

A Study on Professional Ethics of Secondary School Teachers of Assam



Juriti Borgohain

Research Scholar,
Dept. of Education,
Rajiv Gandhi University,
Arunachal Pradesh, India



Jayadeva Sahoo

Professor,
Dept. of Education,
Rajiv Gandhi University,
Arunachal Pradesh, India

Abstract

Every profession, in order to regulate its terms conditions, norms and quality of service rendered has its own professional ethics. The term "Professional ethics" refers to a statement of principles; ethical bindings or beliefs that must govern the efficient and honest working of a profession. This also includes a reference to various responsibilities, what that particular profession entails for the benefit of the individuals as well as society in general. Professional ethics give a certain set of broad principles, derived in turn from a spectrum of values which are arrived at after deep philosophical reflection on the nature and role of the profession in the life of mankind. The major objectives of this study were to assess the level of Emotional Intelligence, Professional Ethics and Job satisfaction among the secondary school teachers of Assam and also to study the Professional Ethics of secondary school teachers of Assam in relation to Gender variable. In this study the investigators used descriptive Survey method of Educational Research in order to find out the professional ethics of secondary school teachers of Assam. The researcher found that majority of the secondary school teachers of Assam had shown moderate professional ethics and there was a significant difference in the professional ethics of male and female secondary school teachers of Assam.

Keywords: Professional Ethics, Secondary School, Teacher, Assam.

Introduction

Education is a man making process and it implies practicing and ensuring of the human stuff at various levels of socialization, enculturation, awareness and divine realization. It is a continuous and life long process. Education is the process of modification of human behaviour in a socially desirable way. It is a controlling grace to the young, consolation to the old, wealth to poor and ornament to the rich. It is also a powerful instrument of social transformation, economic change and human resource development.

A sound programme of education in general and teacher education in particular is essential for the qualitative improvement of education. Realizing the importance of teacher education the Kothari Commission (1964-66) stated that "Investment in teacher education can yield in very rich dividends because the financial resources required are small which measured against the resulting improvement of education of Millions." The statement makes a bold pronouncement of making education an instrument for social and economic transformation of the nation.

Concept of Professional Ethics

The term ethics is concerned with morality and moral judgments. Ethics as a science of human conduct, seeks to systematize our moral judgments in relation to human actions as the manifestation of our own free will. The subject matter of ethics is moral phenomena, which is a normative science in so far as it is concerned with the study of the various ideals and their ultimate validity or invalidity. Ethics does not create these ideals; it merely seeks to interpret them. Ethics seeks to make men moral in the sense that it helps them realize the necessity of seeking their common good and of cultivating a moral insight into judging what type of actions can bring about such good.

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philosophical reflection on the nature and role of the profession in the life of mankind.

The teaching profession has slowly evolved a code of conduct and professional ethics. The teaching profession is lagging behind other professions in this respect because the Philosophy of education, being one of the oldest branches of Philosophy, was learnt and taught by every Philosopher who invariably was a teacher. Therefore, the teaching profession should have taken the lead in the matter of offering its own profession and arriving explicitly at a code of professional ethics. The concept of professional ethics is the topic related to pedagogical beliefs not to the educational technology. In general professional ethics covers the following components: -

1. Roles & responsibilities of a school teacher.
2. Functions and duties of a teacher
3. Following the norms of teaching
4. Following the value, beliefs and ideas of teaching
5. Following terms and conditions of teaching profession.

Importance of Professional Ethics of Secondary School Teachers

A teacher's professional ethics is quite vital and significant for the teaching profession. Teaching is not a haphazard task rather a task which demands pertinent skills and necessary abilities to be completed in a full-fledged way. Secondary stage of education forms an important stage because this is the period of consolidation of the educational career of a student. Moreover, the teachers should have high professional ethics to make achieve the educational goals and objectives. Teacher's professional ethics is very important at the Secondary stage because of the following reasons:-

1. Teachers teaching communication reaches up to the minds of the students
2. An effective teacher teaches his subject content with his humour and in a smiling mood.
3. The role of the teacher is like clouds raining uniformly. He imparts his knowledge equally.
4. The teacher tries to make clear about different concept and built in the students self confidence.
5. The teacher develops good culture and good habits among students.
6. The teacher provides latest knowledge to the students and is committed to his duties and responsibilities.
7. The teacher develops the power of independent judgment, self-decision and self-efforts in the students.

An analysis of the above discussed points reveals the fact that teacher's professional ethics is quite significant at the secondary stage of education. In order to arrive at such a professional ethics, the teachers and teacher educators must be able to distinguish between Philosophy of education and Philosophy of teacher education. The teacher has to be a lively example for his student and the society and therefore, the value system he holds should be clear, precise and ethical. He must exemplify the dignity of labour and professional commitment, however during the circumstances may be.

Most of the secondary school teachers of the state lack professional ethics for which gradually there is deterioration of quality of secondary education. Thus, it is high time for the planners, administrators, educational practitioners to work for inculcation of professional ethics of the teachers. The teacher must be an embodiment of eternal values- values that remain the same. Truth, love and goodness are values that are admired across creeds, colours, cultures and religions. He will be a sheet anchor to society amidst the stimulation of social change. He should be conscious of his accountability to his profession of teaching by being accountable for this effective teaching and effective learning of the students.

The profession of teaching reflects a high degree of academic excellence, mastery over teaching skills and practical wisdom on the one hand and well integrated value system on the other and both oriented towards altruistic service. The personal development of a teacher is the core of professionalisation and forms the base of professional ethics. The importance of professional ethics of a teacher can be summed up in the words of R. N. Tagore, "In our ideal life we must touch all men and all tikes through the manifestation of a truth which is eternal and universal".

Objective of the study

The major objective of this study were

1. To assess professional ethics among the secondary school teachers of Assam.
2. To find out the difference between male and female secondary school teachers of Assam in relation to their Professional ethics.

Hypotheses of the Study

The major hypothesis of the study was-

1. There is no significant difference between the male and female secondary school teachers of Assam in relation to their Professional ethics.

Methodology

In this present study the investigators applied Descriptive Cum Survey of Educational Research in order to assess the Professional ethics of secondary school teachers of Assam.

Population of the Study

The target population of the present study consisted of male and female secondary school teachers of Assam.

Sample of the Study

In this study the investigators used the Stratified Random sampling procedure for collection of data which was consisted of 600 secondary school teachers of Assam.

Tools Used in the Study

In order to assess Professional ethics of secondary school teachers of Assam the investigators also used a self- developed Professional ethics scale prepared by himself.

Statistical techniques used

The investigators used inferential statistics as 't' test in order to analyze and interpret the result for the purpose of the study.

Major Findings of the study

Variable wise estimation on Professional Ethics of secondary school teachers of Assam.

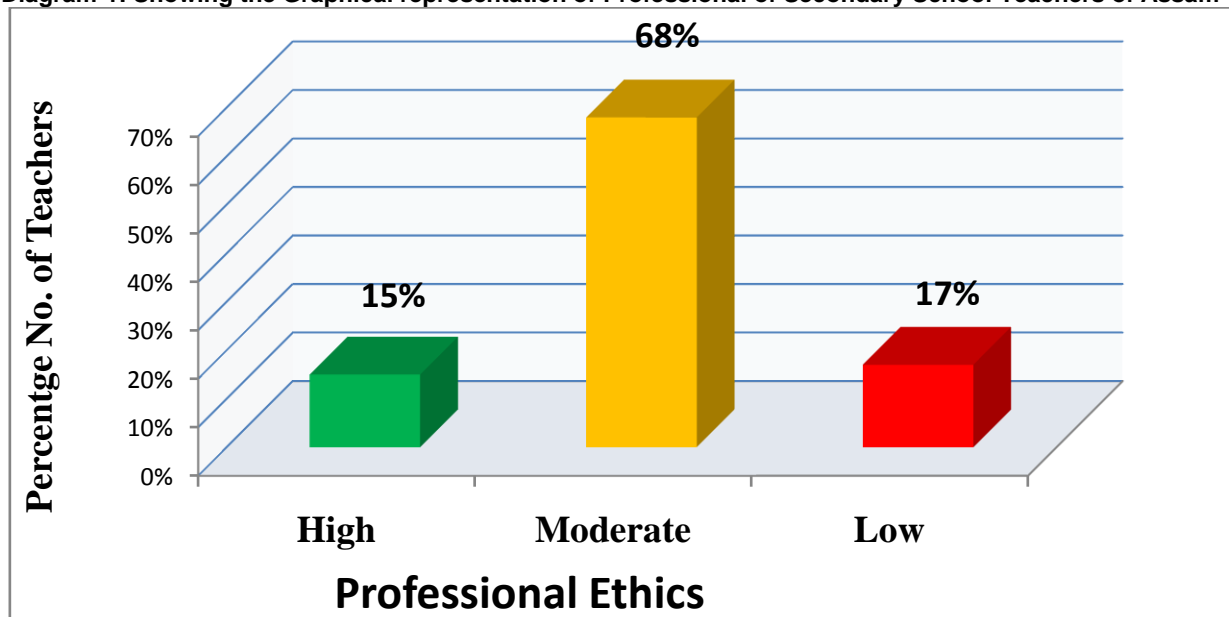
Objective- 1

To assess Professional Ethics among the secondary school teachers of Assam.

Table-1: Showing Professional Ethics of Secondary School Teachers of Assam

Category	High (Below Mean + SD)		Moderate (Between Mean - DS to Mean + SD)		Low (Above Mean + SD)	
	No. of Ind.	%	No. of Ind.	%	No. of Ind.	%
Professional Ethics	90	15%	408	68%	102	17%

Diagram-1: Showing the Graphical representation of Professional of Secondary School Teachers of Assam



Interpretation

An examination in to the table No. 1 and Diagram No. 1 depicts that majority of the teachers' Professional Ethics scores lies in between the average range. The study depicts that, the professional ethics of the secondary School teachers of Assam it indicates that majority of the secondary school teachers i.e. 68% showed high professional ethics. Whereas only 15% teachers showed high professional ethics and 17% teachers showed low professional ethics. Form the study it can be concluded that, majority of the secondary school teachers of Assam have moderate professional

ethics. The study also indicates that the government should take proper steps to increase the emotional intelligence level from moderate to high, moderate job satisfaction to high job satisfaction and from average level of professional ethics to high Professional ethics.

Objective- 2

To find out the difference between male and female secondary school teachers of Assam in relation to their Professional Ethics.

Hypothesis

There is no significant difference between the male and female secondary school teachers of Assam in relation to their Professional ethics.

Table- 2: Summary of Mean Scores, SD values, SE_D and 't' Values of Male and Female Secondary School Teachers of Assam in Relation to Professional Ethics

Group	N	Mean	SD	SE_D	Computed 't' value	Criterion 't' value	Remark
Male Teachers	378	52.60	5.08	0.47	3.28	1.96 At 0.05 level of significance	Significant p > 1.96
Female Teachers	222	54.14	5.68				

Interpretation

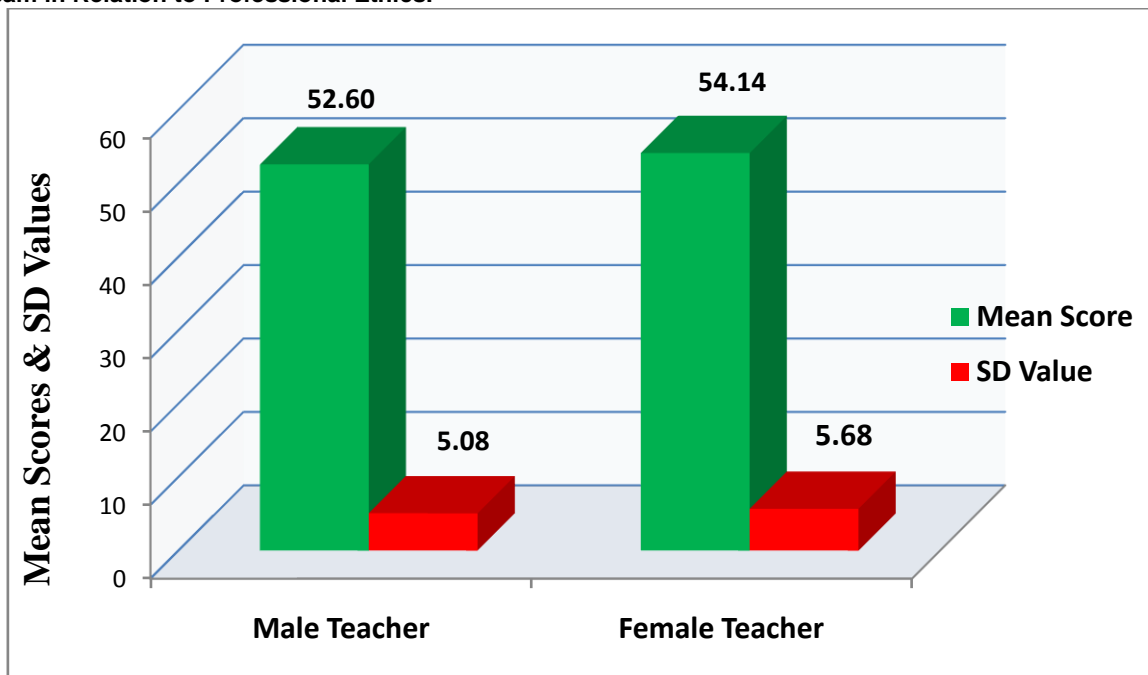
An examination into the table no. 2 reveals that the computed 't' value (3.28) is Greater than (>) the criterion 't' value (1.96) at 0.05 level of significance for df 598. As the computed 't' value (3.28) is significant at 0.05 level, therefore the formulated hypothesis (Ho-6) "There is no significant

difference between the male and female secondary school teachers of Assam in relation to Professional Ethics" gets rejected. From the findings, it is clearly interpreted that, there is a significant difference between the male and female secondary school teachers of Assam in relation to professional ethics. It indicates that male and female secondary school

teachers of Assam had shown different professional ethics. by looking into the Mean scores of both the male and female secondary school teachers of Assam, it reveals that, the mean score of female secondary school teachers of Assam i.e. (54.14) is higher than the mean score of male secondary school

teachers of Assam i.e. (52.60) (shown in the diagram no-2). So far the mean scores are concerned; it brings to the light that the female secondary school teachers of Assam are having better professional ethics in comparison to male secondary school teachers of Assam.

Diagram- 2: Showing the Mean Scores and SD Values of Male and Female Secondary School Teachers of Assam in Relation to Professional Ethics.



Discussion of the Results

From the above study relating to professional ethics of the secondary school teachers of Assam it was found that majority of the secondary school teachers i.e. 68% showed moderate professional ethics. Whereas only 15% teachers showed high professional ethics and 17% teachers showed low professional ethics. From these findings it is to be interpreted that very few percent teachers of secondary schools of Assam were found having high professional ethics. Majority of the Secondary school teachers were having moderate professional ethics. The finding of this study also signifies that male and female secondary school teachers of Assam had different professional ethics. They differ significantly in terms of their professional ethics. It may be because of different perception and attitude towards the teaching profession.

Conclusion

Every profession, in order to regulate its terms conditions, norms and quality of service rendered has its own professional ethics. The term "Professional ethics" refers to a statement of principles; ethical bindings or beliefs that must govern the efficient and honest working of a profession. This also includes a reference to various responsibilities, what that particular profession entails for the benefit of the individuals as well as society in general. Professional ethics give a certain set of broad principles, derived in turn from a spectrum of values which are arrived at after deep philosophical reflection on the nature and role of the profession in the life of

mankind. From the findings of this study it is to be interpreted that very few percent teachers of secondary schools of Assam were found having high professional ethics. Majority of the Secondary school teachers were having moderate professional ethics.

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