



## BOOK REVIEW

### Why do I Need a Teacher When I've got Google? The Essential Guide to the Big Issues for Every 21<sup>st</sup> Century Teacher

**Ian Gilbert**

**Reviewed by:**

**Neetu Ganapathy**

Assistant Professor, Systems and Business Communication, SDMIMD,  
 Mysore - 570011, Karnataka, India

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### Review

'Why do I need a teacher when I've got Google' is a thought provoking book by Ian Gilbert on the changes in the field of education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and the challenges faced by teachers under the circumstances. The author is an educational innovator, writer, entrepreneur, founder of 'Independent Thinking' and an inspirational speaker. He trains teachers in schools and colleges in the UK and across the world to become better teachers who have the important task of bringing out the best in their students.

The book raises some important questions on the role played by teachers in the modern day world, which is fast changing. Access to information and knowledge are no longer limited to a few people. With the growing popularity of the Internet and search engines like Google and with the proliferation of smart phones, everyone has access to information and knowledge. So, the role of a teacher is no longer limited to just providing informa-

tion or knowledge but extends to guiding students to understand that knowledge and putting it to good use.

Considering the changes that are taking place across the world, the author asks teachers if they are equipping students to take on global competition. Are they helping their students to build on the skills and competencies necessary or are they just producing the next generation of youth who are unemployable? He emphasizes that it is important for teachers to help students to develop a high level of Emotional Quotient (EQ) and help raise their confidence.

The author says that a teacher's job is not to teach but to help students to learn. He compares this to the role of a doctor whose job is to help a patient get better and not just prescribe medicines. He talks of the all-important role that teachers play in shaping the lives of students no matter what backgrounds they may come from. He asks teachers to exercise caution when dealing with students as any negative comment can have a debilitating impact on students and result in their having a low sense of self worth.

Ian Gilbert, in his well-researched book on education, says that the real aim of education should be to teach students to think. But, schools seem to focus more on the grades and less on the learning resulting in students

leaving school requiring a year's remedial work to develop skills needed to succeed at University. Thus, he says that all educational institutions need to foster independent thinking amongst their students.

The author exhorts teachers to teach students to think and grow up to be morally sound individuals who are educated to know right from wrong and use their education for good. He challenges teachers to take into account learning styles of students and to design a rich learning experience to match that. He suggests that students should be given the independence to learn on their own and from each other rather than passively from the teacher.

The book provides the reader with several suggestions, tips and strategies to make learning an interesting and fun filled experience. Though the book is very entertaining, the author could have considered reducing the number of chapters (32 chapters) in the book as the same ideas are reemphasized in several chapters.

Published by Routledge, the Taylor and Francis Group, the book is a must read for every academician across the globe. Though the book draws on examples from the education system in the UK, the facts discussed are relevant in the global context. It gets you thinking about the important role played by teachers in making this world a better place to live in. Thus, the author leaves us

with the thought that teachers of the 21<sup>st</sup> century should be innovative in their approach to teaching and help students to understand their role as a citizen of the world.

## About the Reviewer

**Dr. Neetu Ganapathy** has fifteen plus years of experience in academics and industry. Her teaching and research interests include Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Systems, Knowledge Management, E-learning, Managerial Communication and Resonant Leadership. She has been teaching the ERP course (elective) at SDMIMD since 9 years. She has designed and delivered several MDPs and workshops in the areas of Business Communication and ERP for corporates.

She was awarded a Doctorate in Business Administration by the Kuvempu University for her work on Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Implementation in SMEs. She has presented papers related to her doctoral studies at both National and International conferences including one at the 'European Conference on Information Management and Evaluation (ECIME)' held at the Royal Holloway School of Business at London. Her study on ERP system selection by SMEs won the third prize in the Doctoral Student competition of the AIMS International Conference on Management held at IIM Bangalore in January 2013.