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TEACHER PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT



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ABSTRACT:

Education is widely acknowledged as a powerful key for the development of any nation. But the present education setting is increasing the risk day by day. Child Sexual abuse are predominantly occurs in the domestic settings like Schools where it is considered as a one of the protective areas for the child. Sexual abuse is more likely to occur in places where risk of detection is low. The most regrettable thing is, the perpetrators of sexual abuse are teachers and the other staffs of the Schools. Teachers are the licensed professionals who has dignity and reputation with high moral values. Teachers have the professional competence in the practice of their noble profession. As teaching profession is a sacred profession, teachers should adhere to, observe and practice the proper set of ethical and moral principles, standards and values. But in the present days, some of the teachers lacks professional ethics and misbehave with the innocent children. It is the primary duty of the teacher to nurture the students, instead of doing so they are exploiting the students in a bad manner. The root of all these

exploitation is lack of ethics, morals, values among the teachers. Through these incidences teachers are diminishing the sacredness of the teaching profession.

The present paper focuses on the teacher professional misconduct results in immoral activities due to lack of professional ethics, morals, values.

KEY WORDS: Human values, ethics, code of conduct, Child sexual abuse and misconduct.

INTRODUCTION:

Teachers play an important role in the attainment of goals in education. They are responsible to reach high standards in education and also for the transmission of national values and norms to their pupils by teaching them and/or being good models (Oziambo Betweli1, 2013). The primary purpose of education is the manifestation of perfection already in man (Swami Vivekananda); purpose of education is all round development of the child / individual. Every child is unique and different from one another. It has its own ability and capacity and learns in a different ways and with different paces. It is the duty of every teacher to nurture the inbuilt capacities and attitudes of the child. Instead of doing so, teachers exhibit their misconduct towards the child and exploit them in a very bad manner. Teachers are the transmitters of knowledge who ensure that children learn, they are role models to students, and in most rural communities, they are the most educated and respected personages (Patrinosa & Kagia, 2008). They are at the front line of developing pupils' understanding, skills, learning and core values. Teachers are, therefore, the most important elements in producing quality education, thus, they are expected to abide by the professional code of ethics. Teaching profession is a sacred profession and teachers play a vital role in moulding the students in a proper way so that they can reach their goal. But in the present days teachers professional malpractices that are very commonly practiced by teachers. The malpractices includes immoral conduct, absenteeism, corruption, private tuition, unethical dressing, examination fraud and sexual misconduct (Oziambo Betweli1, 2013). As a result of these persistent teacher misconduct, the quality of education is goes on diminishing and the risk factors are increasing day by day.

A TEACHER AND THE PROFESSION

- Every teacher shall actively insure that teaching is the noblest profession, and shall manifest genuine enthusiasm and pride in teaching as a noble calling.
- Every teacher shall uphold the highest possible standards of quality education, shall make the best preparations for the career of teaching, and shall be at their best at all times and in the practice of their profession.
- Every teacher shall use the teaching profession in a manner that makes it dignified for earning descent living.
- Every teacher shall help, if duly authorized, to seek support from the school, but shall not make improper misrepresentations through personal advertisements and other questionable means.

THE TEACHERS AND THE PROFESSION

- Teacher shall, at all times, be imbued with the spirit of professional loyalty, mutual confidence and faith in one another, self sacrifice for the common good, full cooperation with colleagues. When the best interest of the learners, the school, or the profession is at stake in any controversy, teacher shall support one another.
- A teacher shall hold inviolate all confidential information concerning associates and the school, and

shall not divulge to anyone documents which has not been officially released.

- It is the duty of every teacher to seek correctives for what they may appear to be unprofessional and unethical conduct of any associates.

TYPES OF TEACHER MISCONDUCT

Below mentioned are some of the types of teacher misconduct which are commonly seen in schools. They are as follows,

- **Absenteeism:**

Absenteeism was more prevalent in both urban as well as rural schools. The main reason for this absenteeism is low income due to low salary. Teachers spent few work hours in schools and rest of the time they were busy in their private business. As a result they use their official hours for private activities to supplement their meagre income.

- **Drunkenness:**

Drunkenness is a major problem which can be seen in most of the rural schools. Drunkenness is a major problem that affects the majority of teachers in the schools. Most of teachers have forgotten their professional role and fallen into drunkenness. They use most of their time in drinking local beers. Some of teachers have also established their own bars selling local brews.

- **Sexual abuse:**

Sexual abuse is one of the unethical activities which is commonly occurring in the schools. Child abuse can take on many different forms and situations. Child abuse can be in the form of physical abuse such as hitting, punching, etc. It can also be in the form of emotional abuse. Teachers are professionals in the community who should be knowledgeable and cognizant of this type of behavior within the community. (Dr. Jim Connors, Dr. Allison Touchstone)

- **Examination fraud:**

Some of the teachers also engage in doing examination fraud. The reason for this is to make money. Sometimes they may also be pressurized by their higher authorities to maintain their school reputation. Anyhow, it is one of the teachers' misconducts which affects the society.

- **Abusive language:**

Usage of the abusive language can be seen in the rural schools. Disruptive classroom language and verbal abuse are inappropriate in an educational environment. Inappropriate language is identified as language directed at others specifically designed to offend. This includes: swearing, inappropriate negative sarcasm, offensive nicknames, racist language, sexist language, and excessive volume while speaking. Disruptive language has negative consequences on the integrity of the classroom.

CAUSES OF TEACHERS MISCONDUCT IN SCHOOLS

- **Economic related factors:**

The main reason for the teacher misconduct is low income and inadequate salaries. Teacher respondents indicated that since salaries and their income were not satisfactory teachers were forced to engage in private activities to supplement their income. Teachers spent official hours in self-initiated activities. (Oziambo Betweli, 2013).

• **Social related factors:**

Due to the shortage of teacher houses, they are forced to rent houses in places that risked their professional behaviours. Due to scarcity of houses, particularly in urban areas teachers had rented houses close to night clubs and bars. It was believed that living in such environment tempted them into drunkenness and prostitution.

• **Managerial factors:**

It is evident that location of most of the rural based schools (remoteness) and shortage of funds to facilitate the school inspection exercise make it difficult for school inspectors in such areas to fulfill their responsibilities effectively.

Other causes for teacher professional misconduct

- ❖ Poor living environment
- ❖ Inadequate salaries
- ❖ Shifting classes(double sessions)
- ❖ Teachers residing far from schools
- ❖ Low level of professional knowledge
- ❖ Working for long time in the same school
- ❖ Lack of frequent visits by educational officers
- ❖ Failure to fulfill teachers needs and demands

CONCLUSION:

Teacher misconduct is a problem of great concern in both rural and urban schools that affects teachers' work performance, the teaching and learning process, and the quality of education at large. Misbehaviour of the teachers are mainly because of the lack of professional ethics, morals and values. Teachers should also take initiatives to improve youth protection within their classrooms, laboratories, and extra-curricular activities so that the chances of inappropriate, unethical, or illegal behavior on the part of teachers, school staff, or other educational professionals is reduced or eliminated. So, it is the duty of all educational professionals to have a moral and ethical responsibility to make every effort to protect children and youth at all times.

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