

PROFESSIONAL ETHICS FOR TEACHERS

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ABSTRACT :

Education is not solely about earning great living. It means living a great life, says Brad Henry. According to Merriam – Webster’s Dictionary, ‘Teaching’ is defined as the job or profession of a teacher. We all know teaching is an art. It is a noble art. To attain this nobility a teacher should know and follow certain ethics in his profession. Teachers are often held to high standards. In the midst of all of their responsibilities, they’re required to serve as strong role models and demonstrate ethical behaviours as they interact with students, colleagues, parents and others. Developing and following a professional code of ethics helps make sure teachers act in a professional and ethical manner at all times. A teacher should assist the students to discover themselves in life. Teachers are the second parents. Hence they should know what sort of mark that they are going to leave in a child’s life. The teacher’s primary work is they are committed to teach. They should imbibe as a good disciplinarian in the minds of the students. They should possess a thorough knowledge over the subject, should be updated with worldly happenings not outdated. The first and the foremost thing is a teacher should know the psychology to handle the different set of learners from different backgrounds.

Teachers should be duty conscious, time bounded responsibilities on them, must motivate, inspire and create friendliness, easy to approach to cater to the needs of the students. Teachers should not show their personal grief on the students. They should appreciate the students in front of students but not punish them before others. Criticism in the way of dressings, behaviour, attitudes should give a positive way to their life instead those in negative should be avoided. Teachers should not show partiality. They should be a guide, well wisher, counsellor, friend, caretaker, motivator, etc. If teacher’s vision and student’s vision are for creating a brave new world free from evils it cannot be stopped by any of the forces. Also a teacher should basically understand that they are creating or preparing the grounds for the future generation. Teachers should be away from a pre- consumed notion about the students.

Keywords : Psychology, Ethics, Teaching

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Today the system of education is at cross roads of destination because of challenges faced by liberalization, privatization and globalization. Consequently the institutions of education have become competitive in order to withstand firmly in the globally challenged world. Hence there is need to develop quality consciousness and quality consensus among all working in the field of education. The Indian Education Commission headed by Dr. Kothari glorified the role of education by aspiring “The destiny of India is being shaped in classrooms” stood as a key-word while writing the report on education.

The rational thinker J. Krishnamurthy analyzed the purpose of education and opined that” the purpose of education is to cultivate right relationship, not only between individuals but also between individuals and society. Hence it is essential that education should above all help the individuals to understand his own psychological process”. It should make every individual to realize his potentialities to maintain social efficiency.

An act of teaching is a product of art. Teaching is a science too as it involves a lot of things to be organized before hand and presented in a class-room in a more systematic manner. It doesn't mean simply pouring a lot of information into the heads of learners. The art of teaching may be compared to the art of gardening. The prime duty of a teacher is to serve as a facilitator. As a gardener provides his plants with water, air, light, manure, etc, the teacher provides learners with a lot of learning opportunities and help them learn on their own. The students would grow and come out with their potentials latent in them, thereby making the country strong and vigorous. The very purpose of education is to produce free thinkers. The advancement in all walks of life can be achieved only through the process of education. In short, the centres of education are the pillars of the nation.

According to the code of ethics, the main duty of teachers lies towards the well-being of students. It stresses that teachers must treat all children equally irrespective of their caste, religion, gender and class. It specifically cautioned teachers against "subjecting any child to fear, trauma, anxiety, physical punishment and mental and emotional harassment" and "from any act involving sexual abuse of the child".

The code also maintained that teachers should have a good and cordial relationship with parents of the students and that the teachers should not hide any information about the child from their guardians. The code also instructs teachers to refrain from politics among themselves. Teachers should not engage in any kind of propagation if their personal views, the code mentioned.

Generally it is believed that teaching and learning are the supplementary activities in the

educative process. The worth of teaching lies in the effective transfer of the content from teacher to the learner. To be more effective and a good teacher, the teacher has to find answers to what to teach? , what to teach? , How to teach?. Simply it is following certain codes of ethics in their profession. Precisely, teaching is a tri-polar process involving the source of teaching, students and set of activities designed and manipulated primarily to bring changes in the behaviour of the learners. To achieve this process always a teacher should be very clear about the objective of teaching. The behavioural changes “Domains of Learning”, which is classified as cognitive behaviour, combative behaviour and affective behaviour.

The teacher has to make decision about the quantum of knowledge to be given to students, the methodology of teaching to be used for making the content understandable. Teachers have the power and authority to structure the experiences of children at school and in doing so, to facilitate or compromise the fulfilment of pupil interests.

Success of this teaching profession lies upon good planning and mastery over the subject. A good teacher always wants that all the students of the class should properly attend, listen to him and try to grasp what he teaches in the class. The teacher who presents teaching should see that his presentation is really a model one in every way the personality of the teacher, his behaviour, action, etc. The learners imitate the teachers. So the teacher should present all excellences of life in him which he ultimately wants the learners to acquire in life. Through his behaviour he should reflect regularity, punctuality, honesty, truth, sincerity, etc. Then only he will be able to make a worth yielding humanity.

The material presented by the teacher should be well selected. It should be according to the likings and the mental level of the learners. Then only it will be digested by the students properly. Hence proper selection and teaching will provide desired results. Both teacher and students should remain active. Every subject can be taught through activity method. An intelligent teacher tries to involve the maximum number of students in his teaching. So the students do not feel any type of lethargy or boredom. Also a good teacher tries to correlate his teaching with life. While teaching one subject, the teacher should try to correlate that subject with some other subject which the student studies. It will make the whole study interesting and at the same time the learners are exposed to different subjects.

Teaching should be made learner centred. By learner centred we mean interest and liking of the students should be given priority while teaching. The learner who is not interested in studies should not be compelled to study. He should first of all be mentally prepared for studies. Then only any teaching done for him will be fruitful.

The teacher should be able to identify the student's capacity. In any group of students no two individuals are exactly the same. If the teacher teaches one and the same method then they will fail miserably. Thus the teacher should try to deal with the students according to their individual differences. He tries to satisfy one and all by using different tactics and strategies of teaching.

A psychological principle is one in which teaching will be made effective by considering the psychology of the learners. Surely it will enhance interest in the child for learning. Further psychology of utilizing group dynamics has been framed. The teacher's job is to motivate the learners by creating different situations of his interest. Motivation therefore is of supreme important.

Environment of the class can be changed to break the monotony of the class. Better teaching aids can be used for slow learners and for matured students. The teacher should repeat several times so that the learners are able to grasp and understand the subject matter well. Practice makes a man perfect. Students should be given exercises like revision, recapitulation, application, etc in the learning process.

Some kind of feedback helps the students to learn things better. Thus a weak student is able to know his drawbacks and then he can re-learn and prepare himself for further study. Moreover the teacher must present subject matter from an informed and balanced viewpoint. The teacher should encourage learners to think critically about significant social issues. They should promote the physical, emotional, social, intellectual and spiritual wellbeing of learners and protect the confidentiality of information about learners obtained in the course of professional service, consistent with legal requirements.

A professional code of ethics must address this fact, stating that teachers must not show favouritism or discriminate against students. Teachers also must interact with students appropriately, not taking advantage of students in any way, bullying students or putting them down. Contact with students outside of the classroom or school building must be kept to a minimum and must focus on school-related activities and events.

To keep in mind teachers are the second parents. If we treat each and every student as our kids, our profession is the best and the easiest one to produce the young and energetic minds for future. In my experience, I find these as some of the ethics for teachers.

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