



# Teachers: From Root to Peak of Civilisation



**Habibur Rahman**

*"It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge"*

— Albert Einstein

**T**he excellence of human characteristics and culture is closely linked to knowledge, belief, morality, customs, art, law, politics, social customs and traditions, the fertile pasture of which is civilisation. And the shepherd of this civilisation is a great teacher. This great teacher emerged through the discovery of the equipment and writing system of the ancient world. From ancient to medieval, medieval to the modern and postmodern era, teachers came to introduce people with things like Artificial Intelligence (AI), Virtual Reality (VR), Augmented Reality (AR) and Internet of Things (IoT). Behind all the civilisations, inventions, discoveries in this world, there are the contributions of the teachers. The history of all revolutions and movements, whether for human rights or freedom, has been written by the hands of teachers overtly or covertly. Just as respected teachers contribute to the building of a nation, state, and society, there is endless inspiration behind the creation of a successful person and entrepreneur. Behind every successful person is a story. That story is about a great teacher, a selfless gardener who spreads the fragrance of hundreds of flowers and purifies the earth. Therefore, it can be said: "Everything that is great and eternally beneficial in the world has been done by great teachers".

The world's first professional teacher was the Chinese philosopher Confucius, who said, "All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single lamp." He transformed teaching into an art with the standards of morality and sociality, which became an important part of the modern education system. A school called "Bar Ankh" made an incredible contribution to ancient Egyptian civilisation, which is known as the world's first school. From this school, education, culture, tradition and civilisation spread worldwide through great teachers. The Greek philosopher Socrates, the master of Western philosophy, was a professional teacher who travelled around the world to enlighten the youth with the light of education. Following the path of his disciple Plato, he established the Academy to spread the light of education.

The Greek philosopher Aristotle, the father of zoology and political science, was a professional teacher. He established the 'Lyceum' to spread light in various branches of knowledge including physics, biology, zoology, ethics, logic, and political science to build an intellectual social system. The education system and state management practices of this great teacher are practiced even in the modern era. He taught Alexander for 13 years. He gave lectures to students during the day and to the thirsty people at night, improving the teaching profession forever.

Kautilya was one of the leading scholars and teachers of India. This great teacher, philosopher and economist,

in his immortal creation "Economics" talks about two sciences called the science of government and the science of economics, which are undeniable in the modern state system. He said "The root of happiness is religion, the root of religion is money, the root of money is good governance, the root of good governance is victorious internal restraint, the root of victorious internal restraint is humility and the root of humility is service to the elderly". Maria Taccola Artemisia Montessori is an Italian educationist and physician. There are stories of various insults, abuse and deprivations in the life of this great teacher. After overcoming ups and downs, she presented herself in the world as a dedicated teacher for the neglected population of children with special needs. The education system she introduced is known as the "Montessori Education System". This system is an effective teaching method all over the world today.

Anne Sullivan Massey is an American teacher. She became a teacher after overcoming visual impairment. She was the teacher of Helen Keller or Helen Adams Keller, who was speech, hearing and vision impaired. This great teacher contributed the most to her graduation from the age of twenty-four with speech, hearing and vision impairment and later obtaining a doctorate degree. Helen fought for the rights of disabled children all her life. At the same time, she was an important writer and political activist.

Jean Frederick Oberlin was a French educator who founded the first pre-primary school in a poor village in France in the late 18th and early 19th centuries and played a significant role in the social and economic development of the village. As a result of his efforts, the poor people of his village received improved education and social life and gave birth to an ideal of humanism and social justice known as the 'Spirit of Oberlin'.

Development of the education system: He founded the first pre-primary school for children in poverty-stricken villages, which later inspired the establishment of similar education systems in other countries. American-Bolivian teacher Jaime Alfonso Escalante popularised a dull subject like mathematics among poor students through the story 'Stand and Deliver'.

Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan was a renowned philosopher and teacher. He believed that the main goal of education is to develop the soul in harmony with the material world to find the ultimate truth. His birth anniversary on September 5 is celebrated as Teachers' Day in India, which commemorates his respect and contribution to teachers. He believed in a philosophy based on Advaita Vedanta and emphasized education and character building.

In Bangladesh, respected teachers, including university teachers, sacrificed their lives in the Language Movement of 1952 and Liberation War of 1971. Pedagogues like Maherin Chowdhury and Masuka elevated teaching to the highest level of professionalism by sacrificing their lives in Milestone Tragedy (which took place in Dhaka on 21 July 2025).

In this way, from the dawn of the world to this day, great teachers have been lighting the lamp of knowledge and illuminating the world. Civilisation, science, invention and technology are all golden fruits of these great teachers. Therefore, on World Teachers' Day, I offer my humble respect and respectful greetings to all the teachers of the world.

*The writer is Deputy Director, Education Engineering Department, Ministry of Education. Email: rahmanshdu78@gmail.com*