



Teacher Education: Professional Ethics and Code of Conduct

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Abstract: *Teachers are essential because they are the front-line personnel in every educational institution. They have a responsibility to deliver high-quality education in addition to spreading knowledge and information. In order to provide this, one must be up to speed on industry standards, professionally competent, and adhere to a set of guidelines known as professional ethics and code of conduct. The three main pillars of teaching—the instructor, the learner, and society—interact with one another. The three categories of obligations that teachers responsibilities in teacher education —responsibility to students, responsibility to parents, community and society and responsibility to the profession and colleagues. Ethics is the most pressing issue today. The society is corrupting and the young generations are doing unethical activities randomly. The family plays an important role in making children ethical, but the teacher also has a big role to play in this matter. A teacher can raise a student's morale by encouraging ethical practices. This paper tried to focus on what ethics is and how ethics relate to the teaching profession and finally tried to recommend a code of ethics for teachers.*

Key Words: *Code of Conduct, Professional Ethics, Teacher Education, Teaching Profession.*

1. INTRODUCTION:

In every educational institution, teachers are essential players on the front lines. They have a duty to deliver high-quality education in addition to disseminating knowledge and information. Everyone here understands that our primary duty is to the student and his/her full potential growth. In this sense, we ought to seek the truth, commit to excellence, learn as much as we can, and uphold democratic values. It is our responsibility to uphold a high standard of competence, and in order to do so, we must participate in ongoing professional development throughout our careers in the field in order to fulfil our roles in the classroom, at school, and in the larger community.

2. Professional Ethics

In other words, professional ethics are the set of rules and regulations that professionals observe and which serve as the primary distinguishing characteristic of their field. They comprise the personal, organizational, and corporate standards of behaviour expected of professionals. The three main pillars of teaching—the instructor, the learner, and society—interact with one another. We are all aware that our primary duty is to the student and to help him or her reach their greatest potential. In this regard, we must focus all of our efforts on excellence, knowledge gain, and adherence to democratic values. Teachers must maintain competence through continuous professional development and follow the Code of Professional Ethics, which provides a framework for their obligations towards students, parents, colleagues, and the community, ensuring professionalism among teachers.

3. Code of Conduct: Teaching Profession

Teaching is a divine profession and every social worker whether he is a professional worker or a doctor or a teacher performs various duties. To the clients, the social worker is a friend, philosopher and guide as well as a teacher. When a social worker advocates change in social systems and structures that foster inequalities and injustice, he or she



is seen as a teacher as well as a motivator. Teaching qualities in a social worker promote honesty, trustworthiness, impartiality, commitment, cultural sensitivity, hard work, patriotism and responsibility in his professional practice or behaviour. The teaching qualities inherent in the worker will enable him to work with empathy and he will also protect the interests of the client.

A code of ethics is a written collection of rules that a company issues to its management and employees to assist them behave in a way that upholds the company's core values and ethical standards. A code of ethics is a set of guidelines intended to assist professionals in conducting business in an honest and ethical manner. The purpose and ideals of the company or organization, the standards that the professional will be held to, the ethical principles based on the firm's fundamental values, and the manner in which professionals are expected to address difficulties are all included in a code of ethics document. Codes of ethics provide the profession's approval on moral matters. Codes of ethics serve to inform the general public about the moral standards and professional ideals. Professional conventions should take into account a code of ethics. A professional who adheres to a code of ethics is able to resist pressure to meet expectations, both as a moral agent and as a professional. In analysis by Harris (1995) summarized up the idea that a code of ethics should first function as a collective acknowledgement of members' responsibilities. Secondly, it contributes to establishing an atmosphere in which moral conduct is the standard. Third, in a lot of circumstances, it can serve as a guide. Fourth, creating and updating a code of ethics supports a profession. Fifth, it provides a focal point for instruction in meetings and classes. Ultimately, it shows others that the profession cares about acting in a responsible and professional manner.

1. Responsibilities towards Students

Students play a very important role in a teacher's life. Because the student remains an important resource for the teacher which the teacher gives a new shape to.

Therefore, teachers have the following responsibilities towards students;

- To prepare and enable the students to face various challenges of the 21st century.
- To treats all students with love and affection.
- To makes systematic efforts to help the child reach their full potential and talent.
- To make sure that institution upholds the principle of equality and justice for all students, regardless of their background, including their race, religion, gender, socioeconomic status, disability, language, or birthplace.
- To check whether the curriculum is implemented in line with the values outlined in the Constitution of India.
- To ensure that the program promotes the holistic development.
- The organization ensures the confidentiality of student information and only provides it to those who are legally entitled to it.
- The teacher teaching approach to the unique needs of each student.
- To encourage positive competition among students and to provide a comfortable environment for asking and answering questions in the class room.
- To maintain a respectful demeanour that aligns with the expectations of a teacher as a role model.
- To see that whether, India's future is being built in the classrooms right now (Kothari Commission, 1964-66).

2. Responsibilities towards Parents, Community and Society

Since the past, it has been expected from the teacher that he should work, behave and display excellent behaviour with impartial and selfless spirit towards the society so that the society can be taken to the highest peak. Therefore the duties of the teacher also increases to a great extent, which is described as follows:

- The organization fosters a trusting relationship with parents and guardians to ensure the holistic development of learner.
- The initiative aims to foster a deep understanding of the diverse cultural heritage of India among learner.
- Avoid actions that derogate the child's or their parents'/guardians' respect.
- To balance community relations and develop national spirit in the society.
- The individual prioritizes their country and avoids activities.
- To provide strong and self-reliant citizens to the society.
- To create awareness to eliminate social evils and develop religious tolerance.

3. Responsibilities towards the Profession and Colleagues

Taking an organization or institution to a higher level is possible only through positive cooperation and harmony among the colleagues working there. In which individuals of the same group influence others in the



group to engage in such behaviour or activity. In which they cannot otherwise engage. As a result, it is absolutely necessary for everyone to play an important role in taking that institution to the top.

- The individual is actively engaged in ongoing professional development.
- The organization fosters a culture that promotes effective collaboration and dialogue among its employees and stakeholders.
- The individual refrains from participating in private tuition or teaching activities.
- The individual takes pride in their profession and treats all members with respect and dignity.
- The individual refrains from making unsubstantiated accusations against colleagues or higher authorities.
- The individual refrains from making derogatory remarks towards colleagues, particularly in the presence of students, teachers, officials, or parents.
- The individual respects their colleagues' professional standing and opinions, maintains confidentiality of information related to them, and only shares it when authorized.
- Positive attitude and cooperation among colleagues for continuous professional development is an effort to take the profession to the highest level.
- Creates a culture and department culture that encourages purposeful collaboration and communication among colleagues and stakeholders across the education system.
- The teaching profession takes pride in interacting with stakeholders both directly and indirectly and in treating fellow educators with dignity and respect.
- Establishing mutual cooperation and harmony for commitment and dutifulness towards any educational institution and establishing the appropriate profession at the top level seems to be a noble task.
- One should refrain from involving oneself in private tuition or private learning activity and should advise other colleagues not to get involved.
- Accepting any personal gift or favour should be avoided as it would be inappropriate for oneself and the organization, especially in the context of the Code of Conduct, i.e. which could impair or influence professional decisions or actions.
- One should avoid making baseless allegations against colleagues or higher and subordinate officers. Because this creates a negative environment in the profession which makes it difficult to work.
- Any colleague should avoid making derogatory statements about fellow colleagues working in any organization or institution, especially in the presence of students, other teachers, education officials or parents associated with the education world.
- To respect the professional standing of one's colleagues and the long-term vision they hold for the organization.
- Confidentiality of information related to colleagues and other stakeholders. Avoid sharing it with anyone without permission.

4. CONCLUSION :

It is the responsibilities of educators to guarantee that pupils acquire the necessary knowledge and abilities. They must grasp and appreciate the principles and ideas upheld by Indian society in order to become good learners and, eventually, effective and responsible citizens. In addition, they have an obligation to uphold the strict moral and professional standards that the general public, parents, and the profession itself demand. Discussions among teachers about whether a specific conduct is ethical or not can frequently result in a variety of viewpoints and points of view. The majority of ethical codes for teachers are behavioural suggestions rather than explicit regulations of behaviour. Teachers can get direction from professional ethics in their work as educators and in how they engage with other educators. They will also offer guidance to teachers on how to fulfil the needs of their children, collaborate with other staff members and parents, communicate with the community, and be accountable and dedicated educators. Teachers are held in high regard across our culture, and they have a duty to the community. Most students aspire to live lives similar to those of their ideal teachers. Therefore, it will be simpler to preach ethical topics to students if the instructor can lead by example through their ethical actions. Additionally, the nation as a whole will gain if the younger generation is cognizant of ethical issues. Consequently, teachers should uphold the code of ethics for educators and model ethical behaviour for their students, as they are an integral component of society.



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