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# The School Teacher's Role in the Modern Education

*Akira Inoue*

The expression "just as a teacher's role" is often found in our conversations and writings. Although the meaning of this expression seems clear at a glance, it varies according to the persons and situations. The role expectations for teachers in our times show not only the different meaning but sometimes the incompatible directions. The surveys by Brookover and other American educational sociologists confirm the assertion mentioned above.

I think I could explain the cause of such difference and conflict concerning the role expectations for teachers by the following facts: 1) the integral function of education differentiated in the historical development of society; 2) the appearance of professional school teachers followed the functional differentiation.

Before the birth of school teachers, there were only educators who gave the moral instruction chiefly. The modern school teachers, contrary to the educators, communicate the basic or professional knowledges and skills. But it is the modern nationalism that demands the difficult role of the national moral indoctrinator to school teachers. The image of ancient moral educators, the concept of modern teachers as communicators of knowledges and skills, and the notion of indoctrinators of nationalism, these three elements cause the complex and often incompatible role expectations for teachers.

As a definite profession, the teaching profession has the equally definite role which must not be confused with the role of citizens or human beings in general. Every man including school teachers is in fact a moral educator. The success of moral education therefore depends on all members of our society. But, as far as morality contains high-degree knowledges and skills, the professional moral teacher may be necessary for children in school.