

PRATEETI : The Journal of Debraj Roy College Women Forum, edited by Anindita Dey and Printed at Apsara Printers, Court Road, Golaghat.

Published by - Debraj Roy College Women Forum

Published on - 13 March, 2015

Editorial Board :

President - Dr. Dipali Bora

Secretary - Ruma Hazarika

Editor - Anindita Dey

Asst. Editor - Mausumi Boruah

Special Thanks - Diganta Saikia
Lakshminath Rabha

Cover Composed by - Diganta Saikia

Printed at - Apsara Printers
Court Road
Golaghat - 785 621
Assam

PROFESSIONAL ETHICS OF COLLEGE TEACHERS

Mrs. Manisha Chaliha

Asst. Professor
Dept. of Education,
D.R. College, Golaghat

In the pyramid of education the teacher is at the apex and controls the objectives of education and his pupils at the same time. Therefore teacher's dynamicity is always at the root of the success or failure of any plan of education proposed by the government. Teaching is the profession where one can make real contribution to the lives of people. No other profession provides such deep personal satisfaction. Teacher is the chief agent in a democratic community's efforts to improve itself. One of the behaviourist psychologists Watson has said, "Give me a dozen healthy infants, well formed and my own specialized world to bring them up in and I guarantee to take anyone at random and train him to become any type of specialist." But at present devoted teachers are not in plenty. Therefore the standards of education are being lowered.

CHARACTERISTICS OF A PROFESSION

A profession:

1. Is learned not acquired.
2. Demands rigorous academic and practical training.
3. Involves intellectual activities.
4. Is based on systematic body of knowledge.
5. Requires continuous professional growth.
6. Cultivates high service motive.
7. Provides autonomous status.
8. Ensures life career and based on code of ethics.

PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

The 'professional ethics' is composed of two words, e.g. 'professional' and 'ethics'. A professional is one who is dedicated to and motivated primarily by higher ideals



of service. One who is acquired a learned skill and conforms to ethical standards of the profession in which he practices the skills is a professional. An individual who gives enough time, enough dedication and enough attention to his work may also be regarded as professional. In education, the teacher in order to be a professional must promote learning on the part of the students. Ethics on the other hand, is the system of moral principles and code of conduct by which a profession controls itself and directs and monitors the behaviour of its members. For example, in the context of education, the teacher should always act keeping in mind the best interest of their students.

Further, a professional is known by his professionalism. Professionalism refers to the high and consistent conduct, aims or qualities that characterize a profession or professional person. It has two aspects; knowledge and ethics. A professional man is required to have mastery over his subject matter and exercise control over the development and maintenance of organized body of knowledge. As regards the ethical aspects of professional person is expected primarily to meet the best interest of the clients whom he serves by dispensing his acquired knowledge and skills with devotion, commitment and with missionary zeal.

Professionalism requires that a professional man must be an embodiment of morality. In the treatment of students,

of subject matter, of colleagues and even of general public, honesty, truth and justice should become the central virtues of his practice. It is essential for him to be aware of personal values and to maintain a sound relationship with his students, colleagues and with the society at large.

DIMENSIONS OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

From the above discussion, the following dimensions of professional ethics are determined.

1. Dedication to the subject matter.
2. Dedication to the welfare of the students.
3. High service motive.
4. Interpersonal relationship with regard to students, colleagues, authorities, guardian and society.

CODE OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS FOR COLLEGE TEACHERS

The code of professional ethics is defined in the dictionary of education as (i) 'Those ideals, principles and standards of professional duties and responsibilities' and (ii) 'A specific set of standards of professional conduct approved by the membership of a professional group or association'. Thus, it appears that a code of professional ethics in education would mainly serve the basic responsibility of teachers to students and to the profession at large. Regarding their responsibilities the teachers should-

1. Adhere to a responsible pattern of

conduct.

2. Manage their private affairs in a manner consistent with the dignity of the profession.

3. Seek to make professional growth continuous through study and research.

4. Express free and frank opinion by participation at professional meetings, seminars, etc. towards the contribution of knowledge.

5. Maintain active membership of professional organization and strive to improve education and profession through them.

6. Perform their duties in the form of teaching, tutorial, practical and seminar work conscientiously and with dedication.

7. Cooperate and assist in carrying out functional responsibilities of the college including invigilation, evaluation, counseling etc.

8. Participation in extension, co-curricular activities including community service.

Regarding their responsibilities towards students the teachers should-

1. Respect the right and dignity of the student in expressing their opinion.

2. Deal justly and impartially with students regardless of their religion, caste, political, economic, social and physical characteristics.

3. Recognize the difference in aptitude and capabilities among students and strive to meet their individual needs.

4. Encourage students to improve their attainments, develop their personalities and contribute to community welfare.

5. Inculcate among students a scientific outlook and respect for physical labour and ideals of democracy, patriotism and peace.

6. Pay attention to only the attainment of the student in assessment of merit.

7. Aid students to develop an understanding of our national heritage and national goals.

8. Refrain from inciting students against other students, colleagues or administration.

Conclusion

Should we have professional code of ethics for the teachers or we should not have? This is indeed a valid question which has brought support in two types of ethical theory namely, intuitionism and naturalism. If we stand by intuitionism, then no professional code of ethics for the teachers is required. Because intuitionists asset that moral values are inborn qualities. They are apprehended directly by the individuals. But on the other hand, considered from naturalistic point of view, a professional code of ethics must be evolved for the teachers. Because naturalists maintain that moral values could be founded on an objective examination of the practical consequences of any act of human conduct. For example, if a teacher believes that discriminating against students on the basis of caste,



religion, sex etc. is unethical, he should do so not because of ethical judgments already made but as a consequence of his personal observation. Further, we know that an ideal teacher is an embodiment of morality. So one who is embodiment of morality, moral code for him is not necessary. In contrast, one who is highly immoral, moral code for him conveys no meaning. It would be a fruitless attempt

to enforce a code of professional ethics for him. But it goes without saying that there are majority of teachers who are likely to accept and respect as well the professional code of ethics not because as a moral binding upon them but as an arousal of knowledge and skills useful in ethical decision making. ♦

Bibliography :

1. Aggarwal, J.C., *Development and Planning of Modern Education*. New Delhi: Vikas Publishing House, 1998.
2. Baporikar, N., *Doctorate Education, A practical Guide*. New Delhi: Viva Books, 2010.
3. Das, B.C., *Educational Technology*. Kalayani Publishers: New Delhi: 1996.