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NEED OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS IN TEACHER EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

Modern world provides a wide range of professions i.e. doctors, teachers, engineers, film making, fashion designing, modelling, photography, acting, singing, dancing, banking and many more options are available for selection of any profession. Every profession has its dignity and importance, no one is less than the other. Teaching is one of the noblest profession in the world. It has its own importance because every person who is successful in his profession, once he/she was the student of a teacher and with the teacher's help, motivation, guidance and instruction he/she become successful. Teaching profession is the originator of almost all the professions. Every profession required some ethics and values related to that profession, in this concern teaching also required some ethics because without professional ethics no profession is complete in itself. Need of professional ethics related to teacher education is discussed in this paper.

Keywords: Need, Professional Ethics, Teacher Education

Introduction

Teachers play a significant role in the social, cultural, political and economic development of the country and also inculcate spiritual, religious and moral values among the students of the nation and the same paradigm shift to the next generation. So it is important for teacher educators to develop professional ethics in themselves as they are preparing teachers for tomorrow. Professional ethics comprises two words: professional and ethics, professional means qualified, skilled, mature, practiced, certified, proficient(G. S. Prakasha & H. R. Jayamma[1]).

Ethics means moral values principles, and beliefs. Ethics are based on morality and human values and good conduct towards society(S.K. Dhillon[2]). Professional ethics is outlined as a level of knowledge and skills possessed by an individual attained through intensive education and required from an individual to perform his duties with beliefs and moral principles for professional excellence.

If we want to develop professional ethics among teachers then all the aspects of teacher education such as curriculum, objectives, methods of teaching or instruction, study material, content, evaluation process should be value based. These aspects pave the way to develop ethics among teachers

regarding the teaching profession. Knowledge and learning are life long process and teacher is a most influencing factor in students' learning, if a teacher is professionally trained, only then he can play the role of a torch bearer in students life because he show the path of learning to students. The main purpose of this paper is to give some new ideas about the need of professional ethics in teacher education.

Need and Importance of Professional Ethics in Teacher Education

Every Student is Important: One of the most important ethic for teacher is to treat equally to all the students. For teacher, every student is equal and important. He must treat every student with kindness, honesty, respect and equality. This sense of equality makes a strong bond between teacher and student which is helpful for any type of learning.

Teacher: A Role Model for Students: Teacher should set positive and valuable example for his students with his behaviour. He should help in developing students' emotional, social, physical and cognitive development. He must inculcate moral, social and human values among students and treats all students with sympathy, dignity and affection. If a teacher do all for his students, he become a role model for them.

For Providing Safe and Secure Environment to Students: It is also the teacher's professional code of ethics to check all security and safety procedures in the classroom and in the school building to keep students safe. If a teacher found any case of abuse or neglect and harassment, he should firstly try to resolve it with his personal efforts or otherwise report it to the proper authorities of the school so that the problem could be resolved at initial stage (Stacy Zeiger[3]).

Teaching Competence: A teacher educator must competent in his teaching skills to meet the individual need of the students. As we know that in each educational institute, average, above average and below average students are found so for that reason effective teaching competence is required from teacher educators. They should teach students or pupil teachers according to the mental level, their talent and their learning potential.

Collaboration with students: One of the important role of teacher is to provide quality teacher education to all the pupil teachers. Professional ethics of teaching profession must deal with this fact, stating that teachers must interact with prospective teachers appropriately. Teacher educator and pupil teachers both should work in collaboration in school-related activities; curricular and co-curricular and other events of the institute because team work is important in teaching learning process. Collaboration develops the cooperation and harmony among students and this eradicates hesitation among them(Stacy Zeiger[3]).

Professional Development: A professional code of ethics motivates the teachers to continue their efforts to gain new knowledge about the new innovations, trends and techniques in teacher education. This would help them in their professional development. Committed teachers towards teaching gain respect in society. Professionally trained teachers are more helpful to sharpen the teaching skills of their pupil teachers as compared to those who are not trained in their profession. So for that reason professional development is most important for teacher education. Teacher educator should participate in workshop, seminar, symposia and conference for their professional growth and the same spirit must be inculcated among pupil teachers (Kim L. Creasy[4]).

National development: Teacher educator must have the knowledge and respect of different cultures of India and try to develop positive attitude towards Indian culture, national integration and spirit of togetherness among students. The teacher should create a positive environment in the educational institute where healthy discussion should take place on several social problems and avoid to discuss religious and linguistic group issues. Positive attitude of teachers and students towards these issues is essential for national development (NCTE[5]).

To Maintain Dignity and Respect at Work Place: All the members in teacher education institute should respect each other and try to maintain the dignity of the teaching profession because a collaborative or harmonious atmosphere at work place increases the working efficiency of the staff. They must try to avoid making negative statement about their fellow colleagues in the presence of students and parents because that would create a work conflict among them and that results in decrease of their working. Many researches on work place suggested that a healthy work place of an institute can boosts the all type of processes(N. Sawhney[6]) .

To Develop Emotional and Social Maturity among Students: The ethics of teacher education highlights that teacher is not only the source of intellectual development of students but is also responsible for the emotional and social maturity of the students. The development of each and every nation depends upon the socially and emotionally mature citizens because they contribute significantly in the development of the nation.

For Effective Communication: One of the most important skill in teaching profession is effective communication. Effective teachers communicate clearly about the course of study, its objectives and content of the subject. Effective communication of the teacher educator with pupil teachers motivate them and make pupil teachers confidant in communication process because effective communicator always get the attention of others (*B.* Banga[7]).

Appropriate Planning: An appropriate lesson planning by the teacher educator makes the content effective and interesting in the whole session of teaching learning and it involve all the pupil teachers.

Lesson planning helps in clear explanation of the content and provides various resources to the students according to their needs. It also provides proper space to questioning, stimulation and pupil's participation (*B.* Banga[7]).

International Understanding: As we know that teacher is a friend, philosopher and guide to students, in this concern a teacher play a central role in developing international understanding and peace among students. He nurture his students with the international values of peace and harmony. Professional ethics are helpful in spreading peace at international level. The only source to stop the terrorism in the world is education and human values and these can be imparted only through the professionally trained teachers (G. S. Prakasha & H. R. Jayamma[1]).

For Cooperation with Parents: Teachers and parents are two different communities which are connected by educational institution whether it is school, college, university or teacher education institute. If there is neglect of cooperation between teachers and parents, it negatively affects the teaching learning process. Professionally trained teachers fill this gap by their cooperative conduct and provide the information to the parents regarding the progress of their children, it develops trust of the parents in the educational institute. Teacher help the students to increase their confidence and establish the co-operative and healthy relationship with parents. This would create a trust among parents and this spirit of trust is helpful for the all round development of the students (D.L. Chaudhary & A. Mohammad,[8]).

Conclusion

To conclude, to inculcate professional ethics among pre service teachers is not an easy task. Teachers are the nation builders and creators of all professions, firstly they must develop appropriate ethics required for teaching profession so that same values and ethics can be developed among pupil teachers. But there is downfall in the teaching profession in the present materialistic and modern world. Privatisation of education is on one side provide educational opportunities but on the other side it is also a important reason to deteriorate the prestige of teaching profession where they are forced to do unethical things. To impart quality teacher education at all levels, teachers must be qualified, competent, skilled and appropriately trained. In the present technological and modern world, there is need to set high professional standards, professional code of ethics and accountability to society by the teacher education institutes. Only then future shaping noble profession of teaching is developed in true sense. To sustain this development, every stakeholder; teachers, students, parents, employer and the government should perform their duties appropriately.

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