

ETHICS AMONG SCHOOL TEACHERS IN COIMBATORE DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

The paper aimed to investigate the ethics among the school teachers in Coimbatore district. **Objectives of the study:** **1.** To explore the level of ethics among school teachers in Coimbatore district. **2.** To examine the ethics among school teachers in Coimbatore district. **Methodology:** The investigator adopted survey method for the study. **Sample:** Three Hundred and twelve (312) school teachers were selected as sample for the study. **Tool:** Teacher ethics scale developed by Prof.Dr.S.Sathiyagirirajan was used for the study. **Findings:** The results showed that the level of ethics among school teachers is average.

Key words: Ethics, Teachers and School.

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INTRODUCTION

Guru is the one who spread knowledge to everyone. In olden days we had gurukula system. All consider guru as higher than God. Now the word guru transformed to teacher. The teacher is the one who brings enlightenment. A teacher is a person who helps others to acquire knowledge, competences or values. Teachers helps students to learn valuable life lessons. Teaching is a divine job. Actually it is a social service.

Teacher and teaching profession has some ethics. Teachers must wholly commit to the teaching profession. As a teacher, must treat every student with kindness and equality, without showing favoritism or partiality. Teacher should be in good terms with parents and co-workers. Teacher must research new teaching methods, attend classes to maintain the certifications, consult colleagues for professional advice, participate in curriculum improvements and stay up to date on technical advancements for the classroom. It's teacher's duty to ensure that, teaching methods are fresh, relevant and comprehensive. Teacher should provide students' safety and not believe that this is someone else's job. And teacher should not abuse the power. The code of ethics for teachers is designed to protect the rights of the students.

Teaching itself involves moral action. Teachers are moral agents, and education as a whole, and thus classroom interaction is inevitably moral in nature. Now there are lots of resources available in the internet. We can get a degree while studying from home. But it doesn't have a life. In the classroom, we get lively experience. The teacher will share a lot of experiences. It gives a lot of information. Teachers are the one who really dream about every student's success other than parents. The teacher becomes more lively in the class and consider every student as his/her child. As a teacher, they should educate students and make them as a good citizen for country. Promote learning and building children can also be a teachers' ethics. Every job has their own ethics; that is so called professional ethics. But teaching is not only a job it's a service. It's a teacher's duty to promote good thinking to students.

NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Nowadays there is a growing tendency to maintain by a code of ethics the professional standing and responsibility of engineer, nurses, those in the field of mass communications and other group

with an impact on the community. The teacher too need to follow the same ethics with regard to their noble profession of teaching, because they are committed to three areas in life: Commitment to learner, society and profession. Ethics is very needed for each and every teacher, which is an important aspect in the field of education. Ethical teacher can do excellent service to the society. Hence the researcher made an attempt to the study of the ethics among school teachers in Coimbatore district.

DEFINITION OF TERMS USED

Ethics: Refers to the teachers with a set of professional rules and regulations (**Sathiyagirirajan, n.d.**).

Teachers: Refers to those who are handling Middle and High school classes in Government schools (**Sivakumar & Arun, 2018**).

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The specific objectives of the study are

1. To find out the level of ethics among school teachers.
2. To find out whether there is any significant difference of the school teachers towards ethics between
 - A. Male & Female (Gender)
 - B. Rural & Urban (Locality of the School)
 - C. UG & PG (Educational Qualification)
 - D. Unisex & Mixed (Nature of School)
 - E. Arts & Science (Major Subject)
 - F. Middle & High (Type of School)
 - G. Below 5yr & Above 5yr (Year of Experience)
3. To identify the background variables which are contributing to the school teachers towards ethics.

HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

The hypotheses formulated in this study are as follows

1. The level of ethics among school teachers.

2. There is no significant difference of the school teachers towards ethics between
 - A. Male & Female (Gender)
 - B. Rural & Urban (Locality of the School)
 - C. UG & PG (Educational Qualification)
 - D. Unisex & Mixed (Nature of School)
 - E. Arts & Science (Major Subject)
 - F. Middle & High (Type of School)
 - G. Below 5yr & Above 5yr (Year of Experience)
3. The background variables which are contributing to the school teachers towards ethics.

DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The present investigator has involved the Middle and High School Teachers. It does not involve Higher Secondary Teachers and Primary School Teachers. Another delimitation of the study is coverage of Middle and High School Teachers of Coimbatore District only.

METHOD

The selected problem had been dealt significantly by using the survey method. The data on the samples' ethics were obtained, analyzed statistically and interpreted.

SAMPLE

A simple random sampling technique was adopted for the selection of 312 Teachers from the Coimbatore district.

TOOL

Teacher ethics Scale developed by Prof.Dr.S.Sathiyagirirajan, Retd.Professor of Education, DDE Fromer Director, UGC Academic Staff College, Madurai Kamaraj University was used.

STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES

- This study utilizes descriptive and differential analysis.

RELIABILITY OF THE TOOL

| Test-Retest Method | Reliability Co-Efficients |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Teacher Ethics | 0.83 |

VALIDITY OF THE TOOLTool Validity

| High Group | | | Low Group | | | |
|------------|--------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|------|
| N | Mean | SD | N | Mean | SD | 't' |
| 50 | 132.83 | 45.10 | 50 | 92.50 | 33.45 | 5.08 |

't' is significant at 0.01 level.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATIONTable.9. Descriptive Indices of ethics among school teachers

| | | | | Teacher Ethics |
|----------------|----|----|--|----------------|
| N | | | | 312 |
| Mean | | | | 89.67 |
| Std. Deviation | | | | 11.941 |
| Percentiles | Q1 | 25 | | 83.00 |
| | Q2 | 50 | | 88.00 |
| | Q3 | 75 | | 94.00 |

From the above table, the low, high and moderate groups were categorized in Ethics towards Teacher. The value of Q1 and below was considered as low group, the value Q3 and above was considered as high group and the value in between Q1 and Q3 was considered as average group.

The mean score of Ethics on teacher is 65.32. The mean score fall between **Q1** and **Q3**. Hence, the school teachers have an average level of Ethics towards Teacher.

Table.2. 't' test and results of the Ethics towards Teacher and Sub-Variable Wise

| Variables | Sub-Variables | N | Mean | Std. Deviation | 't' | P Value |
|--------------------|---------------|-----|-------|----------------|------|---------|
| Gender | Male | 200 | 90.80 | 13.787 | 2.25 | 0.02* |
| | Female | 112 | 87.64 | 7.230 | | |
| Locality of School | Rural | 104 | 96.62 | 11.997 | 7.96 | 0.00* |
| | Urban | 208 | 86.19 | 10.306 | | |

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----|-------|--------|------|-------|
| Educational Qualification | UG | 176 | 90.27 | 12.016 | 1.02 | 0.30 |
| | PG | 136 | 88.88 | 11.840 | | |
| Nature of School | Unisex | 184 | 87.48 | 11.930 | 3.97 | 0.00* |
| | Mixed | 128 | 92.81 | 11.276 | | |
| Major Subject | Arts | 160 | 89.10 | 11.428 | 0.86 | 0.39 |
| | Science | 152 | 90.26 | 12.467 | | |
| Type of School | Middle | 96 | 88.42 | 11.545 | 1.23 | 0.21 |
| | High | 216 | 90.22 | 12.097 | | |
| Year of Experience | Below 5yr | 208 | 89.73 | 13.306 | 0.13 | 0.89 |
| | Above 5yr | 104 | 89.54 | 8.641 | | |

* The mean difference is significant at the 0.05 level

Table-2 shows the calculated ‘t’ value of Gender, Locality of school and Nature of School are 2.25, 7.96 and 3.97 are higher than the table value **1.96** at **0.05** level. Hence the null hypotheses Gender, Locality of school and Nature of School are **rejected**. The calculated ‘t’ value of Educational Qualification, Major Subject, Type of School and Year of Experience are 1.02, 0.86, 1.23 and 0.13 are less than the table value **1.96** at **0.05** level. Hence the null hypotheses Educational Qualification, Major Subject, Type of School and Year of Experience are **accepted**.

Table. 3. Regression Co-efficient of Contributing Variables for Ethics towards Teacher

| Model | Unstandardized | | Standardized | | t | Sig. |
|---------------------------|----------------|------------|--------------|--|---------|------|
| | Coefficients | | Coefficients | | | |
| | B | Std. Error | Beta | | | |
| (Constant) | 99.294 | 3.335 | | | 29.772 | .000 |
| Locality of the School | -12.599 | 1.239 | -.498 | | -10.171 | .000 |
| Educational Qualification | -5.871 | 1.392 | -.244 | | -4.217 | .000 |
| Nature of the School | 11.088 | 1.431 | .457 | | 7.746 | .000 |
| Type of the School | 3.664 | 1.358 | .142 | | 2.699 | .007 |

* Significant at the 0.05 level

Step-wise regression is performed on the background variables to find out the degree of contribution of background variables on school teachers towards ethics. In the process of treatment of step-wise regression analysis it was found that only four out of seven background variables were contributed significantly to the school teachers towards ethics such as locality of the school, educational qualification, nature of the school and type of the school(Table: 3).

FINDINGS

1. It was found that the level of ethics among school teachers is average.
2. There is a significant difference of the school teachers towards ethics between
 - A. Male & Female (Gender)
 - B. Rural & Urban (Locality of the School)
 - C. Unisex & Mixed (Nature of School)
3. There is no significant difference of the school teachers towards ethics between
 - A. UG & PG (Educational Qualification)
 - B. Arts & Science(Major Subject)
 - C. Middle & High (Type of School)
 - D. Below 5yr & Above 5yr (Year of Experience)
4. It was found that only four out of seven background variables were contributed significantly to the school teachers towards ethics. they were locality of the school, educational qualification, nature of the school and type of the school

CONCLUSION

The acid test for a profession is that it must have a code of ethics. Teachers must be conscious of this code of ethics, sensitive to it and abide by it meticulously. Then only teaching gains the status of a profession and the social image of these professionals (teachers) gains a deserving 'boost'. Code of ethics for the profession of teaching furnishes teachers with a set of professional rules and regulations. In other words, code of ethics for teaching provides teachers with behavioural guidelines and a sense of direction. Further, It also gives teachers a set of values to be cherished and practiced. The present study revealed that the level of ethics among school teachers was average. It is referred that there is a significant difference between the school teachers' ethics on the basis of Gender, locality of the school and nature of of the school.

The results reported that there is a significant difference between school teacher ethics on the basis of educational qualification, major subject, type of school and year of experience. The code of ethics helps the teachers to be a role model for the future generation of students.

SUGGESTION FOR THE FURTHER RESEARCH

Following are few areas of research related to the present study, which deserved further investigation.

- The same study can be conducted among higher secondary school teachers.
- It is suggested that a nation or statewide study can be carried out.
- The ongoing Research programmes in the State and Central Universities may be studied.
- A Replica of the present study may be conducted among private school teachers.
- The similar study can be conducted of faculty members of the University and Colleges.
- In the present study questionnaire survey was used. Consequently, for future studies another instrument such as interview, experimental and observation schedule can be used, in order to understand more clearly about the teacher competency.
- Research Bodies (e.g., NCERT, UGC, ICSSR, CSIR, DST, NUEPA and University) have a significant influence on individual to engage in research activity. Hence, the influence of research bodies could be isolated and tested in future research.

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