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PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCY OF THE TEACHING COMMUNITY – THE NEED OF THE HOUR

* S. PRAVEEN KUMAR AND ** P. RENJU

*Assistant Professor, N.V.K.S.D. College of Education, Attoor,

**Assistant Professor of English, S.T. Hindu College, Nagercoil.

ABSTRACT

It is the teaching community who play a very important role in the transfer of intellectual tradition from one generation to the next. The responsibilities of the teachers and their behaviour influence the society. It is the teacher who promotes the quality of education to improve the standard of education. Hence the teaching profession is considered as a noble profession.

A teacher should be strong in professional knowledge. Successful professional competence is possible only if the teacher is committed in his profession. In order to enable a teacher to become competent to carry out their professional task with efficiency and insight, various competencies are needed.

But nowadays, it is sad to note the lost glory of the teaching community in our society. Gone are the good olden days when the universities produced eminent educationists, great engineers and doctors, praiseworthy MLAs and MPs and so on.

Devotion and dedication in the teaching profession is needed to take education to the highest peak. Hence it is the need of the hour for every teacher, whether at the school level or collegiate level should develop his/her professional competency in order to rise to the maximum and contribute for the welfare of society.

Introduction

From the evolution of human society, the teachers have been the constructive moulders of the younger generation. They play a very important role in the transfer of intellectual tradition from one

generation to the next. The responsibilities of the teachers and their behaviour influence the society. It is the teacher who promotes the quality of education to improve the standard of education. Hence the teaching profession is considered as a noble profession.

Professional Competency

Competence is usually associated with highly professional performance and there is a direct link in the field of education between a teacher's professional competence and pupil performance. There are two distinct meanings of competence in education. From a theoretical point of view, competence is understood as a cognitive structure that facilitates specified behaviours. From an operational point of view, competence seems to cover a broad range of higher order skills and behaviours that represent the ability to deal with complex, unpredictable situations. This includes knowledge, skills, attitudes, metacognition and strategic thinking, and presupposes conscious and intentional decision making.

A teacher should be strong in professional knowledge. Successful professional competence is possible only if the teacher is committed in his profession. In order to enable a teacher to become competent to carry out their professional task with efficiency and insight, various competencies are needed.

There are three forms of teacher competencies namely knowledge competency, performance competency and consequence competency. Knowledge competencies refer to the cognitive understanding that the teacher is expected to demonstrate. These competencies include the knowledge of the teaching-learning process and the knowledge of the content to be taught. Performance competencies refer to the ongoing teacher behaviours in the classroom. Consequence competencies refer to the pupil outcomes produced by the teacher's proper use of an array of knowledge and performance competencies.

Professionalism of a teacher gains reputation from every side from every side, from students, parents, colleagues and administrators.

When the teachers have the capacity to adjust with the available resources and make them effective for the decided purpose, then automatically their professional competency will rise to the level of maximum efficiency.

The Present Educational Scenario

Gone is the glory of the teaching community in our society. The standard of education nowadays has been exposed to decay and rot. Gone are the good olden days when the universities produced eminent educationists, great engineers and doctors, praiseworthy MLAs and MPs and so on.

The prevalence of ineffable widespread corruption in India, particularly in Tamil Nadu has hampered the standard of education. Also the present examination system in schools has killed the standard of education by encouraging rote learning. The evaluation system in colleges and universities also need to be criticised as the examiners value a number of answer scripts a day and the tight schedule of this hurried evaluation would enable all the candidates to pass the examination.

The lowering of educational standards has permeated every rung of our social ladder. The great problem faced is the lack of quality in education. One may be qualified and possess many degrees. But it is of no use unless there is the ability to think independently and reason out.

In our country, we have the B.Ed. programme to train secondary school teachers. It is to be analysed whether the B.Ed. programme must be having some deficiencies, resulting in the deterioration of the quality of teachers.

What the Present Teachers need to do?

The Kothari Commission, in its report says, "The destiny of India is being shaped in its classrooms, no doubt a sound programme of education plays a significant role in nation's development and the quality of education programme is greatly determined by the quality of teachers. Hence, in order to improve the quality of education, it is

necessary to have a sound programme of professional education for teachers". The teacher's role is thus as important as his/her responsibility is onerous.

'Schools are the nurseries of the Nation' and 'Teachers are the Architects of the future' are no mere figurative expressions but truthful statements, as significant as they are suggestive. Progress is achieved, civilization is built up and history is made in educational institutions where children in whose hands quiver the destiny of the future, are trained and from their ranks will come out when they grow up as statesman and soldiers, patriots and philosophers who will determine the progress of the land. In their attitude to life and their approach to problems, they will bear the imprint and the influence of the training they received at the hands of their teachers. The imperative that the entire process of teaching learning transaction depend on the efficiency of a teacher, who is in turn able to manifest potentialities of a student into actuality, be accepted with no hesitation. Teaching learning process cannot be undertaken in vacuum but it is a positively directed action, for which teachers are to be endowed with teaching competency.

Teachers need to look upon teaching not only as a means of livelihood, but also as a tremendously worthwhile job of social service. New methods and techniques of teaching can be experimented by teachers in their classes which would promote originality and creativity in the learners. Also the teachers need to attend orientation and refresher courses to update their knowledge. They should also involve in activities such as writing books, articles and research papers for their professional growth.

Conclusion

Devotion and dedication in the teaching profession is needed to take education to the highest peak. A well-trained teacher should know what and how to teach the students. He/She has to develop the professional competencies required for teaching. Teachers should grow professionally and life-long learning must be supported. It is the

need of the hour for every teacher, whether at the school level or collegiate level to develop his/her professional competency in order to rise to the maximum and contribute for the welfare of society.

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