



PROMOTING ETHICAL STANDARDS IN TEACHING COMMUNITY - A GLOBAL CONCERN

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ABSTRACT:

Teaching is a sacred profession. It is rather a sacred service than a profession. Any profession demands for its worthy existence, acceptance and enforcement of code of ethics which make the profession self regulating, self governing and self satisfying. Teacher professional ethics mean a set of dignified principles put into practice by the Teachers. They are the valuable tactics that are exhibited and enforced by Teachers in relation to the students, colleagues, community and to oneself, to produce a profound effect on strategy of education. In modern times of recent globalization, though scientific and technological developments are unimaginatively progressing, the character and conduct of the Individual, Society, Teacher and Students are at the low ebb and are very unsatisfactory in major parts of our country. We often see, hear and witness incidents of molestation of students, racial discrimination, bribery, and favoritisms, a stagnant attitude of Teachers without an urge to grow professionally and be competent. Teachers should learn to control their emotional outbursts with their intellectual potentialities and this is possible only when there is a code of ethics which is imposed, enforced and practiced.

KEYWORDS: *sacred profession , recent globalization, though scientific.*

INTRODUCTION

Ethics basically is a science of discrimination between the right and the wrong. Conduct and character development should be an integral part of Teaching profession since Teachers are the makers of History and it is these Teachers who prepare the future responsible citizens of our country. The Teachers of India should resolve to adopt the professional ethics of day to day dealing with those entire concerned. To make the human relationship sacred, worthy, fruitful and productive, professional ethics is a must. In our present society, there is violence, injustice, oppression and we witness more 'broken communities' in our midst. As Teachers, individuals and as representatives of communities, we have a great responsibility of healing these broken communities devoid of slowly disappearing human values, through reconciliation, peace, love, justice. Education is the only effective medium through which we can achieve all these objectives. Education and Ethics are closely allied with one another and there is a need for developing strategies to promote ethical standards among teaching communities and is a global concern.

STRATEGIES TO PROMOTE ETHICAL STANDARDS

The professional interaction of Teachers is governed by four fundamental principles.

- Autonomy to treat people with rights that are to be honoured and defended.
- Justice to share power and prevent abuse of power.
- Responsible care to do well and minimize harm to others.
- Truth to be honest with others and self.

When there is an adequate imbalance between these principles and practice, there is breach of ethics, to name a few,

- Having inappropriate relationships with students (sexual or Business partnership)
- Violation of educational procedures
- Failing to perform duties.
- Imposing personal faiths on students.
- Improper grading, engaging students in unethical behaviour, lack of fairness and so on.

What moral dilemmas concern Teachers?

1. What to do about wrong actions by their superiors?

The list ranges from choice of textbooks, varieties of cheating, misappropriation of funds, inappropriate punishments to students.

2. Frequency of problems raised by the curriculum
3. Incompetence, Bad Teaching and wrong actions by the fellow Teachers.
4. Problems faced by multi cultured classrooms.
5. Unsatisfactory responses to problems by the department

Such issues are plenty to deal with and at this juncture, Teachers get frustrated and there is breach of ethics.

What should be done to promote ethical standards?

1. Encourage Teachers to be professionally competent and ethically conscious.
2. All Institutions must urge their teachers to keep in mind the aims of education, and encourage them to make themselves more competent and to be more diligent in pursuing them. Such institutions, desirous of doing so, should continuously be involved in conducting seminars, symposia and workshops with illustrations of unethical behaviours of live examples and their profound effects on society being depicted with suggestions of strategies to be followed as to how to resolve them.
3. Dividing Teachers of secondary schools with experience of being mentors into groups and faculties might meet separately in a primary school and interact with the primary school teachers.
4. Ethics consultant offices should be set up as a part of Internal Quality Assessment in each institution and a renunciation of any spiritual organization of repute be a visiting faculty. All teachers would be informed that these people will be available to give advice on a confidential basis.
5. A senior member of the institution who can receive anonymous or confidential information about ethical problems that have emerged in their part of organization be made available beyond working hours, to resolve ethical dilemmas
6. Instituting Reinforcements to Teachers. To motivate a teacher who maintains 'no flaw' throughout the year in relationships to students, colleagues and superiors, prizes be instituted and awarded by eminent spiritual personalities.
7. Workshops and orientation programmes on importance and inculcation of work ethics like commitment, self-discipline, loyalty, and work value should be conducted for teachers in collaboration of well established spiritual centers.
8. Training programmes on dealing with moral dilemmas, moral code of conduct, ethical values should be conducted for teachers to highlight the significance of professional ethics since teachers serve as role models to students.
9. Helping teachers to identify the distinction between facts and values through live examples of day to day functioning of institution.
10. Bringing down individual relativism and sorting out issues of superiority and inferiority through mutual dialogue.

11. Reducing substantial prejudice: Highly prejudiced teachers do not usually volunteer for ethics classes. When the classes are compulsory, they corrupt. They should be guided properly. So prejudices should be countered with patience and perseverance. In this regard, the heads of the institutions should be visionary leaders of future.

CONCLUSION

Ethical principles deal a lot in producing better and perfect personalities. Whether it is a developed country or a developing country, ethics are indispensable and ethical education serves as a mainstream in the harmonious development of human personality as a deriving factor in character formation. It is a global concern since major parts of world communities are witnessing racial discrimination, terrorism, Regional hatred, value deterioration and hence, it is every one's responsibility to highlight the importance of ethical standards of Teachers in particular because Education along with ethics brings out vital changes in personalities, communities and in the whole universe promoting world peace and universal brotherhood.

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