

Professional Ethics of Teachers

Teacher's who consider their job as a profession, work only for pay cheque. Their work is considered useful for their own sake. Since, perchance they have

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occupied a professional, chair they try for their own good, at the cost of others. But our cultural heritage proves that true teachers are those who consider their job as honourable. Their activities become honourable only when they work with a sense of self-fulfilment and self-realisation.

Professor George Herbert Palmer once rightly said, "If Harvard does not pay me to teach, I would gladly pay Harvard for the privilege of teaching." This should be the professional value of an ideal teacher. An ideal teacher, as a professional person, should not work with pecuniary motives, but with a sense of education for the cause of education. "He must be man helping his brothers, a child leading other children, a light kindling other lights, as awakened soul awakening other souls." To follow professional value in its right prospective, a teacher must learn to teach, to influence and to show good examples to others. He must follow a code of ethics and maintain high professional standards. Teaching a noble profession.

Students tend to copy the behaviour and mannerism of the teachers. The teachers entire personality is a reflection of the minds of the students. If the teacher is honest, leads a balanced and disciplined life, the children adopt these virtues as ideal conduct unconsciously. The ideal teacher is one who through his thoughts, words and deeds, gives an impression of an honest upright life which can serve as a model for the students to copy follow and emulate. Learning by imitation is best technique.

The teacher should take a pledge to follow the code of ethics which may bring credit to the entire profession.

The following code may be suggested which each teacher should understand and should try to adopt as his professional ethics :

1. Towards Students : It shall be our primary duty to understand them, to be just, courteous, to promote a spirit of enquiry, fellowship and joy in them, not to do or say anything that would undermine their personality, not to exploit them for personal interests and to set before them a high standard of character, discipline and personality.

2. Towards Profession : It shall be our primary duty to be sincere and honest to our work and to go thoroughly prepared to the class, to endeavour to maintain our efficiency by study and other means; not to do or say anything which may lower or prestige in the eyes of our students; not to write or encourage the use of help-books, not to exert any pressure upon our students or their parents to engage private tuition, not to act as an agent or accept commissions and other compensation for recommending books.

3. Towards Society : It shall be our primary duty to set an example in citizenship, to endeavour to promote the public good, to uphold the dignity of our calling on all occasions, to size up the demands and aspirations of the society, to be dynamic leaders when required and to be ideal followers when desired.

4. Teacher's Union : Teacher's unions can also play a very significant role in creating an atmosphere in which shirkers and other people with doubtful intentions may not find a congenial environment. Unions should create a public opinion which should serve as an adequate sanction against such unsocial acts. Now teacher's unions are merely used as a forum for ventilating their grievances

and otherwise trying to promote service conditions. In addition, these unions should also take steps which may help the teachers in projecting their proper image among the people.