


CODE OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS FOR TEACHERS



All India Primary Teachers' Federation (AIPTF)

All India Primary Teachers' Federation
24th Biennial Conference
"Code of Professionals Ethics Workshop"
from 1st to 2nd November 2007
Venue: Hotel Doda's, Jaipur, Rajasthan



श्रद्धेय
अखिल भारतीय प्राथमिक शिक्षक संघ
24th Biennial Conference
Conference Theme: 'TRIMARY'

Preface

Teaching is a profession. There are certain set standards and behaviours that persons in any profession are expected to exhibit. There are certain expectations from each professional. If a person behaves the way, people expect a professional to behave, she/he is accepted as a professional.

Each professional organisation develops a code of professional ethics for its members to adhere to. These codes of professional ethics vary from profession to profession. Medical professionals usually take an oath when they complete their training and start practising. A code of professional ethics regulates the behaviour of a professional towards her/his client.

The All India Primary Teachers' Federation in collaboration with the National Council of Educational Research and Training developed in 1997 a Code of Professional Ethics for teachers. The Code was again modified and discussed in meetings of the General Council of the All India Primary Teachers' Federation in 2005 at Haridwar and in 2007 at Jaipur. The resolution at Haridwar was passed by the General Council under the chairmanship of Sh. Ram Pal Singh, President, AIPTF. The code was unanimously approved by the members of the General Council at Jaipur.

The adherence to the code of professional ethics improves the quality of service being provided by the professional to his/her clients. Further an adherence to the code of professional ethics improves the dignity and status of the profession in the society.

The adherence to the code of professional ethics by the members of the profession is achieved through self-discipline. Professional associations also exert pressure on their members to adhere to the code in their own and their clients' interest.

I, therefore appeal to all the members of the All India Primary Teachers' Federation to observe this code of professional ethics with a view to raising the quality of education being imparted to students in government run schools. This would facilitate the achievement of the long cherished goal – Quality Education for All.

I express my gratitude to Mr. Sam Carlson, Lead Education Specialist, World Bank for his academic and financial support in taking the code of professional ethics to the door step of every teacher. My thanks are also due to Dr. Ajit Singh, Director, Professional Development Programme for academic support in finalizing this code of professional ethics.

S. Eswaran
Secretary General, AIPTF



Quality of education particularly at the elementary level is poor in our country. Improvement in the quality of schooling is a matter of serious concern in our society. Though the quality of education is poor due to many factors, but the general perception of the people is that teacher is responsible to a great extent for poor quality of schooling. As a consequence, the status and dignity of teachers in our society has been declining steadily over the last a few decades. The status and dignity of the teacher was very high in the past.

The sagging status and dignity of the teacher is a matter of serious concern for all concerned. The All India Primary Teachers' Federation is concerned for raising the status and dignity of teaching workforce particularly at the primary and upper primary level. It is being realised that teachers have the responsibility to instil confidence among general public about the quality of service being rendered by them to the education of their children. An individual who enters into teaching profession undergoes an obligation to conduct herself/himself in accordance with highest-standards of moral behaviour. It is essential for her/him to strive for excellent performance at her/his worksite.

Each profession has certain values and ethics. Teaching profession too has its own ethics. Adherence to the code of professional ethics can contribute significantly to enhance teachers' status and self esteem and for increasing respect for the profession in the society. Teachers have the responsibility to attain and depict the highest degree of ethical conduct towards students, parents/guardians, society and nation, profession, colleagues, management, administration and professional organisations.

Preamble

- ◆ Recognising that every child has a fundamental right to receive education of good quality;
- ◆ Recognising that education should be directed to an all-round development of human personality;
- ◆ Realising the need for developing faith in the guiding principles of our policy viz. democracy, social justice and secularism;
- ◆ Recognising the need to promote through education, our rich cultural heritage, national consciousness, international understanding and world peace;
- ◆ Recognising that teachers, being part and parcel of the social milieu, share the needs and aspirations of the people;

- ◆ Recognising the need to organise teaching as a profession for which expert knowledge, specialised skills and dedication are prerequisite;
- ◆ Realising that the community respect and support for the teaching community are dependent on the quality of teaching and teachers' proper attitudes towards teaching profession; and
- ◆ Realising the need for self-direction and self-discipline among members of the teaching community.

Elements of the Code of Professional Ethics

A. Teacher in Relation to Students

The teacher shall:

1. Respect the rights of all children to benefit from the provisions identified in the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child (1989) particularly those rights that apply to education;
2. Always strive to foster the intellectual, social and moral growth of his/her students;
3. Treat all students with love and affection and be just and impartial to all irrespective of caste, creed, sex, status, religion, language and the place of birth;
4. Not divulge information of confidential nature pertaining to a student except to the parents of the student or to the one legitimately entitled to it;
5. Not exploit the privileged relationship between the teacher and his/her students;
6. Respect moral and religious beliefs of his/her students;
7. Take all possible steps to safeguard his/her students from sexual abuse or getting inflicted with HIV/AIDS; and
8. Set a standard of dress and behaviour worthy of example for the students.

B. Teacher in Relation to Parents/Guardians

The teacher shall:

1. Recognise the rights of parents to information about progress of their child;
2. Establish and maintain cordial relations with parents and seek their cooperation in improving learning outcomes of their ward and in improving functioning of the school; and

- 
3. Refrain from doing anything which may undermine students' confidence in their parents or guardian.

C. Teacher in Relation to the Society and the Nation

The teacher shall:

1. Strive to understand the social problems and take part in activities which would be conducive to meet the challenges posed by the problems;
2. Refrain from taking part in activities having potential to spread feeling of hatred or enmity among different communities; religious and linguistic groups;
3. Be loyal to school, community, state and the nation;
4. Inculcate desirable human values among his/her students;
5. Foster national integration; and
6. Exhort his/her students to discharge their Fundamental Duties as enshrined in the Constitution;

D. Teacher in Relation to Profession and Colleagues

The teacher shall:

1. Win public trust and confidence by providing quality education to all the students;
2. Update his/her knowledge of the subject(s) and fine-tune his/her teaching competence on a continuing basis;
3. Develop a sense of professionalism;
4. Always transact the curriculum effectively after making thorough preparation for the lessons to be taught;
5. Avoid making derogatory statements about colleagues especially in the presence of pupils, other teachers, officials or parents;
6. Cooperate with the head of the institution and colleagues in and outside the institution in both curricular and co-curricular activities;
7. Promote collegiality among colleagues by respecting their professional standing and opinions;
8. Safeguard and promote the interests and well being of colleagues;
9. Have favorable attitude towards the teaching profession;

10. Treat other members of the profession in the same manner as he/she himself/herself wishes to be treated; and
11. Refrain from lodging unsubstantiated allegations against his/her Colleagues.

E. Teacher in Relation to Management

The teacher shall:

1. Be knowledge about his/her legal and administrative rights and his/her responsibilities towards the management;
2. Carry out instructions from management personnel and has also the right to question instructions through clearly determined procedure and channel; and
3. Develop mutual respect and trust through his/her professional activities and outputs.

F. Teacher in Relation to Teacher Association

The teacher shall:

1. Become a member of the teacher association at the state/national/international level. He/she shall treat this as his/her professional responsibility;
2. Participate in the activities organised by the teacher association for his/her profession growth and for augmenting the strength of the association and its unity and solidarity;
3. Be constructive in his/her criticism of the activities of the association; and
4. Promote change within the teacher association for its development.



All India Primary Teachers' Federation
24th Biennial Conference at Jaipur,
Code of Professional Ethics for Teachers was unanimously approved
in this conference
Date 3th & 4th November 2007



SOLIDARITY IN ACTION



All India Primary Teachers' Federation (AIPTF)
Shikshak Bhawan, 41-Institutional Area
D-Block, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058
Tel: (91-11) 28520671, 28522039; Fax: 28525271
E-mail: aiptfindia@yahoo.com