

Professional Ethics of School Teachers

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Every profession requires a certain sort of skills, so also in the teacher's profession.

Meaning: "A profession may be defined as an occupation which require specialized knowledge or advanced learning."

Professional Ethics: every profession has its own professional ethics. The professional ethics signify the code of conduct to be adopted by the persons who profess that profession. The principles are derived from the human values which have been proved to be beneficial to the mankind by deep reflection and centuries of practical living.

This Code of Professional Practice is important for all teachers including principals. Professional knowledge is the foundation of the practice of teaching and learning. This professional knowledge includes a range of roles, responsibilities and relationships i.e.,

The Teacher and Student

The Teacher and Parents

The Teacher and Curriculum

The Teacher as Learner

The Teacher, the State, the Community and the School

Teachers are more important in a society that is continually changing and developing, and in which there is increasing emphasis on the creation of knowledge and sharing of information. The Code also aims to guide teachers in identifying and resolving ethical conduct issues which may arise in the course of their work and, in so doing, maintain public trust and confidence in their integrity and professionalism. It is also significant that the Right of Children to Free and compulsory Education Act, 2009 entrusts teachers with some onerous professional responsibilities to be internalized by them in the performance of their duties.

Accordingly, it is considered necessary that the Code of Professional Ethics be evolved and adopted by the teaching community. for school teachers is an attempt to provide guidance to the teachers to enhance their professional work. obligations for the teachers in their profession has to adapt and resolve.

I. OBLIGATIONS TOWARDS STUDENTS

1.1 Treats all students with love and affection:

The teacher should treat all children with love and affection irrespective of their school performance and achievement level the teacher should develop good rapport with students this in turn helps in the effective teaching learning process.

1.2 Be impartial to all students irrespective of their caste, creed, religion:

School is a place where social justice has to be practiced and valued by the teachers. If the teacher is partial to students they may cultivate bad character which is not accepted by the society.

1.3 Facilitates all round development of child:

Childhood is marked by period of growth and development it is not confined to only cognitive development (the traditional 3 Rs) The teacher should act as a facilitator for the students to develop physical, intellectual, social, emotional and moral values which would benefit them for their all round development. Physical and emotional security is the cornerstone for all learning right from the primary to the secondary school years and even afterwards.

1.4 Provision for individual needs:

A great challenge for the teacher is to understand each child's needs in matters of acquiring knowledge and this is possible only when the teacher becomes conscious of such a role and strives to continuously keep abreast of the pedagogies of attending to the individual needs.

1.5 Avoid subjecting the child to mental and physical harassment:

The teacher should take all appropriate measures to protect the child from all forms of physical and emotional harassment. Any involvement in such a behavior demolishes the prestige of the teacher in the eyes of the children and may become a source of hatred for the teacher.

II. OBLIGATIONS TOWARDS PARENTS, COMMUNITY AND SOCIETY

1.6 Establish good relationship with parents/guardians:

There may be situations where parents may bring problems relating to their wards to teachers, and in some situations Parents tend to ignore the faults of their children in spite of the teacher bringing the same to their notice. In such situations it is difficult for the teacher to mould the child in a right path. The teacher should accept and adopt the useful suggestion given by the parents for the progress of student. Teacher should give information about student's achievement/failures to the parents and tell them what they should do. A proper channel of communication between the teacher and the parents can be of great help to the students.

1.7 To develop respect for Indian culture:

India is a land of many cultures, languages, religions, faiths and beliefs and in any class there is always a representation of children of different cultures. As a result there is interaction among different cultural streams the philosophy of unity, humanity and other values should be inculcated through curricular and co-curricular activities of the school. Teacher's personal approach towards culture is likely to produce the desired impact on the minds of the students.

III. OBLIGATIONS TOWARDS THE PROFESSION AND COLLEAGUES

1.8 Strives for his/her continuous professional development:

In a knowledge-driven society, it is necessary for every person to continue learning throughout the life. Teacher should continuously try to rise to the highest level in his profession and should maintain that level. Teacher should attend training courses like INSET programmes through face to face or distance mode, seminars, workshops, meetings and programs related to education and also to update his subject knowledge he should actively participate in all these programmes. These are some of the strategies which a teacher can use to grow professionally and also to move upwards in the professional hierarchy. However, he/she must take full advantage of the opportunities provided by the State by participating in these programmes.

1.9 Refrains from Teachers' engagement in private tuition:

The teachers who engage in private tuition will affect the quality of their work in schools adversely. If a teacher is engaged in tuition work for three to four hours before or after school hours, it is likely to have an adverse effect on his school duties. Because the same time the teacher should have used it for making preparations for teaching. The teacher should not intentionally neglect his teaching duties hoping to attract students to seek assistance after school hours. And also the teacher may do injustice to other students who do not attend his tuitions.

1.10 Refrains from accepting any gift or favor:

Teachers should be role models for the students. Sometimes some students, out of respect and affection for the teachers, offer small gifts like flowers or greeting cards, these should be accepted with a smile. But the teacher should not accept any gifts and in return award higher marks in the internal assessment and selecting the student for participation in some sports tournament and cultural activities .this misleads the children which hampers the all round development of the child.

In fulfillment of their obligations to the teaching profession, teachers will strive to:

- Advance the interests of the teaching profession through responsible ethical practice
- Regard themselves as learners and engage in continuing professional development
- Contribute to the development and promotion of sound educational policy
- Be truthful when making statements about their qualifications and competencies
- contribute to the development of an open and reflective professional culture
- Assist newcomers to the profession
- Speak out if the behavior of a colleague is seriously in breach of this Code

Professional task is undertaken in collaboration with colleagues, learners, parents/guardians and family as well as with members of the wider community.

The professional interactions of teachers are governed by four fundamental principles:

1. Commitment to learners:

Teachers nurture the capacities of all learners to think and act with independence. Teachers seek to create an environment where students are active agents in the learning process.

Teachers will strive to:

- a) Present subject matter from an informed and balanced viewpoint.
- b) Promote the physical, emotional, social, intellectual and spiritual values among learners.
- c) Develop scientific attitude among students.
- d) Shall not intentionally expose the student to embarrassment.

2. Commitment to parents/guardians and family:

Teachers recognize that they should work in collaboration with the parents/guardians and family.

In relation to parents/guardians, and the family teachers will strive to:

- a) Involve them in decision-making about the care and education of their children.
- b) Establish open, honest and respectful relationships.
- c) Respect their privacy.

3. Commitment to society:

In fulfillment of their obligations to society, teachers will strive to:

- a) Teacher should recognize that education is a public service.

- b) Promote national integration.
- c) Develop awareness among people about steps taken by government in public interest.
- d) Protect them self from injustice, exploitation, and insults.
- e) School is miniature society and all school activities should bring quality changes in society.

4. Commitment to the profession:

In the belief that the quality of the services of the teaching profession influences the nation and its citizens teachers should exert every effort to maintain and raise professional standards.

In fulfillment of their obligations to the teaching profession, teachers will strive to develop intellectually and values about the profession and consider all the factors of the society to bring quality in teaching by following professional ethics.

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