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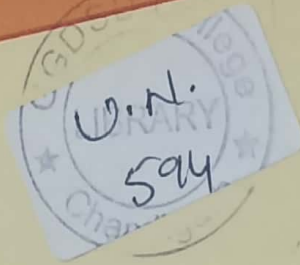
# UNIVERSITY NEWS

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# Lead, Guide, Step Back: Redefining the Teacher's Role in an AI-Dominated World

Neeraj Saxena\*

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is fundamentally redefining the educational landscape, necessitating a paradigmatic shift in the role of teachers from traditional knowledge providers to mentors, facilitators, and consciousness catalysts. This comprehensive analysis explores the transformation imperative in the age of AI, examines systemic dysfunctions plaguing current educational frameworks, highlights AI's simultaneously *disruptive* yet enabling role, and proposes a sophisticated three-stage model—Sage on the Stage, Guide by the Side, Pack at the Back—for strategic teacher repositioning. Drawing insights from extensive global and Indian case studies, longitudinal research data, and emerging pedagogical frameworks, this article outlines comprehensive policy recommendations aligned with the National Education Policy – 2020 (NEP 2020) and *Viksit Bharat 2047*, emphasising heutagogy, ethical AI integration, and transformative faculty development as critical enablers for an educational renaissance.

## From Knowledge Gatekeepers to Wisdom Catalysts

The dawn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century has witnessed an unprecedented acceleration in technological advancement, fundamentally altering the fabric of human society. Perhaps nowhere is this transformation more profound than in the realm of education, where Artificial Intelligence (AI) is not merely introducing incremental changes but orchestrating a complete paradigmatic revolution. For centuries, teachers have been the primary custodians of knowledge, their authority firmly rooted in an era of information scarcity when access to learning resources was limited and centralised.

The industrial-age education system, conceived during the Second Industrial Revolution, was designed to produce compliant workers for factory-based economies. Teachers functioned as knowledge gatekeepers, delivering standardised content to passive recipients through lecture-based methodologies. This model, though effective for its time, has become increasingly obsolete in our hyperconnected, information-abundant digital age.

Today, AI shatters this traditional paradigm with unprecedented force. When sophisticated tools like ChatGPT, Claude, and other large language models can process, synthesise, and deliver information faster, more accurately, and at infinite scale, the fundamental question facing educational institutions worldwide is no longer "Will AI replace teachers?" but rather "What uniquely human role remains not just relevant but indispensable in the age of artificial intelligence?"

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