



## PROFESSIONAL ETHICS OF TEACHERS



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**Abstract:** *The teacher is the educational parent of the child. He is the foster parent of the child. He supplements the role of the parents. The educational development of a child is more than that of the parents. He undertakes the great task of educating the child. Child looks to him for knowledge, wisdom, manners, moral aspiration, enlightenment and what not. Various great men have paid very rich tributes to this man entrusted with a great job. This paper discusses about the Professional Ethics*

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### INTRODUCTION

#### PROFESSIONAL ETHICS:

Need of code of ethics for teachers. Teaching is not an ordinary profession. It is a very sacred job. The society places high hopes on a teacher. He is considered to be the custodian and architect of our future and is known as the builder of the nation. The destiny of a country largely remains in the hands of the men and women trained, educated and prepared by him. Our human resources are grown, developed and shaped in our class rooms. The type of society we get is largely determined by the type of individuals we groom in our schools. This great responsibility falls on the teacher. The whole structure of society depends on the quality, competence, devotion and character of its teachers.

Any system of education evolved for the progress of the society and the country is to be translated into reality by the teachers. It is teacher alone who can make a system work. He has been regarded as the most vital single factor in any system of education. He is the key to the quality of education. No system of education can show any results unless the teachers discharge their duties sincerely and honestly.

Teaching is not only a profession but also a mission. The purposes that a teacher fulfils, the ideals that he maintains, the services that he renders, the training that he undergoes, the character that he portrays, the personality that he develops in himself all are characteristics of a missionary attitude. He has to recognise the fact that the welfare of those whom he serve should be his first responsibility. Teaching is a profession or mission which is instituted for and maintained in the service of others.

Bait in the present day teacher training programmes, there is little emphasis on ethical values and ideals. It is very sad that the teachers do not attach adequate importance to the ethical and moral conduct on their part. We

find many teachers who are devoid of these values. A code of ethics for the teachers is a dire necessity under the circumstances.

It is a hard fact that in the modern society moral and ethical values are fast deteriorating. Education is a powerful agency to correct this trend. The teachers can play an effective role in the restoration of these values only if they accept for themselves an ethical code of conduct.

Let a new entrant in the teaching profession take an oath. A specimen of this oath can be as mentioned:

A Teacher's Oath I..., swear in the name of God, country and society that I shall have true faith and allegiance to my profession. I shall honestly and sincerely discharge my duties to the best of my ability.

#### I shall also follow the following code of ethics:

##### 1.Regarding Students:

- 1)I shall deal justly, impartially, honestly and affectionately with the students regardless of their caste, creed, status, and other characteristics.
- 2)I shall do my best in my job of guiding the students in their pursuit of knowledge and skills. I shall pass on to them my best information, knowledge, experiences, skills, habits, manners, opinions and beliefs.
- 3)I shall not shirk my duties, responsibilities and obligations towards them.
- 4)I shall acquaint myself with their needs, interests, possibilities, difficulties, problems and individual differences and shall enable them to get the maximum out of their learning opportunity.
- 5)I shall never carry ill-will about a student. I shall never be vindictive.
- 6)I shall never harm a student and not even misguide him.
- 7)I shall encourage the students to become self reliant and acquire habits of independent thinking and action. I shall

never discourage a student.

8)I shall never exploit a student for any personal or professional ends.

9)I shall hold personal, private and confidential information about a student as a sacred trust.

10)I shall be vigilant about the latest researches about human behaviour in general and student behaviour in particular.

11)I shall deal with them with sympathy, patience and optimism. I shall never lose temper with them.

12)I shall not make uncharitable observations about them or about anyone else in their presence. I shall scrupulously avoid obscene language or indecent remarks.

13)I shall preserve my reliability and credibility with them at all costs

14)I shall win their respect. I shall not expect any flattery from them.

15)I shall take up tuition work only under official sanction and will do it not with the motive of earning extra money but with the motive of student betterment.

#### **2.Regarding Community:**

1)I shall occupy a position of public interest not only in my social conduct but also in private conduct.

2)I shall not involve myself in the groupism prevailing in the community.

3)I shall try to conduct myself as an ideal member of the community.

4)I shall try to create an ideal community in the school.

5)I shall protect school programme from undue interference by various sections of the community.

6)I shall perform the duties of citizenship with due consideration for my obligations to my community, students, family and self.

7)I shall not belie the hopes of the community from my profession.

8)I shall use educational facilities strictly in accordance with the given policies, legal provisions and rules and regulations.

9)I shall share responsibility for equalising educational opportunities for all sections of the community.

10)I shall be patriotic without being chauvinistic.

11)I shall try to strengthen the community's moral, spiritual and intellectual life through the medium of quality education.

12)I shall do my best for the community, unmindful of returns and rewards.

13)I shall try to make the best use of resources provided by the community without allowing their wastage.

14)I shall take pride in selfless social service.

#### **3.Regarding Parents:**

1)In student's interest, I shall try to make a common cause with the parents.

2)For a student's lapses, I shall avoid shifting the blame on parents.

3)I shall try to enjoy the confidence of the parents.

4)I shall not make a student a target of my revenge against his parent.

5)I shall not harbour any bias for a particular parentage.

6)I shall respect the basic responsibility of parents for their children.

7)I shall help increase the student's confidence in his own home and avoid making disparaging remarks which might undermine that confidence.

8)I shall establish cordial relationships with the homes of the student

9)I shall provide parents with information that will serve best interests of their children.

10)If I find a student going wrong, I shall at once take the parents into confidence

11)I shall send to the parents honest reports about the student's progress. There will be no attempt on my part to keep them in the dark.

#### **4.Regarding the Profession:**

1)I shall take unfailing pride in my profession. I shall never regret my having adopted it.

2)I shall be devoted to my profession without nursing any desire to leave it on my first opportunity.

3)I shall not sacrifice professional duties for the sake of non-professional obligations.

4)I shall contribute in making this profession so attractive in ideals and practices that sincere and able young people opt for it.

5)I shall keep private and confidential information secret.

6)I shall ensure my own professional growth.

7)I shall speak constructively of fellow teachers, but report honestly to the responsible authorities in matters involving the welfare of students, the school system and the profession.

8)I shall maintain the highest code of ethical conduct whether known through literature or handed down traditionally.

9)I shall maintain active membership of professional organizations.

#### **5.Regarding Higher Authorities:**

1)I shall be reasonably obedient, sincere and loyal to the higher authorities.

2)I shall create good impression among the authorities by virtue of my merit and dedicated service.

3)I shall not seek undeserved favours from the authorities by back door methods.

4)I shall report to the authorities all the matters detrimental to the welfare of the school.

5)I shall avoid discussing confidential and official information with unauthorised persons.

6)I shall conduct all business through proper channel. I shall not try to bypass the authority.

7)I shall not misuse my own authority, if any.

8)I shall not use present service as a stepping stone for another.

9)I shall try to uphold the dignity and prestige of the authority.

10)I shall not enjoy shifting all the blame on higher authorities.

It can be noted that the code of conduct outlined

above is flexible. It can be modified, lengthened or changed in accordance with the local circumstances. The spirit behind taking the oath is that the oath once taken will prick the conscience of the teacher if he somehow happens to lose his balance.

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