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PROFESSIONAL ETHICS IN TEACHING: A STUDY ON PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS



ABSTRACT:-

In the present study an attempt has been made by the investigator to study the professional ethics of primary school teachers and whether or not the factors like gender, marital status, school locality and school management have any significant impact on their professional ethics. The normative survey method has been used as a method of investigation. The sample for the present study consisted of 100 primary school teachers selected from 15 primary schools of district kulgam of Jammu and Kashmir State, India. Stratified random sampling technique was employed for selecting the sample. In order to collect the data from the respondents, the investigator used Professional Ethics Scale constructed by D. Mohana (2009). The statistical techniques like Mean, Standard Deviation, Percentage, Frequency and "t" test were employed for statistical analysis of the collected data. The findings of the study revealed that primary school teachers possess average level of professional ethics and there are significant differences in their professional ethics scores with respect to gender, marital status and school management. But no significant difference was observed in their professional ethics with respect to school locality.

KEYWORDS: Ethics, Professional Ethics, Professional

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Ethics Level.

INTRODUCTION :

Teaching is a sacred profession. Every profession demands for its worthy existence and acceptance, the enforcement of code of ethics which makes the profession self regulating, self regulating and self satisfying. Though the science and technological developments in the modern times are unimaginatively progressing, the character and conduct of the individual, society, teacher and students are at the low ebb and very unsatisfactory in major parts of our country. We often hear, see and witness incidents of molestation of students, racial discrimination, bribery, and favoritism, a segment of attitude of teachers without an urge to grow professionally and to be competent. It is necessary for teachers to learn to control their emotional outbursts with their intellectual potentialities and all this is possible only when there is a code of ethics imposed, enforced and plasticized. The word "Ethics" is derived from the Latin word "Ethos" meaning character. Ethics is the science of character. Ethics is a set of moral principles or values of what ought to be. Ethics is basically a science of discrimination between the right and the wrong. Professional ethics refers to the principles, guidelines or norms of morality which a teacher has to follow in the teaching profession while dealing with students, parents (of students), community and higher authorities. Professional ethics provides framework of principles to guide teachers in discharging their obligations towards students, parents, colleagues and community. Increased

awareness of the ethical principles governing the teaching profession is essential to ensure “professionalism” among teachers. Professional ethics provide direction and guidance to the teachers in enhancing the dignity of their professional work.

VARIABLES OF THE STUDY:

The following variables were selected to be studied in the present study

Main variable– Professional ethics.

Background variables- Gender (Male/Female), Marital Status (Married/Unmarried), School Locality (Rural/Urban) and School Management (Private/ Government).

OBJECTIVES:

- To study the level of professional ethics among the primary school teachers.
- To find if any significant difference exists between male and female primary school teachers with respect to their professional ethics.
- To find if any significant difference exists between married and unmarried primary school teachers with respect to their professional ethics.
- To find if any significant difference exists between rural and urban primary school teachers with respect to their professional ethics.
- To find if any significant difference exists between private and government primary school teachers with respect to their professional ethics.

HYPOTHESIS:

- The level of professional ethics among the primary school teachers is high.
- There is no significant difference between male and female primary school teachers with respect to their professional ethics.
- There is no significant difference between married and unmarried primary school teachers with respect to their professional ethics.
- There is no significant difference between rural and urban primary school teachers with respect to their professional ethics.
- There is no significant difference between private and government primary school teachers with respect to their professional ethics.

METHODOLOGY:

Method:

Normative survey method was employed as a method of investigation in the present study.

Population and sample:

The population for the present study consisted of all teachers working in primary schools in district Kulgam of Jammu and Kashmir State, India. The present study was conducted on a representative sample of 100 primary school teachers selected from 15 primary schools of District Kulgam. Stratified random sampling technique was employed by the investigator for the selection of the sample.

Tools used in the study:

Professional ethics scale constructed by D.Mohana (2009) was used to collect the data for the present study. The scale consisted of 50 statements, of which 26 are favorable and 24 are unfavorable statements. The scoring procedure for favorable statements is like as 4= strongly agree, 3= agree, 2= undecided, 1= disagree and 0= strongly disagree. The scoring procedure is reversed in case of unfavorable statements. Therefore one can get a minimum score of 0 and a maximum score of 250 on this scale. The score below 105 indicates low level of

professional ethics and the scores 106-164 and above 164 indicates average and high level of professional ethics respectively.

Statistical techniques used in the study:

The investigator employed percentage and frequency analysis, mean, standard deviation and ‘t’ test for statistical analysis of the collected data.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA:

Objective 1: To study the level of professional ethics among the primary school teachers.

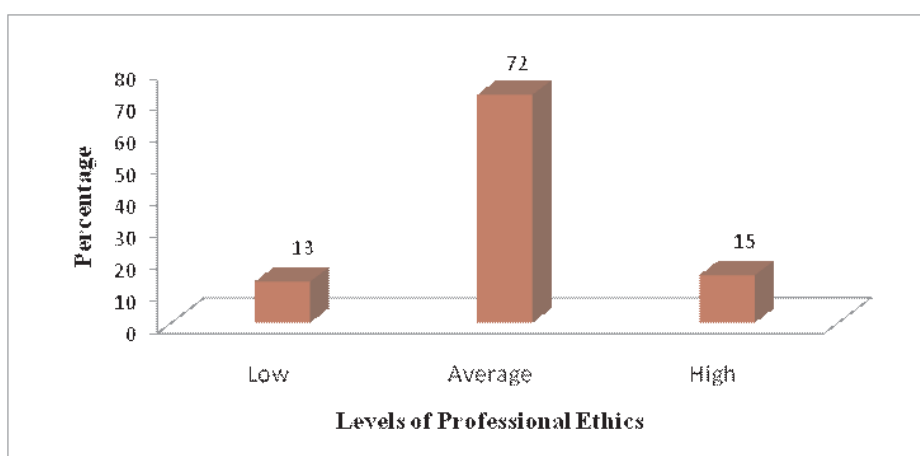
Percentage and frequency analysis was carried out to find out the number and percentage of primary school teachers falling into low, average and high levels of professional ethics which is shown in Table 1 and graphically represented in Figure 1.

Table 1
TABLE SHOWING PERCENTAGE OF PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS WITH RESPECT TO DIFFERENT LEVELS OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

S.No	Score Range	Number of Teachers	Percentage	Level of Professional Ethics
1.	Below 105	13	13	Low
2.	105-164	72	72	Average
3	Above 165	15	15	High
Total		100	100	

It is evident from the above table that 13 per cent and 15 percent of primary school teachers possesses low and high levels of professional ethics respectively, whereas majority of them i.e., 72 percent have average level of professional ethics. Therefore the null hypothesis “The level of professional ethics among the primary school teachers is average” is accepted and it is concluded that primary school teachers have average level of professional ethics.

Figure 1
SHOWING PERCENTAGE OF PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS FALLING INTO LOW, AVERAGE AND HIGH LEVELS OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS



Objective 2: To find if any significant difference exists between male and female primary school teachers with respect to their professional ethics.

In order to achieve objective 2, the investigator employed independent samples ‘t’ test and the results

are given in the table 2.

Table 2
TABLE SHOWING RESULTS OF ‘t’ TEST BETWEEN MALE AND FEMALE PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS WITH RESPECT TO THEIR PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

Variable	Gender	N	Mean	S.D.	Df	‘t’- value	Level of sig.
Professional Ethics	Male	60	129.06	16.52	98	2.23	Significant at 0.05 level
	Female	40	136.25	15.23			

From table 1 it is clear that the obtained t- value (2.23) for professional ethics of primary school teachers with respect to the variable gender is significant at 0.05 level. Hence the null hypothesis “There is no significant difference between male and female primary school teachers with respect to their professional ethics” is rejected at 5% level of significance and it is concluded that there is significant difference between male and female school teachers in respect to their professional ethics. Based on mean scores, it is clear that female primary school teachers have significantly more professional ethics (Mean=136.25) than their male counterparts (Mean=129.06).

Objective 3: To find if any significant difference exists between married and unmarried primary school teachers with respect to their professional ethics.

In order to achieve objective 3, the investigator employed independent samples ‘t’ test and the results are given in the table 3.

Table 3
TABLE SHOWING RESULTS OF ‘T’ TEST BETWEEN MARRIED AND UNMARRIED PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS WITH RESPECT TO THEIR PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

Variable	Gender	N	Mean	S.D.	Df	‘t’- value	Level of sig.
Professional Ethics	Married	55	135.65	13.25	98	2.259	Significant at 0.05 level
	unmarried	45	129.35	14.36			

From table 1 it is clear that the obtained t- value (2.25) for professional ethics of primary school teachers with respect to the variable marital status is significant at 0.05 level. Hence the null hypothesis “There is no significant difference between married and unmarried primary school teachers with respect to their professional ethics” is rejected at 5% level of significance and hence it is concluded that married and unmarried primary school teachers differ significantly with respect to their professional ethics scores. Based on mean scores, it is clear that married primary school teachers have significantly more professional ethics (Mean=135.65) than their male counterparts (Mean=129.35).

Objective 4: To find if any significant difference exists between rural and urban primary school teachers with respect to their professional ethics.

In order to achieve objective 4, the investigator employed independent samples ‘t’ test and the results are given in the table 4.

Table 4
TABLE SHOWING RESULTS OF 'T' TEST BETWEEN RURAL AND URBAN PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS WITH RESPECT TO THEIR PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

Variable	Gender	N	Mean	S.D.	Df	't'- value	Level of sig.
Professional Ethics	Rural	48	133.56	13.45	98	0.656	Not significant
	Urban	52	135.26	12.36			

From table 1 it is clear that the obtained t- value (0.656) for professional ethics of primary school teachers with respect to the variable locality of school is not insignificant at 5 % level . Hence the null hypothesis "There is no significant difference between rural and urban primary school teachers with respect to their professional ethics" is accepted at 5% level of significance and hence it is concluded that rural and urban primary school teachers do not differ significantly with respect to their professional ethics scores. Based on mean scores, it is clear that urban primary school teachers have more professional ethics (Mean=135.26) than their rural counterparts (Mean=133.56).

Objective 5: To find if any significant difference exists between private and government primary school teachers with respect to their professional ethics.

In order to achieve objective 5, the investigator employed independent samples 't' test and the results are given in the table 5.

Table 5
TABLE SHOWING RESULTS OF 'T' TEST BETWEEN PRIVATE AND GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS WITH RESPECT TO THEIR PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

Variable	School Management	N	Mean	S.D.	Df	't'- value	Level of sig.
Professional Ethics	Private	35	133.54	14.56	98	2.452	Significant at 0.05 level
	Government	65	140.65	12.36			

From table 1 it is clear that the obtained t- value (2.45) for professional ethics of primary school teachers with respect to the variable management of school is significant at 0.05 level. Hence the null hypothesis "There is no significant difference between private and government primary school teachers with respect to their professional ethics" is rejected at 5% level of significance and it is concluded that there is significant difference between private and government school teachers in respect to their professional ethics. Based on mean scores, it is clear that government primary school teachers have significantly more professional ethics (Mean=140.65) than private primary school teachers (Mean=133.54).

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

1. Majority of primary school teachers (72%) have average level of professional ethics, whereas 13% and 15% of them have low and high levels of professional ethics.
2. There is significant difference between male and female, between married and unmarried and between private and government primary school teachers with respect to their professional ethics.
3. There is no significant difference between rural and urban primary school teachers in their professional ethics scores.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The level of professional ethics among primary school teachers was found to be average. The following steps should be taken by the concerned authorities to raise the level of professional ethics among primary teachers.

- Ethics consultant offices should be set up as a part of internal quality assessment in each primary school.
- Workshops and orientation programmes on importance of inculcation of work ethics like commitment, self-discipline, loyalty, work values etc should be conducted for primary school teachers.

CONCLUSION

The investigator attempted to study the professional ethics among primary school teachers of District Kulgam of Jammu and Kashmir State, India. Majority of primary school teachers selected for the present investigation possessed average level of professional ethics. Further it was found that factors like gender, marital status and school management was found to have notable impact on professional ethics of the prospective teachers

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