

Virtual Parent Cell

Apart from teaching learning process, Khalsa College of Engineering and Technology has also introduced Virtual Parent Cell in which Virtual Parents (teachers) are assigned to the students. Students can discuss their problems with their virtual Parents related to academics, career goals, wellness, mental health etc. Proper counseling sessions are done on time to time as per requirement. With the help of these sessions students are get to know about their strengths and weaknesses so they can further work on it to improve themselves. Also, with the guidance of their mentors, students can develop their Social Skills, Professional skills, Ethical values.

Virtual Parent

Virtual Parent help all the students in the areas of academic achievement, career, social and emotional development, ensuring today's students become the productive, well-adjusted adults of tomorrow. They offer guidance to individuals and groups who are dealing with issues that affect their mental health and well-being and help them to define goals, plan action and gain insight. They also encourage students to talk to their parents or guardians about the things that they are worried about. When students do not feel comfortable talking about emotional or social problems at home, Virtual Parents have individual counseling sessions with them. If there is a problem occurring with a group of students, a group counseling session is warranted. Sometimes Virtual Parent include the parents in these sessions for serious issues to determine whether outside counseling or support is necessary.

Some of specific areas taken care by Virtual Parent are: -

- Self-awareness and empathy
 - Self esteem
 - Interpersonal relationship
 - Effective communication
 - Assertiveness
 - Coping with stress
 - Managing emotions
 - Decision making
 - Problem solving
 - Adolescent Problems

Goals and Objectives of Virtual Parenting:

- Recognize, respect and address needs of cultural diversity and the economic positions of families.
- Increase awareness and accountability of parents' roles in student achievement.

- Improve communication between school and parents.
- Increase academic achievement and graduation rates among underserved communities.
- Ensure parents are provided with the tools necessary to remain involved.
- Foster strong relationships among families, teachers, community organizations and city departments to ensure sustainability.
- Provide access to education and technology.
- Promote economic development to ensure community sustainability.
- To discuss the performance of the students.
- To discuss the personal as well as academic problems of the students can be discussed jointly, and efforts made to solve these problems.
- To make efforts to solve the problems of the students.
- To bring desired changes in students' attitude.
- To shape behavior and conduct.
- Acquisition of knowledge.
- To improve the learning skills of students.
- Formation of belief.
- To become a social & efficient member of society.
- Establish good rapport with external bodies.
- Carry out individual and group counselling.
- Plan motivational program for students
- Help the student to understand inner self (potential) and his social relationship.
- Help the students to maximize his potential and capability.
- Provides the students information to parents and administrators on the students' well-being.

Virtual Parent as a Teacher

First of all, we need to know who is a virtual parent as a teacher. In general, the definition of teacher goes like, a person who teaches pupils in schools, colleges, or private and imparts knowledge on specific subjects, checks the homework, and provides feedback.

Well, that's a common definition but the term 'Virtual Parent Teacher' is something more than this. Being a virtual parent teacher is something much more than only giving away knowledge, lectures, and attending back-to-back classes. A virtual parent as a teacher is the one who makes a significant impact in their students' lives. He/she inspires them to be a better version of themselves and achieve something significant in life.

Virtual parent as a teacher educates the candidates on unique qualities like fellow feeling, brotherhood, kindness, and simplicity. They never collide with the same type of students everywhere, rather the types are varied. Today they can meet someone with high ambition and readily give them suitable advice. The real challenge is meeting aimless individuals with zero seriousness and influencing them to become a better version of themselves. So a virtual parent as a teacher's duty isn't restricted to attending lectures and sending notes. It is something beyond it and has a vital significance in their student's life.

Significant Characteristics of Virtual Parent as a Teacher

Being a virtual parent as a teacher isn't easy and they need to deal with a lot throughout their career. Certain features mark the difference between a commoner and a great. The case with virtual parent as a teachers isn't an exception either. The virtual parent as a teacher needs to be the ideals of the candidates, they must look upon them with massive respect. It is only then we can make sure the students are following in their footsteps as shown by his virtual parent as a teacher.

The following characteristic attributes make the biggest difference between a good and an outstanding virtual parent as a teacher:

- **Compassionate:** Being a skilled virtual parent as a teacher needs the person to be very compassionate not only towards the students but to his colleagues, staff, and parents.
- **Passionate towards Learning:** Establishing a successful virtual parent as a teacher teaching career, needs the virtual parent teacher to be a passionate learner. He/she must have a supreme interest in unfolding innovative topics and always be a dedicated learner.

- **In-depth Understanding Capacity:** Being a virtual parent as a teacher requires the person to have a strong understanding capacity to analyze the distinct problems faced by the students.
- **Patience:** Patience is the key to success in the teaching domain. The virtual parent as a teachers need to be super patient while dealing with candidates, the school system, curriculum, and the parents and handle any issues peacefully.
- **Being a Good Follower of Own Words:** If the virtual parent as a teacher is educating the students to be a good person and follow all the fine qualities, they need to be a staunch follower of the same. They need to be the ones imparting the education not just by telling but by proving it with his activities too.
- **Great Communicator:** Outstanding virtual parent as teachers are superb communicators and they can talk afresh with the students and analyze the issues they might go through. They can provide them with the support they need.
- **Great at Putting Efforts:** The virtual parent as a teacher should put effort. The ones with a ‘don’t care’ attitude really can’t make it far in the teaching line. To differ from others and to stand out from the crowd, influential teachers always put extra effort into the classroom and students to help them get better.

Role of a Virtual Parent as a Teacher in Student's Life

A Virtual Parent as a teacher influence on their students’ lives is undeniable. Youths are the future of the nation, who are responsible for carrying out vital duties across several domains and serving society this way or another. What influences them to do something great in life? Besides parents, whose credit is it when the youth today grow up to be beautiful human beings tomorrow? It is the teacher! Teachers are builders of a better tomorrow. They shape the youths today and help them achieve something great in life.

There are many significant ways through which virtual parent as a teachers have a remarkable impact on the student’s life. They not only are the role models but help the pupils with the right guidance to move their heads towards a better future.

- **Provide Right Guidance:** Virtual parent as a teacher evaluates the strengths and weaknesses of their students and guide them to follow the best practices. They not only bring out the best from the students but teach them valuable life skills too like communication, compassion, organization, and presentation. Virtual parent as a teacher are the ones who motivate the students to do better in every domain and help them achieve life goals. Through their guidance, the students know to differentiate between right and wrong.
- **Act as Role Models:** Virtual parent as a teacher are the ultimate role models in a student’s life. In their academic life, students come across different types of

teachers. A great teacher is always supportive and compassionate towards his students and appreciates their achievements in every field. They have a precious connection with the students and always encourage them to do better. Teachers are their role models who always hold a positive attitude in life and so help their students to follow the same.

- **Shape the Society:** Virtual parent as a teachers are dedicated learners who can not only teach but listen to the students problems and try mentoring them to the best of their ability. Skilled teachers handle things patiently and can shape the academic goals of the youths. They rarely do it for recognition rather they follow their heart! The concept of powerful education and teaching students valuable skills are directly proportional. Teachers know the cause and contribute towards shopping for a better tomorrow.
- **Change Lives for Better:** Its not always the “good” students that Virtual parent as a teachers cross paths with. Rather there are many aimless pupils too who are careless about life and least bothered about academics. A brilliant teacher is equally compassionate to them and helps them change for the better. They even encourage students to be full of spirit during their lows and these are responsible to change the lives of the students for the better.
- **Academic Guidance:** In helping students understand their learning needs and blocks, such as equipping them with study skills, doing semi-formal assessments for Learning Disabilities and Difficulties. Academic guidance is often necessary for children that are unable to get it at home, or have a paucity of resources to equip them with specific knowledge otherwise.
- **Career and Vocational Guidance:** While career guidance exists as a field in itself, school counsellors are generally required to keep abreast with career options as well as things such as entrance examinations, college requirements etc. More pertinent in virtual parent as a teacher can help by providing information on the various career and vocational options available. Virtual parent as teacher can guide the students in choosing the right career based on suitable aptitude tests.
- **Issues with Peers:** Issues such as bullying, clique formation, estrangement and infighting, are all issues that we worked with in our fieldwork setting. Within this, we saw how the teachers, administration and parents interacted to either mediate or exacerbate the situation as well as how it was developmentally crucial to resolve these issues.
- **Psychosocial Problems:** A virtual parent as a teacher helps in early identification of problem behaviours and takes suitable steps to prevent the onset of

psychosocial problems. In case of psychosocial problems detected after their onset, He/she works towards finding suitable solutions, or due to the time constraints in school, looks at referring the child to a more suitable setting if the child's home environment allows for it.

- **Working with Parents:** To enable holistic support and to ensure that the child's home environment is secure and nurturing for her, as well as to keep the parents in the loop about the work done in counselling, and how to ensure that the results are maintained at home.
- **Working with other Teachers:** Teacher meetings are extremely crucial in order to ensure two basic things 1) to keep the teacher in the loop about the work being done, and how to modify his/her behavior accordingly, as well as for inputs about the conditions of the classroom 2) help the teacher manage his own workload, by providing them with skills such as coping skills or problem solving strategies or emotional unburdening.