

# Code of Ethics for Educators

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**Abstract** - The term ethics refers to the righteous principles that govern a person's behavior or which says what is right. The word springs from the Greek word "ethos". To be an ethical person one must follow the moral caliber. It is a requirement for the educators to follow the code of ethics and see that they are unbiased towards the student and society at large. There should not be any violation of professional standards like harming students personally, changing the grade of the students, being careless. Now-a-days we see that a number of the educators personally harm the students. There must be a model of professional characteristics which will help them prepare for standards of professional achievements.

The perception of professional ethics is one among the foremost important assets in having an honest relationship with the student. The educators need to be honest, work persistently, and take care of their students by showing justice. The values act as a guiding element when they interact with their students, associates and parents. Students also replicate their educator's behavior. The way educators act and behaves is shadowed by their students. So it is necessary for them to be heedful of their deed. There are ethics one must always follow whether or not they are educators or not. Upon attaining these values, they will find that students are moving towards the correct path. Eventually producing better outcome. At the end, it is the result which defines teacher's success. The outcome of learning from the educator is not only getting good score but also the overall development of a student.

**Index Terms** - Professional standards, professional achievements, perception, deed, development.

## INTRODUCTION

The role of teachers has been altering radically it could be due to scientific and technological developments, having the second thought to teaching and learning, Enlightenment of knowledge, transformation from teacher-centric to learner-centric approach thus, there is a requirement to lay foundation of the decorum or a code that an educator must adhere to, for improving

ethics of teaching profession. Such a code would lead an educator to teach ethically.

An educator is a prototype for the student. There are quality or traits which the educator should act in accordance with. Ethics is a canon that is general law, rule, principle by which someone can be judged. The way educators act in accordance with the code effects how they make resolutions and lead their lives. As an educator, teachers must treat every student with respect, kindness without being partial.

More over teachers are guiding light. They are the individuals who act like a mentor. The background of ethics was derived from the various religions, philosophies, customs and traditions which people followed in the past. Some theorists argue that if ethics are morally good to do something, then it might be irrational for that person not to do it. People have moral sense that enables them to detect moral truths. Educational settings are value based.

## WHERE DO ETHICS COME FROM?

Philosophers have several answers to this question

- God and religion
- Human conscience
- A sensible moral cost benefit analysis of actions and their effects
- The example of good human beings.

## APPROACHES TO ETHICS

Ethics include how to lead a good life, the rights and responsibilities towards shaping the future of the student, mentoring the students, to know how their decisions affect students' future. The ethics are as follows

### 1. Keeping promises:

While making commitments towards the organization or students, it is necessary that the educator does the right thing to fulfill the commitment. It is necessary to see How she/he does the work and keeps up his

promise. Once the students or the institution gets to know that educator is not able to keep up the promises. People will lack trust on the educator. Pretending to know everything is not a good idea for educators

2. Uncompromising education

The educator should see to it that the students get the insights of what is being taught. Whether it is virtual mode or offline mode of education. There should not be any compromise with the quality of the education.

3. Being lawful and showing justice

They should not show any favourism towards any particular student or group of student. Everyone should be treated equally. They should not misuse any relationship with the student or any co-workers. They should not use the relationship for personal gain.

4. Being committed to the job

Educators must commit themselves to teaching profession. Rather than focusing in other disciplines. They have to ensure that they showing justice to their profession. They should not show any offensive conduct. Even while they are being hired they have to produce the essential fair credential to educational institutions.

5. Uphold good relation

Educators need to have good relation with the students, coworkers, parents. They should create an atmosphere of learning. Gossips, discussing private matters about others should be avoided unless disclosure is required by the law

6. Relevant teaching

Educators should see that they their teaching methods are relevant. They must engage the students and themselves in research and continuous improvement.

WHAT ETHICAL TEACHING IS?

Ethical teaching is concerned with values that is making judgments about good or bad behavior in any given situation. The standards, values, Morals, principles etc. make ethics that guides one’s decision or actions.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The objective of this paper is to study the code of ethics of educators and to examine and suggest the effectiveness ethics.

METHODOLOGY

Primary data: A questionnaire was prepared and data was collected from 30 respondents

Secondary data: Information was collected from books and different websites.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The educator should know the devotion to excellence, should accept the responsibility to obey to highest moral standards. Codes of ethics are widely understood to act as a mechanism facilitating and ensuring ethical behavior of an individual. Ethics is the study of what contributes good and bad conduct, including related actions and values (Barry, 1979). Similarly, Thompson (2005) defines ethics as the study of right and wrong; of the moral choices people make and the way in which they seek to justify them. Ethics is concerned with the nature of specific decisions made and the —goodness or badness of those decisions in terms of the consequences of those decisions (Chonko, 1995).

Ethical teaching means engaging in behaviors that meet these responsibilities in ways expected by students, your institution, and your discipline (Keith-Spiegel, Whitley, Balogh, Perkins, & Wittig, 2002).

ANALYSIS OF THE SURVEY

Table 1. A teacher shall place premium on which aspect as the primary principle of personal behavior in all relationships with others and in all situations

Aspects	Humility	Self-discipline	Professionalism
Out of 100%	5%	45%	50%

Source: Questionnaire

Interpretation: Majority of the respondent’s opinion was that, being professional is more important.

Table 2. Whose Interest is the educators first and foremost Concern

Aspects	The Principal and management and staff	The learners	His own interest
Out of 100%	20%	67%	13%

Source: Questionnaire

Interpretation: 67% of the respondent’s opinion was that the learners interest has to be taken care and 20% responded that The Principal and management and staff must be considerable. 13% responded that his own interest

Table 3: No matter the degree of offence the learner committed, the teacher shall

Aspects	Not inform any problem to the parents of the learners	Not inflict physical harm on the learner	Not bring any learner to the principal’s office
Out of 100%	13%	75%	12%

Source: Questionnaire

Interpretation: Majority of the respondent’s opinion was that the educator should not physically harm the learner

Table 4: During the distribution of the report cards which must be the foremost concern of the teacher

Aspects	Discuss the projects of the school	Discuss the progress as well as the deficiencies of the student	Discuss the complaints of other teachers and classmates of the students
Out of 100%	2%	95 %	3%

Source: Questionnaire

Interpretation: Majority of the respondent’s opinion was that the educator should discuss the progress as well as the deficiencies of the student.

### FINDINGS

Ethics in education should not exist in a vacuum that is just within the organization but it should reflect the values of the educators as they impact upon and are impacted upon by society in general.

### SUGGESTIONS

1. Every teacher shall uphold the highest possible standards of quality education, shall make the best preparations for the career of teaching, and shall be at

his best at all times and in the practice of his profession.

2. Educators should understand that following ethics is a part of teaching competencies in present day work

3. Educators while they have ethical behaviors’ towards various stake holder’s helps to achieve high standards at the workplace and also provide an excellent teaching learning environment

4. Educators should strive to meet the individual emotional, social and intellectual needs of the student.

5. As learning is a continuous process educator should engage themselves in continued professional development through reading, coursework, conferences, and book clubs and use the other professional development opportunities. We do not prepare for finished teaching product.

6. Educators should have reflective teaching practices, they should ask questions “Am I using research based strategies? “Did I do a good job on teaching? , “Am I in align with my philosophy”

7. Educational institutions should be a safe place for the students. When there is violation of ethics the educational institutions should always ensure that they support what is right instead of thinking about the loss of reputation. They should not claim that they are unaware of the situations of the harassment.

8. The educators should also avoid using physical and psychological punishments to the students

9. Make themselves available to students even beyond their class hours and help and guide students without any remuneration and reward.

The formation and enforcement of ethics makes the profession self-regulating and self-governing, objectives of these ethics is to make the educator aware about the present and future impact of teaching on student’s personality .it includes code of ethics, code of conduct, standards, professional practice. The maintenance of ethical standards is the collective concern of the institute as well as it is the responsibility of the institution. The educators should not only know how to teach in a democratic environment but also how to do so in an ethical manner. The ethics guide him towards honorable and professional behavior and they should not go against the professional rules and code of conduct is constructed with objective of improving the quality of teaching.

The criteria on which a code of conduct is formed that is the ethical student- teacher relationships, ethical teacher-teacher relationship, educator's professional security and professional conduct, terms of employment. When the educators are appointed a copy of the code of professional ethics should be given to him/her.

There is a requirement for an appropriate mechanism to ensure that each one if the educators of an establishment must follow the moral principles enshrined. The authority must take disciplinary action in case if any educator doesn't follow the ethics. When there is misbehavior the authority must keep in mind that action should be taken keeping in view of the magnitude and nature of the violation there has to be mechanism to deal with the violations of the code. A committee must be framed educators' organizations in the state should jointly appoint "ethics committee" comprising of eminent educationist. The committee should de- bar the educators from contesting elections of various offices in the concerned educator's organization or suspends their membership. The purpose of code of conduct of ethics is to enable the educator to deal consistently and fairly with all the students in the classroom, observance of standards, to protect and promote the interest of the students and the institutions

There are also various disadvantages of using the codes of conduct, sometimes they may be restricted to give their views against the head or Institutions. Even when something wrong happens they do so speak because of the fear that they may lose their job. Sometimes the code of conduct also changes which may or may not be according to the values of the institution. Sometimes it can be biased the higher authority may not follow the ethics.

#### CONCLUSION

As an educator there are various areas where they keep interacting the conduct may be towards students, towards teaching practices, performance, conduct towards the colleagues, towards the parent or the community. Educator shall take reasonable disciplinary action in exercising the authority to provide an atmosphere conducive to learning. They should not deliberately suppress or distort the topic matter. They have to maintain professional relationships with students, parents and colleagues.

They should not misuse the relationship for their private advantage.

Even when, the educators are hired by the institutions they should not knowingly falsify or mis- represent records or facts relating to the educator's own qualifications.

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