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## **The Role of Profession Lethics in Teacher Education**

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### **Abstract**

*This article provides a theoretical discussion of the process of developing a professional code of ethics for teachers. In this competitive world we human beings are witnessing diverse changes in our educational system. Aims, objectives of education is changing according to the interests, needs and requirements of the learners. It is very important that teachers understand that when they get teaching position they are agreeing to follow the path of code of ethics. They need to protect their student's safety. The main thing is not to abuse the power of their position over their students. The professional ethics will enlighten the teachers that they have a major role in bringing desirable changes in the behavior of the students. Teacher who having the sense of professional ethics will treat their students with love, affection, care, commitment. Integrity honesty and moral conduct are essential elements in a good teacher. Personal ethics, morality, integrity will strongly influence a person's professional ethical conduct. This paper specifically highlights the importance of professional ethics in education system namely teacher education.*

**Key words:** *ethics, code of professional ethics, human dignity, teacher, values.*

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**1. Introduction:** It is universally felt that like all other professions the teaching profession should also have its own code of professional ethics which indeed is a pre-requisite to ensure its integrity and dignity. Professional ethics is concerned with one's behavior and conduct when carrying out professional work. While education of acceptable quality depends on many factors including infrastructure, curriculum, teaching-learning material, methods, educational technology and so on, but the most important factors among these factors is the teacher. Teacher who is directly responsible to operationalize the process of education, establish intimate conduct with learners and motivate and train students in various aspects of their personality in a manner that they are successfully initiated into the society as its young, promising, productive, and responsible members who are capable to face the challenges of life effectively. Many institutions are facing lack of professional ethics within the teachers, who have ample of degree, qualifications, achievements, content knowledge. Teaching is not just about imparting the subject matter but it is just beyond that. The teaching is regarded as noble and righteous profession, because of its contribution to nation building, creative personalities, responsible citizens. Therefore, teaching profession requires lot of dedication, sincerity, devotion, commitment towards pupils and educational institution. Os, teachers need to have the professional ethics, without professional ethics it will become a barrier in the development of learners, society, institution and a nation as a whole, since a great nation needs great citizen which is the product of proper guidance of a teacher. I will mention some essential works

that centers the importance of ethics for educational practice. Robert Nash (2002) explains how ‘three moral languages’ – rules and principles, character and basic beliefs – can be brought to bear on ethical issues and professional practices. Form the consequentialist ethics, the education can draw the importance of the consequences of one’s own actions and the justification for a public education that serves all children to the best of their abilities. Concerning the virtue ethics the most important set of virtues in the school are the one that are being cultivated in students. A professional educator has a philosophy of education and the philosophy of education grounded on the care of the self is a philosophy of possibility. An educator is in a position to continually develop ethical and professional judgement throughout his career and in his various positions of responsibility.

**2. The importance of ethics in education:** - Ethics are well founded standards that make the actions right or wrong, ethics influences behavior and allows individual to make the right choices. Without ethics it will be very difficult for human beings to act responsibly and to conduct life. Ethics in education is very essential as they help run the system smoothly. It sets the standards of what is acceptable and what is not, and protecting the interests of educators and the learners. Teachers play very important role in a student’s life. They not only impart education but also help develop the personality of a student. Ethics in education that are applicable on teachers require them to show patience to every student despite their learning abilities, they should treat every students equally and do justice while taking an action. It is important that a teacher understands that every student is different and should not be evaluated on the same basis. Ethics in education doesn’t allow teachers to hold grudges and it intentionally treat students unfairly. And at the same time, ethics in education requires students to respect their teacher and abide by the rules set by them. Students should acquire academic integrity and responsibility as well as practice self-discipline.

**3. Importance of professional ethics for teachers:** The school is considered miniature of society. The school is that formal agency which provides education to students. School has a major role in bringing development in the society. The teaching process and teacher is an important factor in the schools. Without it the education process cannot function properly. Teacher plays an important role in the educational process to impart education and bring desirable changes in the behavior of the students. Teacher should realize and understand his profession. Th eaims, objectives of teaching is purely dependent upon his ability, teaching aptitude, subject-matter, pedagogy and most important is the professional ethics. Aristotle states that treating people fairly impiles treating equals equally and unequals unequally. Now question is “ what is professional ethics? (1) Professional ethics encompass the personal and corporate standards of behavior expected of professionals. (2) Professional ethics is concerned with one’s behavior and conduct when carrying out professional work. It is codified and varies across different cultures. (3) Professional ethics is the ethical norms, values, and principles that guide a profession and the ethics of decisions made within the profession.

#### **4. Different definitions of Professional Ethics:**

- Banks (2003) explains that, a code of ethics is usually a written document produced by a professional association, occupational regularity body, or other professional body, with the stated aim of guiding the practitioners who are members, protecting service users and safeguarding the reputation of the profession.”
- The Secondary Education Commission has stated “They (teachers) will not look upon their work as an unpalatable means of carrying a scanty living but as an avenue through which they are

rendering significant social services as well as finding some measure of self-fulfillment and self-expression.”

#### **4.1. Concept of Professional Ethics:**

- Professional ethics is a set of beliefs that a teacher accepts concerning relationships with students, colleagues and parents (or guardians and caregivers of children), all of whom are stakeholders in the life of the teacher. These principles guide the teacher in their daily activities in working with their stakeholder.
- Professional ethics give a certain set of broad principles derived in turn from a spectrum of values which are arrived at after deep philosophical reflection on the nature and role of the profession in the life of mankind.

#### **4.2. Components of Professional Ethics :**

Some professional organizations may define their ethical approach in terms of a number of discrete components. These includes:

- Honesty
  - Integrity
  - Transparency
  - Accountability
  - Confidentiality
  - Objectivity
  - Respectfulness
  - Obedience to the law.
- Why ethics for a noble profession – Teaching :

- 1) Great impact in the molding of the next generation
- 2) Teacher work as Friend, Philosopher And Guide
- 3) Imbalance between past, present and future
- 4) To enjoy respect and status in the society
- 5) To commensurate ethical and cultural values in India.
- 6) Paradigm shift in the perception of teachers
- 7) Perplexed with new development and cultural heritage
- 8) Erosion I the values, responsibilities, commitment in this profession.

#### **4.3. Principles of Professional Ethics:**

- Teacher as a guide :
- 1) Deal justly and impartially with students
  - 2) Recognize the individual difference among students
  - 3) Seek to meet their individual needs
  - 4) Respect the right of every student
  - 5) Encourage students to formulate and work
  - 6) Accept no remuneration for tutoring
  - 7) Aid students to develop an understanding and appreciation.

The absence of professional ethics in teachers will impact the development of students. It is the fact that students follow the footsteps of their teachers since teachers are their motivator, inspiration, leader, model. So, teacher should posses a good behavior and positive attitude towards the teaching profession and their learner. The fundamental role of the teacher is to solve the

problems, barriers of students that come along in their development process. The teacher must have a clear cut vision to foster the potentialities of the students. In practical situations many of teacher face the problem of adjustment in school. There could be many factors and reasons associated with it such as Interest, Aptitude, Values, Ethics, Discipline which makes the uncomfortable at workplace. The most important quality of a teacher that teacher should posses the professional ethics. If they fail to understand it and implement it, then they might not be satisfied with their profession and it will hamper the performance of students. Teachers are the role-model. They play the important role in learners character formation. So, to make character formation successful we need well-trained teachers. Teachers should faces on providing the right path and guidance to students to make them well-behaved individual and responsible citizen also. Hence, teachers should inculcate the fundamental professional ethics and values within them before entering into teaching profession. Teachers help students learn the academic basics, but they also teach valuable life lessons by setting a positive example. They should follow a professional code of ethics. This ensures that students receive a fair, honest and uncompromising education. A professional code of ethics outlines teachers' main responsibilities to their students and defines the role in students' lives. Teachers must demonstrate integrity, impartiality and ethical behavior in the classroom and in their conduct with parents and co-workers. Developing and following a professional code of ethics helps make sure teachers act in a professional and ethical manner at all times.

**Working with students:** A teacher's job is to provide a quality education to his students. A professional code of ethics must address that teachers must not show favouritism or discriminate against students. Teachers must interact with students appropriately; not taking advantage of students. Contact with students outside of the classroom or school premises must be kept to a minimum and must focus on school-related activities and events.

- **Keep Learning:** A professional code of conduct demands attentiveness to continuing education requirements and career development. Teachers must research new teaching methods, attend classes to maintain their certification, consult their colleagues for professional advice, participate in curriculum improvements and stay up to date on technical advancements for the classroom. It is their duty to ensure that their teaching methods are fresh, new, innovative, relevant and comprehensive. They should enage in educational research to continuously improve their teaching strategies.
- **Interacting with Parents :** Asides form colleagues, teachers have a responsibility to interact positively with parents and other stakeholders in a students' education. Contact with parents must be kept professional, free from arguments and physical contact. Teachers must avoid being unduly influenced by parents when it comes t students' grades or other school related matters.
- **The dignity of a profession:** Today a teacher sees himself as the society. He knows that every individual in the society has received at least some instruction from a teacher and teachers would like to use this view to project themselves more. Teachers are grasping for control, and pedagogy is the only place where teachers still have a trace of it. The question is to teachers get to have dignity? Teachers are the symbol of dignity and they deserve the best, they are symbols of social counselors, overall and specific development specialists, advisors and policy makers. Believe teaching is the most sacred of all professions carrying divine inspiration, cover and protection. Teaching is the most demanding career in terms of selflessness commitment and sacrifice. A teacher is not merely a routine teacher but the maker of leading professionals and personalities. A

teacher is a mentor of society and an architect of the nation. Teachers have more responsibility than any other person in a society. Parents send their children to them with such expectation that it becomes a test of their professional honesty and reputation. The main task entrusted with our teacher is to educate and train the young nation for a bright future. A crucial role of teachers as well as teaching profession is to together with families, parents, help students on their path from potential to full moral agents, which also means that they help children and youth in developing awareness of those times when respect and appreciation towards man depends to large extent, on his behavior and actions. Emphasizing the fact that respect and appreciation on the part of teachers towards students at a higher school age depends to a certain extend on their behavior and actions. The principle and the value of human dignity should be among the most significant in the mutual relationship of the teacher towards students and student towards teachers. Education at the school ought to be directed at a full development of human personality and strengthening respect for human rights. It embodies the obligation, commitment within teaching profession, hence teachers guide and educate children and youths to mutual respect and appreciation towards the human dignity of other children and adults.

On the other hand, there are some aspects which are closely connected to shattering human dignity or humiliation of individuals by means of behavior or actions of teachers. It is true that if a teacher does not respect the students dignity, then he can not respect his own dignity to be respected. We remember that teachers who formed our lives in a positive way, but at the same time we also remember such teachers who degraded student's dignity, favoured some special students, or were only interested in children of influential parents.

**5. Conclusion:** Teachers at all levels of education should ensure the cognitive, intellectual, moral progress of their students and show them respect and appreciation. Moral way of life helps the development of human life, teachers should focus on imparting quality education. Teachers should take the liability of teaching profession seriously and perform their duties efficiently. Integrity, honesty and moral conduct are essential elements in a good teacher. Any philosophical study of professional ethics must focus on the following key concepts and their application to professional expertise and practical work : duties, obligations, rights, and virtues. Teachers must wholly commit to the teaching profession. Classroom should promote safety, security and acceptance, always avoiding any form of bullying, hostility, dishonesty, neglect or offensive conduct.

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