



Professional Ethics- A Prerequisite in Teaching Profession

KEYWORDS

Ethics, Professional, Responsible, students, Parents etc.

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ABSTRACT *The greatness of a country does not depend on lofty buildings and gigantic projects. It depends on teachers. A teacher has been respected and worshipped throughout human history because of his/her noble mission. "Good education requires good teachers". Professional ethics are essential to become a good teacher. A teacher is the most accountable and responsible person of the society. He should feel the importance of his profession. He must be honest, devoted and dedicated to his profession. He must possess the essential zeal required by the teaching profession. He should be competent and efficient enough to discharge his unlimited responsibilities towards various groups of society. Teaching profession is regarded as the most valuable profession as its social values lie in its significant contributions to the development in the quality of life and betterment of the society at large. The profession of teaching prepares men to transform the present crisis stricken society into future utopia. The teacher is the architect of a harmonious society. The over-all development of student depends much upon the professional competency and caliber of the teacher. Parents hand over the future of their children to the teacher. So, a teacher should carry out the expectations of home, society, community and nation.*

Introduction

Teaching is the most responsible profession than any other professions like doctors, lawyers, chartered accountants, engineers etc. Professionals like doctors, engineers and others responsibilities are limited to a particular extent only, but the future of the nation rests in the hands of efficient teachers.

A teacher does stand high up in the professional pyramid because the teacher is the one who makes all other professionals. So, to discharge his duties efficiently and effectively, a teacher must have professional ethics. The greatness of a country does not depend on lofty buildings and gigantic projects. It depends on teachers. A teacher has been respected and worshipped throughout human history because of his/her noble mission. "Good education requires good teachers". Professional ethics are essential to become a good teacher. The need of special ethical principles is must in every profession and in society as a whole. The code of ethics defines acceptable behaviors and promotes high standards of practice. This code of ethics provides a benchmark for members' self-evaluation and to establish a framework for professional behavior and responsibilities. It works as a vehicle for occupational maturity in every profession. A teacher is the most accountable and responsible person of the society. He should feel the importance of his profession. He must be honest, devoted and dedicated to his profession. He must possess the essential zeal required by the teaching profession. He should be competent and efficient enough to discharge his unlimited responsibilities towards various groups of society. Professional ethics of a teaching profession demand that a teacher must not try to exploit institution influence for private gains. If he does so, then he signs his moral death warrant. A teacher should not select this profession to make his living because nothing else is available. In teaching profession one must have to contribute his best for the students in general and the society or mankind in large.

Literature Review

Teaching profession is regarded as the most valuable profession as its social values lie in its significant contributions to the development in the quality of life and betterment of the society at large. The profession of teaching prepares men to transform the present crisis stricken society into future utopia. The teacher is the architect of a harmonious society. The over-all development of student depends much upon the professional competency and caliber of the teacher.

According to the international commission on the development of education (UNESCO 1972) : "the teacher's duty is less and less to inculcate knowledge and more and more to encourage thinking, his formal functions apart, he will have to become more & more an adviser, a partner to talk to; someone who helps seek out conflicting arguments rather than handling out readymade truths. He will have to devote more time and energy to productive and creative activities; interaction, discussion, stimulation, understanding, encouragement".

The teacher of the 21st century will belong to a learning society in which he will have to be a non-stop learner to play his role effectively.

Rabindranath Tagore was prophetic when he said: "A most important truth, which we are apt to forget is that a teacher can never truly teach unless he is still learning himself. A lamp can never light another lamp unless it continues to burn its own flame. The teacher who has come to the end of his subject, who has no living traffic with his knowledge, but merely repeats his lessons to his students, can only load their minds; he cannot quicken them. Truth not only must inform but inspire. If the inspiration dies out, and the information only accumulates, then truth loses its infinity. The greater part of our learning in the educational institutions has been wasted because for most of our teachers, their subjects are like dead specimens of once living things, with which they have a learned acquaintance but

no communication of life and love.”

Objective Of the study

- To find out the different commitments fall under teaching profession.
- To critically examine the relationship between professional ethics and teaching profession.
- To find out the importance of professional ethics in teaching profession.

The professional ethics reminiscent for teaching profession a critical analysis

Parents hand over the future of their children to the teacher. So, a teacher should carry out the expectations of home, society, community and nation. Teaching is the most responsible profession than any other professions like doctors, lawyers, chartered accountants, engineers etc. Professionals like doctors, engineers and others responsibilities are limited to a particular extent only, but the future of the nation rests in the hands of efficient teachers. A teacher does stand high up in the professional pyramid because the teacher is the one who makes all other professionals. So, to discharge his duties efficiently and effectively, a teacher must have professional ethics.

The following cited commitments do fall under the purview of teacher's professional ethics;

Commitment to the teaching profession

- Keep abreast of the developments in the teaching profession.
- Ensure that professional knowledge is regularly updated and improved.
- Keep abreast of subject matter through study of books, periodicals, newspapers, journals and other sources concerning development in his field.
- Utilize all other types of audio-visual teaching aids apart from the chalk & board as a means of keeping abreast of new and advanced knowledge in his field.
- Keep in view the new concepts like individualized instruction, micro-teaching, programmed learning, teaching machines, teaching-aids, team-teaching etc.
- Attend conferences, workshops, seminars and meetings; take faculty development programs, orientation classes and field trips, which tend to broaden knowledge and gives exposures.
- Support all efforts to promote and protect human rights through education.
- Justify public trust and confidence by providing quality education to all students.

Commitment to students

- Maintain professional relations with students.
- Share responsibilities with students.
- Prove themselves as successful facilitators of learning for the learners placed under their guidance and supervision.
- Safeguard and promote the interests and well being of students.
- Give the students a feeling of being part of a community.
- Exercise authority with justice and compassion.
- Give due regard to the individuality of the students.
- Acknowledge the specific needs of each student and provide guidance and encouragement to each student to realize his or her full potential.
- Encourage students to give presentations in classroom and seminars. Have faith in students.

- Play the role of a friend, philosopher, counselor, mentor and guide to the students.
- Play the role of an initiator exploiting the new technology to the best advantage of the students and the purpose of education.

Commitment to parents

- Encourage regular parent-teacher meetings and similar activities.
- Make him available to parents at scheduled time to discuss the welfare and progress of their child.
- Give advice to the parents from a professional point of view that is the best interest of the child.
- Make every effort to encourage parents to actively involved in the education of their child and to actively support the learning process.

Commitment to management

- Be honest, efficient, prompt and sympathetic towards the management.
- Think always about the uplift and betterment of the institution with which he is associated.
- Carry out the instructions and accept the managerial decisions.
- Give creative academic suggestions.
- Be true and fair towards management.

Commitment to self

- Evaluate own performance and character.
- Discharge all the responsibilities with full efficiency, dedication and commitment.
- Take correct and justified decisions regarding good and evil.
- Live an ideal life.
- Respect the profession.

Other Commitments

- Establish rapport with the community; participate in community affairs and responsibility towards the society.
- Manifest ethical behavior in relations with colleagues and have the feeling of cooperation and unity among them.
- Possess knowledge about affiliations, recognitions, autonomous status and state education codes of the institution.
- Have knowledge of the rules of admission procedure, examinations, service conditions and so on.

Conclusion

In the situation where a teacher has to discharge unlimited responsibilities in the society it is inevitable for him to have professional ethics. He is the key man on who depends the future of the mankind. He plays an important role in shaping and moulding the destiny of the nation. The education of heart is the heart of education. He must educate not only the mind but also the heart of the students and should provide right direction and guidance with full honesty, devotion and dedication. He must be a teacher first and the teacher last. It was ascertained that there are different commitments which fall under teaching profession like commitments to students, commitments to parents, commitments to teaching profession, commitments to self etc. and a good teacher has to make balance and carry out all these commitments with due diligence. It was also examined that there is a significant relationship between professional ethics and value based education. Hence professional ethics is of paramount importance to the teaching profession. Ethical consciousness and high professional

competence are the basis of the profession's integrity and are essential in creating good conditions for play, learning and balding. Our right to methodological freedom and our professional discretion gives us a special responsibility to be open about our academic and pedagogical choices. Society should be confident that we use our professional autonomy both properly and ethically. Teaching creates all other professions. A Teacher is said to be a candle that burns itself to light up the life of others; they should develop appropriate ethics among themselves so that the same values can be developed among students. Teachers are not only guides and guardians in schools but also second parents.

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