ETHICS IN PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

The Professional Education for Masses is a huge challenge to the developing countries like India, which is the second largest populated country in the World. With large young population it is important to have robust quality education system. Indian Education System has illustrious history with teachers deserving huge respect for their role in Students lives. The Advancing Technologies, attractive offers, limited loyalty have become true concerns. Under this pretext the paper discusses various attributes which are ingredients for Professional Education. If these expectations are not fulfilled the Institutes and Universities will produce graduates with least sensitivity to the society and may become liabilities rather than becoming the pillars of future systems.

Key Words: Quality Education, Values, Ethics, Expectations

INTRODUCTION

“A teacher to be effective should always be a learner. If the teacher ceases to be a student, he/she ceases to be a good teacher.”

Dr. S. Radhakrishnan

Education is the most important need for a healthy society due to its implications on the wellbeing of next generation [1]. Teaching is a skill driven task which embeds Knowledge and Art. For any teacher the Career evolution transitions through Entry, Stabilization, Experimenting, Diversifying, Reflection, Serenity, Conservatism and Disengaging. It demands professional competence, values, moral principles which we can refer as Ethics. Professional Ethics will help the teachers to mature, shape competencies, consciousness and deliver expectations [1]. All these shall be visible in day to day actions with an attitude for self-growth.

Values as principles, fundamental convictions, ideals, standards of life stances which act as general guide to behavior or as a reference point in decision making or the evaluation of beliefs or actions [2].

Ethics is centered on moral values with a focus on Application and Outcomes of adherence of such moral value systems. Ethics is concerned about right, fair and also focused on once actions. Ethics is the reasoning of morality in judging between Right and Wrong [3]. It may be noted that for the benefit of society students shall be educated with proper value systems. Graduating students shall possess good knowledge with intensive critical thinking abilities for public service. Students must be equipped with abilities to distinguish between Right and Wrong, Proper response to situations for serving the Society with honesty [4].

Teachers traditionally hold high moral standard in the Society and community at large [5]. This means a position of great responsibility and Trust. To fulfil this trust, teacher shall be of good moral character to shape Career of pupils. Education shall be the amalgamation of pursuit of truth, respect and dignity to all, with devotion to Excellence.
Primary objective shall be a scholar centric approach for the complete development of Student potential. Teachers shall commit to Academic openness, unconditional knowledge sharing for learning process and respect for difference of opinions. It is also imperative to avoid harassment, embarrassment, discrimination and play role of mentor to the students. Teachers must maintain professional barrier between self and students which is key to learning.

Teaching is a group activity. The faculty in the departments shall be fair to colleagues by being a team player. Many a times excellent teachers prove to be trouble makers in the team due to narrow minded approach and let the team performance get affected for individual traits.

According to Nordand Haynes[6], the Moral Education has twin dimensions. The former is the Moral Socialization and latter is the Development of Intellectual resources. The Moral socialization includes Training, nurturing key norms, Character building, Understanding Values and their significance, Study the lives of Role models etc. These are important attributes for Character building. The Intellectual Resources Development includes understanding of Knowledge Resources, acquiring of Skills, Competencies, Self-Control, Owning responsibilities, Decision making abilities and Commitments [6].

Creating a stimulating learning environment is crucial for quality learning [7]. The undisputed fact is that teachers are the backbone of good quality education system. It may be realized that the new age technology has added additional dimensions to the learning process. The Techno-savvy next generation and Chip-of-the-old- block faculty can be a mismatch to the present situation. Teachers need to upgrade to prevent obsolescence and to fine tune the present student community needs. The Teacher-Student relationship is built on a strong Trust foundation with high ethical standards.

**Teaching Profession**
- Teaching is one of the oldest and noble professions. A teacher is a friend, philosopher and guide to students.
- To become successful, teacher should understand student’s temperament and deliver knowledge such that the students love to learn.
- Every teacher should learn Educational Psychology for effective teaching.

![Diagram of Essential Attributes for Effective Teaching](image)

*Figure 1. Essential Attributes for Effective Teaching*
Qualities of a good teacher

- Unconditional knowledge sharing
- Impartial and prudent action
- Motivation and encourage participation
- Walk the talk/practice what is preached
- Wisdom

Role Model Teachers possess

- **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.

- **Honesty**
  Teachers must be honest in whatever they think, speak and in their actions.

- **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.

- **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 the art of doing the right things at right time.

- Planning: To do List of activities.
- Prioritizing: Important, Urgent.
- Scheduling: Doing difficult things when the efficiency is maximum. (peak hours)
- Ethics may be defined as the study of the general nature of morals and of the specific moral choices to be made by an individual.
- To put somewhat differently, ethics can be viewed as the moral quality of a course of action.
- Ethics is basic to any profession.
- Ethics are personally and professionally rewarding.

The changing ethics

- The ideals and objectives of yesterday were still ideals of today, but they lost some of their luster and even, they lost the shining beauty which has warmed the heart and vitalized the body.

Integrity

- Honesty, fairness, justice, impartiality, carefulness and thoroughness.
- Basis of faith and trust for dependability, honour 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

**CONCLUSIONS**

From the elaborations it may be noted that Moral values and Ethics are crucial for effective quality education. Our predecessors have spent life dedicating to the noble profession and we have a huge responsibility in upholding the sanctity. Established teachers shall mentor juniors during induction and their probation. Teachers must develop the attitude of appreciating in public and reprimand in private for avoiding unforeseen situations. Maintaining professional boundaries, demonstrating respect for cultural diversity, working in collaboration with colleagues, parents and students is mutually rewarding.

*When we are motivated by compassion and wisdom, the results of our actions will benefit everyone.*

Dalai Lama

**REFERENCES**


