversary of a partnership between the International Labour Organisation and UNESCO setting a benchmark for the rights and standards of teachers globally. Here's Chris talking to Adnan.

Chris: What made you want to become a teacher?

Adnan: I learned from my experience when I was in school life and then I idolised one of them. My science teacher, his way of teaching was so excellent. That was the first reason that I have decided to become a teacher. What made me a more motivated teacher is that, how can I develop? How can I improve my teaching skills? And what are the better ways to teach learners. So you can say that these two things are the main factors due to which I have decided to become a teacher.

Amie: Here’s Nighat and why she likes being a teacher.

Nighat: Teaching is my profession and I have always a keen interest, to teach them, to give them, the students, something new. You know, creativity and critical thinking are my favourite subjects. So teaching as a profession, I am enjoying my teaching and I am always trying new things.

Amie: Both teachers, Nighat and Adnan, talked about how they motivate themselves by trying new activities, or teaching methods to engage their students. Are students aware of the efforts teachers make? Do we know the kind of impact we have on our students?

Chris: We asked Fatima if she remembered any particular teachers from her own time at school.

Fatima: Yes, yes, yes, yes. And I always say one thing, whatever I am today, I am just because of my teachers, and I really mean it. I can never forget to my teachers, like, I will definitely remember them for my whole life. Literally. I mean, they have reshaped my entire life. They inspired me basically, they showed some kind of belief in me, and when I when I was not ready to believe in myself, but they said, *you can do this, you can do this, you can do this*. I personally think that teachers have magic in their words, if I talk about in my context, still, teacher has such a great impact in students’ lives. Every word spoken by the teacher, you know, it really works for the students, either it is good, or it is bad. So, it impacts them equally. If it is good, their inspiration, you can see, you can see. And on the other hand, like if something you

know, harsh, is spoken by the teacher, it also has a great, great impact on the students.

Amie: In most countries across the world, teaching is dominated by women. In Pakistan, this is also the case, we asked Adnan about why he thinks more women become teachers.

Adnan: Yeah, we have, we have seven teachers in my village, out of which four are female, and three are male. So that is the overall situation in whole my district, that, due to certain reasons, the females in our system are studying better than the males. Maybe that is the one of the reasons why we have female teachers more than the adult male teachers. In my area, the male members have one chance that they think that we have to go abroad, going abroad is better than a better way of earning. So there's, maybe it could be one reason also. The girls actually there are a lot of facilities in my hometown, we have lot of female schools, so does have maximum opportunities to get admission and gain knowledge.

Amie: So, October 5, every year is world Teachers' Day, will you be celebrating? Will you do a lesson with your students about it? I asked Fatima. Has she ever heard of world teachers day?

Fatima: Yes, Yes, I have. I have heard about the world teachers day. But I haven't taught any lesson on that. But one thing I would like to say here, because you know this is the age of internet and few of my students, they wished it to me on the teachers day, but I didn't teach any lesson in that. I would really love to teach a lesson and choose a lesson on that particular day, then, you know, I will tell them that *this is not a national day, but it is being celebrated internationally, like everyone is celebrating the teachers' day to day*. So it will be great idea, yes.

Amie: I asked Fatima, *How does she motivate herself and her fellow teachers?*

Fatima: As teachers, we sometimes feel down when, like, you know, the community is not acknowledging our services. We need some kind of acknowledgement. And it's really a brilliant idea. Like if we, I mean, if the teachers share their ideas and the international teachers like, how the teachers, how the teaching is being done in other countries.

Amie: Since 2016. The teaching english.org.uk website has been celebrating by hosting a series of talks and workshops. This year, there are eight talks happening from the fifth of October until the eighth. So do check those out. some really interesting talks on different aspects, teaching and teacher development, including digital literacy, eco literacy, teaching teenagers, and also using WhatsApp for interactive tasks. If you're interested in any of the talks, please register on the websites. And if you have any ideas about what you will do on world teachers day, please share them with us in the comment section. We would love to hear from you. Thanks for listening today. Join us next time on the teacher development podcast.