

A Study on Human Values & Professional Ethics in Engineering College of Delhi

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Abstract

Human values serve as the cornerstone of human existence, providing guiding principles for life irrespective of religious, national, cultural, or personal backgrounds. This paper explores the intersection of human values and professional ethics, particularly within educational institutions, shedding light on their significance in shaping teachers' beliefs, values, and behaviors. Utilizing secondary data sourced from journals, reviews, books, and websites, this study delves into how moral values impact teachers and contribute to the development of professional ethics. By examining attitudes, motivations, and behaviors, we aim to understand the role of professional ethics in enhancing well-being and happiness among educators. The abstract outlines the fundamental importance of human values, emphasizing their influence on perceptions of right and wrong, as well as their role in shaping organizational dynamics. Additionally, it identifies key moral values essential for every individual, including right conduct, peace, and truth. Through the exploration of professional ethics, this paper aims to elucidate the duties, rights, responsibilities, and obligations inherent in educational settings. By fostering self-help skills, social skills, and ethical conduct, teachers can contribute to a culture of equality, integrity, and justice within their institutions.

Keywords

Human Values, Professional Ethics, Educational Institutions, Teacher Professionalism.

Introduction

Human values and ethics are intrinsic to the character and integrity of individuals, organizations, and societies. Fundamental human values such as truth, honesty, loyalty, love,

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and peace are integral to the manifestation of goodness within individuals and contribute to the well-being of communities at large.

Human values hold significance for several reasons:

1. Understanding Attitudes, Motivations, and Behaviors
2. Human values provide insights into the attitudes, motivations, and behaviors of individuals, offering a framework for comprehending human interactions and societal dynamics.
3. Influencing Perception of the World
4. They shape our perception of the world around us guiding how we interpret events, circumstances, and the behavior of others.

Interpreting "Right and Wrong": Human values serve as a moral compass, aiding in the interpretation of ethical dilemmas and guiding individuals in distinguishing between right and wrong actions.

Understanding Humanity and Organizations: They offer a means to comprehend the essence of humanity and the functioning of organizations, providing a framework for evaluating behavior and decision-making processes.

Furthermore, certain basic moral values are deemed essential for every individual, regardless of their professional status:

Right Conduct: encompasses self-help skills, social skills, ethical conduct, and a sense of ownership.

Peace: embodies values such as equality, humility, patience, self-confidence, self-control, and self-esteem.

Truth: encompasses values such as accuracy, fairness, integrity, honesty, justice, and determination. These values not only contribute to personal development but also foster harmonious relationships and societal well-being.

Peaceful Coexistence: This encompasses psychological and social values aimed at fostering harmony and understanding among individuals and communities.

Discipline: This involves adherence to rules, regulations, and management practices, promoting orderliness and efficiency in various spheres of life.

Professional ethics entail universal standards governing personal and business conduct, encompassing values and guiding principles applicable across different professions. Professional organizations often establish codes of professional ethics to provide members with a framework for ethical decision-making and behavior. These codes are devised by experts within the profession to ensure consistent and principled conduct among practitioners. Core values typically emphasized in professional ethics include integrity, honesty, efficiency, transparency, and respectfulness.

These codes of conduct commonly incorporate principles such as confidentiality, objectivity, and other essential aspects pertinent to the job.

Professional Ethics among Teachers in Educational Institutions:

When individuals choose teaching as their profession, they undertake a commitment to uphold the ideals of the profession. Teachers are constantly observed by their students and society at large. Thus, it is imperative for every teacher to align their beliefs with their actions. Additionally, the teaching profession necessitates teachers to possess qualities such as knowledge, patience, communication skills, and a friendly demeanor.

Teachers are expected to:

1. 1. Abide by a responsible code of conduct and behavior as expected by society.
2. Pursue continuous professional growth through ongoing study and research.
3. Contribute to the advancement of knowledge by expressing opinions and participating in professional gatherings such as meetings, conferences, and seminars.
4. 3. Maintain active membership in professional organizations and work towards enhancing education and the teaching profession through their involvement.
5. 4. Engage in various educational responsibilities of the college and university, including assisting in admissions processes and providing guidance and counseling to students.

Review of Literature

Value education plays a pivotal role in enhancing individuals' value systems and facilitating their application in daily life. It encourages students to cultivate independent decision-making skills and take ownership of their actions. By fostering the ability to analyze mistakes, value education nurtures decision-making abilities and boosts confidence among students. As

asserted by Venkataiah (2000) and Laxmi and Paul (2018), teachers serve as role models for adolescent learners, shaping their moral and ethical development.

According to Yadav and Saini (2016), recognizing moral values and professional ethics within India's education system is crucial. Creating awareness about human values and professional ethics is essential for enriching the education system and enabling individuals to grasp academic concepts effectively while achieving academic goals.

Moral values serve as a guide for distinguishing between appropriate and inappropriate behavior, as highlighted by Pallavi Gupta (2016). Gupta's study explores the consistent degradation of human values within India's education system, attributing it to the lack of a positive learning environment, human values-related curriculum, and extracurricular activities. This deficiency contributes to various societal issues. Therefore, it is emphasized that parents, teachers, and society collectively bear the responsibility of instilling human values among students in educational institutions.

Himanshoo Kumar Sharma (2015) underscores the significance of human values in the modern era, highlighting the prevalent value crisis exacerbated by technological advancements. Educators, Sharma emphasizes, play a vital role in addressing these challenges by fostering an integrated approach to nurturing learners' hearts and minds, thereby preserving human values.

Chhonkar's study (2014) emphasizes the importance of a code of professional ethics for educators, providing a framework to guide their interactions with students, parents, colleagues, and communities. Increased awareness of ethical principles within the teaching profession, as noted by Alexander (2009) and Curtis (2010), is deemed essential for achieving educational objectives and enhancing the overall education system. These scholars advocate for integrating ethics education into teacher training programs to equip pre-service teachers with the necessary tools to fulfill their ethical obligations effectively.

Objective of The Study

To assess the level of awareness regarding human values among teachers in educational institutions.

To identify the essential factors necessary for cultivating professional ethics among teachers in educational institutions.

Research Methodology

A secondary study has been conducted to explore the influence of moral values on teachers within educational institutions and their role in fostering professional ethics. Data Collection: Secondary data were gathered from various sources including journals, reviews, books, and websites.

Discussions & Suggestions

1. Attributes of Professional Ethics

The teaching profession operates on the premise that educators are skilled professionals entrusted with specialized responsibilities by society, backed by comprehensive education and training. Upholding high standards of professional ethics is imperative for guiding teachers in their professional conduct and interactions.

The foundation of our work lies in the values and principles enshrined in universal human rights. These rights must be advocated for and upheld throughout the realm of education, with teachers adopting them as fundamental principles.

2. Professional Integrity

Professional integrity is rooted in ethical awareness and a high level of professional competence. Teachers have the right to exercise methodological freedom and carry the special responsibility of being transparent about their academic and pedagogical decisions.

3. Education Community

As members of a professional community, it is our collective responsibility to foster excellence in education and to continually enhance our professionalism within the workplace.

4. The Professional Community

The professional community fosters ethical reflection and dialogue among employees in the workplace. Operating within a culture of openness, it promotes transparency and acknowledges the expertise of diverse professions while recognizing the limitations of individual disciplines. In the face of challenges, the professional community assumes responsibility for finding effective solutions.

5. Educational Implications

When teachers exemplify good professional ethics in their practice, these values naturally permeate to future generations. Effective utilization of professional ethics has the potential to counteract terrorism on a global scale.

5.1. Role of Teachers in Education

The role of a teacher extends beyond traditional classroom instruction. Teachers must recognize the multifaceted nature of teaching, assuming various roles to ensure the smooth functioning of educational institutions and the delivery of quality education.

5.2. Planning

During the planning phase, teachers engage in continuous learning and professional development to remain abreast of the latest best practices. Collaboration among teachers facilitates the exchange of ideas, enhances instructional strategies, and contributes to the cultivation of professional ethics within the profession.

5.3. Instruction

Teachers serve as facilitators of learning, equipping students with the necessary information and resources to grasp a subject. They adopt the role of tutors, offering support to small groups or individual students within and beyond the classroom setting. Additionally, teachers assess students' progress and provide constructive feedback to aid in their improvement.

5.4. Student Interaction:

Teachers are not only educators but also leaders within both the classroom and the broader educational community. By earning the respect of their students and setting a positive example, teachers wield significant influence. They possess the ability to nurture and guide students, facilitating their personal and academic growth, ultimately shaping their future endeavors in a positive manner.

Some Inspirational Values from Mahatma Gandhi

Professional Ethics and Human Values

Mahatma Gandhi epitomized the principles of Satyagraha, or soul force, throughout his life. He led by example, embracing simplicity and embodying values such as:

- a. Satya (Truth)
- b. Ahimsa (Non-violence)

- c. Vegetarianism
- d. Brahmacharya (Self-discipline)
- e. Faith
- f. Aparigraha (Non-possession)
- g. Sarva Dharma Samanatha (Equality)

According to Gandhi, an individual should aspire to be:

Committed to truth

Born Leader

Honest

Self-Confident

Self-disciplined

Simple

As Gandhi famously stated,

"Your beliefs become your thoughts,
your thoughts become your words,
your words become your actions,
your actions become your habits,
your habits become your values,
your values become your destiny."

Conclusion

According to Rokeach's study, "Value is an enduring belief, a specific mode of conduct, or an end state of existence, along a continuum of relative importance." Values are essential for guiding individuals along the right path, understanding the significance of certainty, goodness, and beauty, and providing a positive direction in life, leading to joy and the preservation of culture and heritage. They also instigate positive behavioral changes and much more.

In enhancing professional ethics among teachers in educational institutions, human values play a pivotal role. They contribute to the cultivation of these values in future generations. Every teacher must embrace professional ethics, as it significantly influences student behavior. Consequently, fostering a culture of professional ethics leads to a happy, peaceful, and fulfilling life for all involved.

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