

Professional ethics in teacher education: Need of hour

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Abstract

In the present time a decline of moral values, intolerance, increasing trend of aggressiveness, violence and other negative factors affect the teaching in existing environment. The teachers should be more focused on solution of ethical and moral problems concerned with their profession. Like other professions the teaching profession should also have its Code of Professional Ethics which is a pre requisite to ensure dignity and integrity. Free and Compulsory Act 2009 entails on teachers some professional responsibility to be internalized by them in the performance of their duties. In democracy like India many ethical and moral problems seems to appear more often, they need solution and must not be ignored. Reason for ethics of teaching is to bring teachers to knowledge how to teach pupil to evaluate their own behavior, to distinguish good or bad manners, right or wrong behavior etc. Taking into account modern problems of education, it is essential to include ethics of teaching as a subject in education for future teachers. In education profession we should identify ethical and moral aspects. Ethics of teaching provide teachers suitable tools for solution of ethical and moral problems. Increased awareness of the ethical principles governing the teaching profession is essential to ensure professionalism among teachers. In ethics it is essential for a teacher to recognize the obligations towards students, obligation towards parents, community and society, towards profession and colleagues.

Keywords: ethics, teacher education, curricula, profession

Introduction

Ethics is the set of moral principles that govern the behavior of a person. It is a branch of philosophy that deals with morality and values relating to the human conduct pertaining to rightness or wrongness and goodness or badness of the motives. It was derived from Greek word "ethos" means character. In the present time a decline of Moral values, intolerance, aggressiveness, violence and other negative aspects of human behavior are discussed in daily life. Aggressiveness seems to be increasing in human behaviour because of manifestation of globalization of human society. In democracy many ethical and moral problems seem to appear more often, they need solution and must not be ignored because neglecting could have great consequences. During basic teaching courses, future teachers should be more focused on solution of ethical and moral problems connected with their profession, inclusive solution of negative effects that appear in teaching practice.

Importance of ethics in teaching curricula

Considering the above said reasons, the need of implementation of ethics of teaching in the education of teachers is favored. The importance and need of implementation of ethics of teaching into education of teachers should be explained. In ethics of teaching, there is interdisciplinary cooperation with philosophy, pedagogy, psychology and sociology and it improves readiness of teachers for solutions of some new problems connected with teaching. Ethics of teaching is necessary as a subject be included in education of teachers which enables them to identify problems of their profession and find possible ways of solution of moral problems. Ethics of teaching bring teacher to knowledge how to make pupil to evaluate their own behavior, to differentiate between good or bad manners, right or wrong

behavior etc. Ethics as a subject in schools/ colleges should be included in course curricula with immediate effect so that the behavior of students can be changed in right and desired direction. In some of the courses at graduate level, ethics as a subject have been started. Keeping modern problems of education and up bringing it is necessary to consider ethics of teaching as compulsory subject in education of future teachers.

Why ethics as a course

Ethics should include the well being and protection of teachers. Ethics of teaching could give teachers suitable tools for solution of ethical and moral problems concerned to their profession. Ethics of teaching examines personal, character and pedagogical, psychological characteristics that play important role in pedagogical activities of teacher mainly in relation to pupil, students, colleagues, super ordinates, parents and subject matter etc. The problems arising due to lack of salary and less payment, teachers and other educational personnel are less likely to act in an ethical way; lack of funds for teacher training is another aspect which affects the sincerity towards ethics. Due to these problems, making teachers enthusiastic about professional ethics could be quite difficult. To over come this type of problems teaching of ethics is very important.

Ethical Obstacles

There are many types of ethical obstacles /problem like sexual harassment, discrimination and corruption. During present day situation due to increasing activities of sexual harassment, discrimination and corruption has made the task of a teacher very hard. The teacher must not participate in such behaviors and should discourage this kind of behavior in their students, which may in some cases prove quite difficult. Sexual harassment can for example be discrimination, or part of

corruption. First of all should consider the difference between sexual harassment of students by peers and sexual harassment by teachers. Our concern is primarily with the latter although the former is also to a certain extent the responsibility of the teacher (Witkowska, 1997).

Discrimination is common practice in many places in the world and more often than not embedded within culture. Discrimination can come in many forms, and target a wide variety of differences, but the forms that are most commonly referred to are sexual orientation, race, belief and gender. This happens on two levels i.e. 1. School culture does not think certain behavior is discriminatory 2. A teacher is unaware he is teaching in a discriminatory way, he recognizes certain behavior as discriminating but just does not see he is acting that way.

Corrupted behavior of the people differs from culture to culture but in general corruption is understood as a variation of the abuse of public office for private gain. The giving of gifts to teachers is often viewed as bribery in developed countries whereas in some parts of Asia it is expression of appreciation. The notion of corruption exists in all societies. This illustrates that corruption is an extremely difficult concept if taken globally.

There are numerous forms of unprofessional behavior ranging from misbehaving (skipping work, alcohol abuse) to forms of lack of commitment (disinterest in students and disinterest in teaching). While the former is more harmful, the latter is more difficult to address. A teacher is on account of alcoholism, but not on account of disinterest. The only real way to counter these kinds of problems is motivation.

Teaching profession is a paid and learned occupation that serves a social ideal. Although there may be some controversy on the nature of the professional status of teachers but they are generally seen as professionals. Professional teachers are educators who strive to promote educational values to the best of their abilities. These educational values are tricky.

The moral and ethical commitment of teachers has gradually decreased over the years due to political interference in recruitments, promotions and transfer of teachers. Those teachers who have record of misconduct and unethical behavior create the environment which results in poor quality education.

Conclusion

Today, value education is neither at home nor at schools, though it is included in the curriculum of education. The curriculum finds no space in area of value education with exposure to the pupils who are more sensitive to build up character and behavior. The present curriculum fails to realize the teacher that he/she is a human being. The education system should be tuned in such a way possible to deal with "what is value". Considering the modern problems of education and decline in social values among students, it is essential to include ethics of teaching as a subject in course curricula for future teachers and the students of any profession. On the basis of the decreasing values in social life the ethics of teaching should be included in the course curricula of future teacher. So, that they can implement and improve the social values in the students at school and college levels.

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