



IMPORTANCE OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS FOR TEACHERS

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ABSTRACT

In this world of globalization and competitive world, we are witnessing diverse changes in our educational system. Since, change is inevitable the aims and objectives of education is changing according to the need, interests and requirements of the learners, society and nation as a whole. Now, the concept of teacher and teaching also is changing day by day. A teacher in this contemporary era has many duties and responsibilities to play. Apart from having good academic and professional qualifications, they should also possess the knowledge of Professional ethics. Professional ethics is like a guide, which facilitates the teacher to provide quality education and inculcate good values among the learners. The professional ethics will enlighten the teachers that they have a major role in bringing desirable changes in the behaviour of the students. It also helps the teachers to understand their profession as a teacher. Their role is not just to become supreme and authoritarian in front of their students and colleagues. But then they have a wider and meaningful role to play. Teacher having the sense of professional ethics will treat their learners with love, care, affection and commitment. In addition to that, they would always ensure to make specific contribution from their angle. Therefore, this paper specially highlights the significance of professional ethics in teachers.

KEYWORDS: Globalization, Contemporary Educational, Professional Ethics, Values, Behaviour.

INTRODUCTION:

Professional ethics is becoming the need of the hour. Many institutions are facing lack of professional ethics within their teachers, besides having ample of degrees, achievements, medals, extra qualifications and content knowledge. Since, teaching is not just about imparting the content and subject-matter, it is just beyond that. Teacher has a wider role in the educational course of action, they should give stress in bringing out the potentialities from the learners and nurture it accordingly. The teaching is regarded as a noble and righteous profession, since it contributes in nation building by creating good quality human resources, responsible citizens, socialized individuals and creative personalities. Hence, this profession requires a lot of commitment, dedication and sincerity towards their institution and learners. So, if they do not have the knowledge of professional ethics, it will become a barrier in the development of institution, learners, society and nation as a whole. It will undeniably affect the overall performance of the students.

A Professional code of ethics is a guiding principle aimed to assist professionals conduct work with commitment, dedication, sincerity, honesty and with integrity. A professional should follow the specific principles of their profession and do their duties as per the requirements of the profession. The professional ethics deals with the principles and values that the professional should implement to create a conducive atmosphere in the workplace. Professional knowledge and skills is a key element, that every professional should acquire to do their services with determination and commitment. Every profession has its main aims and objectives. To fulfil those aims and objectives, the professional should follow the professional code of ethics. Professional ethics provides the assistance to the professionals in order to do their work meaningfully.

The professional code of ethics for teachers is purposely designed to protect the rights of the students, all the students. It becomes crucial and important for the teachers to understand their work ethics and values before entering in teaching profession. As a teacher, they have a huge role to play in the entire teaching learning process. They should be active in the educational process and encourage and reinforce the students be converted into active learners by using different strategies and techniques. It is also important for teachers to understand the individual differences, intellectual level, interest and aptitudes of the learners. They should also emphasize on providing freedom to all the students so that they can express their problems, feeling and emotions without any fear. Therefore, to put in nutshell, professional code of ethics plays a pivotal role in developing the personality and behaviour of the teachers. It will facilitate and guide the teachers towards successful and meaningful teaching. If the teachers properly implement the code of ethics in the teaching profession, it unquestionably fosters the development of school, children, society, community and nation as a whole.

Importance of Professional Ethics for teachers:

The school is considered miniature of society. The school is that formal agency which provides education to students. It has a major role in bringing development in the society. The teaching and teacher is an important key element in the schools. Without it the educational process cannot function properly. The teachers play a crucial and significant role in the educational process to impart education and bring about desirable changes in the behaviour of the students. As hav-

ing massive responsibility upon his shoulder, the teacher should realise and understand his profession. The fulfil the aims and objectives of teaching is solely dependent upon his ability, teaching aptitude, content knowledge, pedagogy and most important is the professional ethics. Aristotle (1980) states that treating people fairly implies treating equals equally and unequals unequally. The teachers should be unbiased while teaching and evaluating students. Buber (1970) suggests that teacher-student relationships ought to be characterized by a principle of reciprocity. Since, communication is a key element in the teaching learning process, teachers must emphasize on creating reverential relationship with students.

The absence of professional ethics in teachers will impact the development of students. The teachers should be the role model, inspiration, motivator and leader for the students. It is a fact that the students follow the footsteps of their teachers directly or indirectly. The teacher should possess a good behaviour and positive attitude towards their profession and students. The fundamental role of the teacher is to solve the problems, issues and barriers of students that come along in their developmental process. The teachers must have a clear cut vision to foster the potentialities of the students. Many of teachers in practical situations face the problem of adjustment in schools. There could be many factors and reasons associated with it like – Interest, Aptitude, Values, Ethics and Discipline which eventually makes them uncomfortable at the workplace or school. The first and foremost important quality that the teacher should possess is the professional ethics. If they fails to understand and implement it, then they might not be satisfied with their profession and plus it will hamper the performance of students. To make character education successful, we need well-trained teachers. Again, teachers are role models. Teachers play important role in children's character formation. Teachers provide children with a basic but essential moral education. So, teachers should focus on providing the right path and guidance to students to make them well behaved individuals, and inculcate good attitude within them (Benninga, 2003).

Therefore, the teacher must inculcate the fundamental professional ethics and values within them before entering into teaching profession. Let us discuss some significant professional code of ethics for teachers that will assist the teachers to educate the students efficiently and effectively:-

1. The teachers should always be aware of his/her roles and responsibilities. He should actively provide his service to institution and student with happiness and satisfaction. They should provide maximum opportunities to students to excel in diverse aspects of development. Active professionalism is required in teaching profession. They cannot remain inactive or passive in the educational process. That is their fundamental duty for which they are being employed with expectations to serve the school and students.
2. The teachers should have definite vision, how they will fulfil the present needs, requirements and aspirations of the learners. For that they need to be precise about their actions in their educational process. They should strategize planning and implement it effectively. Proper professionalism should be showcased by the teacher in order to meet the demands and requirements of students.

3. They also should adjust with the professional environment of the school. They have to set an example of professionalism in schools. They must cooperate with the management of institution and be friendly with colleagues. The school works in a system and the teacher should understand that every members of the system is equally important, have their own role to play. Hence, he/she should focus to work together and respect all the members of the school. This will automatically changes the working environment of the school.
3. Being a professional teacher, he/she should demonstrate respect for spiritual and cultural values, diversity, social justice, freedom, democracy and the environment. Teachers should uphold human dignity and promote equality and emotional and cognitive development.
4. Teachers should show affection, care and love with students. Only then they can create a good reverential relationship with students. If the relation of teacher and student is not good, the teaching becomes futile. Therefore, Teachers should communicate with care and affection, so that they can share their difficulties and problems and can give remedial solutions to those problems. Teachers must act wisely and endow with professional judgement and empathy in practice.
5. It is important for teachers to be honest, reliable and dedicated towards school and students. Such actions are embodied in integrity. Therefore, teachers should emphasize on implement integrity through their professional commitments, responsibilities and actions. This will enhance the development of the institution and students as a whole.
6. The teachers should give stress on building a cordial and reverential relationships with all the stakeholders of schools. Teachers should intent to win the trust of pupils/students, colleagues, parents, school management and the public at large. As a result, it will lead towards - fairness, openness and honesty.
7. Teachers should respect the privacy of other members of their own school and maintain confidentiality of information gained in the course of professional practice, unless a legal imperative requires disclosure or there is a legitimate concern for the wellbeing of an individual.
8. Teachers should always stay away from conflict between their professional work and private interests because it could plausibly be crash unenthusiastically on pupils/students. It could demoralise the students and affects their perception towards school and teachers.
9. The teachers should not be biased while imparting and evaluating the students' performance related with academic and co-curricular activities. They must respect all the students and treat them uniformly irrespective of caste, creed, gender, civil status, family status, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, race, ethnicity, region, community and socio-economic status. Following these equality will motivate and reinforce the students to perform well in their academics and curricular activities. It will boost the morale and confidence of students. Inferiority complex starts reducing, if the teachers follow the principles of equality in the educational process.

CONCLUSION:

Teachers at all levels of education should focus on imparting quality education. It is the prime duty of the teacher to bring optimum development among the students. Teachers' should show an equal level of dignity to his profession, institution, students, colleagues and parents. Teachers' should specially stress on developing the professional ethics within them. Teachers should take the liability of teaching profession seriously and perform their duties efficiently. Therefore, for successful teaching, the knowledge of professional ethics and its implementation is very essential for teachers.

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