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Article

Ethics in Professional Education for Teachers

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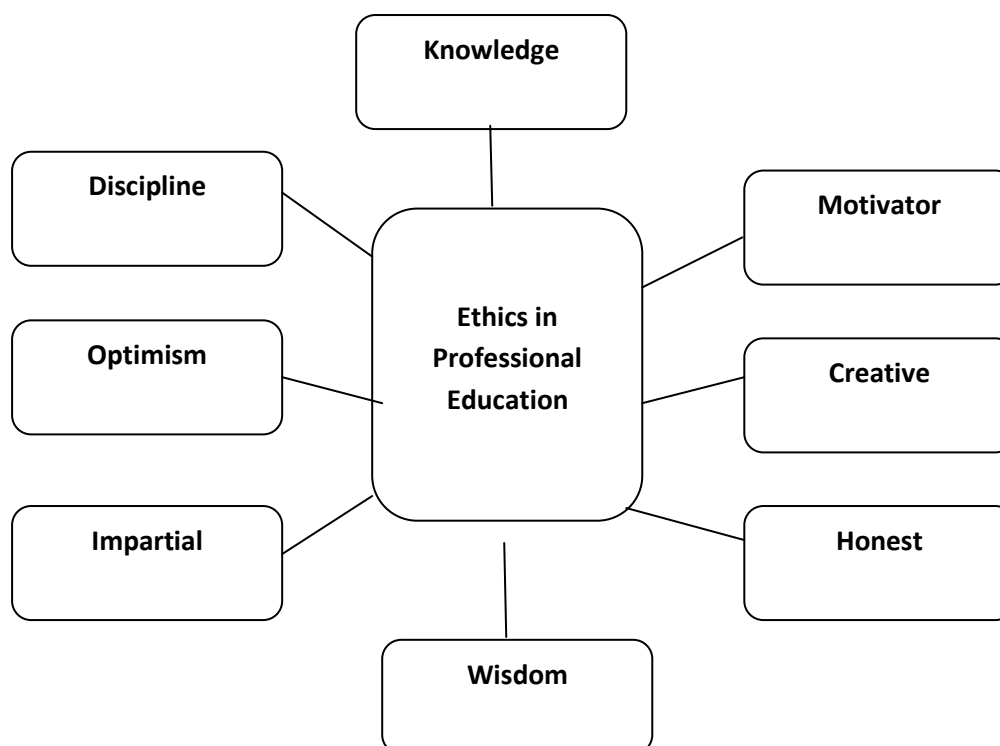
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Abstract

In this world of globalization and competitive world, we are witnessing diverse changes in our educational system. Since, change is inevitable the aims and objectives of education is changing according to the need, interests and requirements of the learners, society and nation as a whole. Now, the concept of teacher and teaching also is changing day by day. A teacher in this contemporary era has many duties and responsibilities to play. Apart from having good academic and professional qualifications, they should also possess the knowledge of Professional ethics. Professional ethics is like a guide, which facilitates the teacher to provide quality education and inculcate good values among the learners. The professional ethics will enlighten the teachers that they have a major role in bringing desirable changes in the behavior of the students. It also helps the teachers to understand their profession as a teacher. Their role is not just to become supreme and authoritarian in front of their students and colleagues. But then they have a wider and meaningful role to play. Teacher having the sense of professional ethics will treat their learners with love, care, affection and commitment. In addition to that, they would always ensure to make specific contribution from their angle. Therefore, this paper specially highlights the significance of professional ethics in teachers.

Introduction

“Education is the manifestation of perfection already in a human being” – Swami Vivekananda The ancient education was very different from the modern system. It was thought that knowledge is so sacred that no man ought to sell it. To support the teachers, wealthy families helped in turn the Guru as well as their disciples. The modern education has become highly commercial, materialistic and competitive. We find teachers to suit to today’s system with a need to remind them about ethics and practices. Emphasizing the importance of fundamentals, character, integrity and responsibility now has to become a part of education. The institute having faculty, who follow ethical practices will have better disciplined engineers. Ethics in professional education is concerned with one’s conduct, behavior, and practices while providing any kind of services. The educator should believe in the worth of dignity, importance of truth, devotion to excellence and nurture democratic principles. It is essential to protect freedom to learn as well as to teach and to provide opportunity of education to the entire population. Educators have to accept the responsibility to adhere to the highest ethical standards. The magnitude of work involved in professional teaching is increasing as well as the expectations. This has its implication in the training systems. The desire for respect from Colleagues, Students and members of community, makes teacher’s role crucial.



Role Of Teachers

“We want that the education by which character is formed, strength of the mind is increased the intellect is expanded, and by which one can stand on one’s own feet”- Swami Vivekananda. The preaching’s of Vivekananda, which were done over one and a half-century ago are still relevant in today’s context. In the present situation, teachers are required to get updated quickly to the latest in their respective fields, unlearn the old or outdated concepts and be punctual to ensure that the Students are satisfied. Teachers are expected to maintain enthusiasm and invoke creative instincts among the Students through projects and assignments. Teachers have to go beyond the Class room and practical teachings, to give inputs of significance. By considering the variety of background to which different Students belong, the teachers have to strike a balance even to satisfy their emotional needs. Impartiality and non favoritism should be visible in every action. Teachers action should be a real motivator to all the concerned. The teaching learning process should even help the academically poor Students to get motivated and develop their self-confidence. The teachers action should be task oriented and Students performance indicator strictly merit based. For the teacher to play the role of a mentor following qualities are expected. – Unconditional knowledge sharing – Impartial and prudent action – Motivation and encourage participation – Walk the talk/ practice what is preached – Wisdom “Teachers make a living by what they get They make a life by what they give” Teacher Student relationship is very important for cordial learning. Students develop very strong bond with the good teachers. Mutual respect, admiration, affection, availability are the key factors. Teachers are practically Students guardians while on the premises. What is required to be introspected is to know do we really have adequate number of teachers with ethics we are looking for. Like any other field we may not have many. But being considered as one of the noblest professions, we can hope for having local role models, wherever possible.

The Importance of Ethics

When I stress the importance of ethics in education, it constitutes the repository of their social and cultural values, and the medium of their historical memory. In common usage multicultural education generally refers to education about different ethnic groups. As dialogue on cultural difference and education has spread to other nations, it has become more sharply focused on complex issues of identity, diversity, and citizenship. "The relationships between democracy, citizenship, and education cannot be treated in isolation

from the question of multiculturalism." Several vectors of globalization have converged to raise the topic of multicultural education to the level of public, or at least professional, debate around the world today. The increasing cross-national mobility of people and the transnational communication of ideas that took place in the twenty-first century has fed into the contours of diversity around the world. It has also led to international dialogue. With increased human mobility and increasingly thick networks of communication, the common social fact of unequal educational experiences and outcomes is increasingly the subject of transnational dialogue. Educators around the world are faced with new challenges of balancing local, national, and global norms and moral as well as ethical values in the process of educating children. While fostering a sense of citizenship remains an important function of mass schooling, it is becoming less and less viable to do so at the expense of socializing children for their futures in a global society. In connection with contemporary global issues in multicultural and globalized school environment I would like to stress ethical and human approach. Humanity and human dignity are the terms used in moral, ethical, and political discussions to signify that a being has an innate right to respect an ethical treatment. Young people must be able to measure current events against the yardstick of the principles of humanity, dignity and law and not just in terms of economic or political criteria; develop resistance to feelings of impotence and indifference and refuse to become hardened the face of complex and negative world events; develop tangible bonds of solidarity with the suffering or needy; develop the strength to reject acts which take account only of the end to be achieved and not of the consequences to themselves and others; to incorporate the minimum standards of behavior to respect in the event of conflict in the values handed down by official educational establishments, families and social authorities and in the rules of the society.

Role Model Teachers Have

- ♣ Cheerful and pleasing personality: Should have a pleasing and cheerful personality as it develops a state of mind among Students for learning process. A lively teacher can really bring the best from every Student.
- ♣ Clean Habits: To be clean is a virtue. By cleanliness individual will be free from any ill habits. Clean habits can help in maintaining mind balance.

♣ Control on anger and forgiveness: While interacting with the Students, there may be occasions which may anger the teacher. For properly handling the situation teachers should exercise restraint and perseverance so as to avoid uncomfortable eventualities.

♣ Conquest of mind: This can normally be achieved by experience and meditation. Of all the things in the world, human mind is the most wavering. For imparting education, we must have noble thoughts, which can be achieved only by proper control over mind.

♣ Honesty: Teachers must be honest in whatever they think, speak and in their actions.

♣ Character: One of the highly essential qualities to win the trust and confidence of Students that they can depend on teachers for taking care of their educational needs.

Teaching Ethics

Ethics is basic to any profession. Ethics are personally rewarding

Integrity

- ❖ Honesty, fairness, justice, impartiality and thoroughness.
- ❖ Basis of faith and trust for dependability, honor and confidence.
- ❖ Kindness, courtesy, sincerity

Teacher's Attitude and Consequences

Positive Attitude is like fruit of all seasons and always welcome.

- Increases efficiency
- Foster team work
- Solves problems
- Improves quality
- Breeds loyalty
- Congenial atmosphere
- Reduces stress
- Pleasing personality

Negative Attitude

- Bitterness
- Resentment
- Purposeless life

- Ill health
- High stress levels
- Negative environment

“A teacher to be effective should always be a learner. If he ceases to be a student, he ceases to be a good teacher”. Dr. S. Radhakrishnan.

Conclusion

“Our people will prove their genius in the era of knowledge”. - Bhaskaracharya-12th Century mathematician above quote of 12th century is very much relevant today and to make this happen professional ethics have vital role to play. For making the age old faith still valid, the principles of honesty and noble teaching should sustain.

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