



VIEWS OF TEACHER EDUCATORS ON ETHICS IN EDUCATION

Ketan Laxman Kamble, Ashwini Wadegaonkar

¹Assistant Professor, SSR College of Education, Silvassa.

²Teaching Associate, Department of Education and Extension, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune.

Abstract

Ethics influences behavior and allows an individual to make the right choices. While the importance of ethics can't be ignored in any walk of life, it's imperative that they are practiced in and through the field of education. Ethics in Education helps regulate the education system and ensures that this practice positively contributes towards human welfare. The National Education Policy, 1986 also emphasized on value education. It suggested that learning material should be designed to equip students with the wherewithal to combat social evils on the one hand and develop a scientific temper and habit of logical, rational thinking on the other. As teacher educators are the teacher producers and teachers are social engineers, it is very essential to know the views of present teacher educators about ethics in education. The Focus Group Discussion was conducted to know the views of Teacher Educators (M.Ed. students) about ethics in education. The qualitative data thus obtained from the reports prepared by the groups was analyzed and findings are presented with respect to following issues-Meaning of ethics in education, Areas of ethics in education, Present scenario of ethics in education, Teachers contribution in ethical development, Ways of inculcating ethics in education among students

Key words – *Ethics in Education, Views of Teacher Educators, Concept, Areas.*

Inroduction

In newspapers most of the headlines are about robberies, murder and violence against women, children and elderly. The other set of news relates to corruption, frauds and scams involving crores of rupees. These are consequence of decreasing ethics and values in society. Ethics are well founded standards that make the actions right and wrong in an individual.

All education is incomplete unless it imbibes ethical dimension in it. Education must not be limited to help the young earn their one livelihood but should go beyond with an ability to judge whether the earning is worth in terms of utility of work to mankind.

Ethics and education

What are Ethics? Ethics are well founded standards that make the actions right and wrong. It helps categorize different values such as integrity, discipline and honesty among others and apply them in daily lives. Ethics influences behavior and allows an individual to make the right choices. Without ethics it will be very difficult to regulate life and act responsibly. While the importance of ethics can't be ignored in any walk of life, it's imperative that they are practiced in the field of education. Ethics in Education are essential as they help run the system smoothly.

(Ethics in Education)

Ethics has been one of the core concerns in respect of philosophy and religion too and both the areas are preoccupied for practical existence. **(Angelfish)**

It sets the standards of what's acceptable and what's not hence protecting the interests of both the educators and the learners Ethics in Education are applicable on both the instructors as well as the students. While it's the teacher's job to make the students aware about these ethics, the school management often takes it upon them to familiarize the instructors with the ethics that are relevant to their profession.

Role of teachers

Teachers play a very important role in a student's life. They not only impart education but also help develop the personality of a student. As the instructor often plays the role of a mentor and influences an individual's development, it's essential that they follow certain ethics. Ethics in education is applicable to all entities related to education system like teachers, students, parents and society.

Ethics in Education helps regulate the education system and ensures that this practice positively contributes towards human welfare. The National Education Policy, 1986 also emphasized on value education. It suggested that learning material should be designed to equip students with the wherewithal to combat social evils like caste and class barriers, religious fundamentalism etc on the one hand and develop a scientific temper and habit of logical, rational thinking on the other.

Need of the Study:

In spite of an increased emphasis on technical training within the college curriculum, there is a growing realization that the humanities in general and ethics in particular are vital to the student's personal development and moral enlightenment (**Chaffee, John, 1980**).

With a huge expansion of the education system, the standard as measured by the percentage of marks obtained in examinations has been rising to unprecedented levels. But, unfortunately there is a marked decline in the character, moral values and general behaviour of students coming out of schools and colleges (**Lal, H. Values and ethics in school education**)

The school atmosphere, the personality and behaviour of teachers is a major factor in developing a sense of values. Therefore this investigation focuses on teacher educators, as teacher educators are teacher producers and teachers are social engineers. Role of teacher is pivotal in making desirable citizens of society so indirectly responsibility of making good teachers fall on shoulders of teacher educators. Thus it is very essential to know the views of present teacher educators on Ethics in education to understand the present scenario.

Objective Of The Study:

To find out views of teacher educators on Ethics in education.

Operational Definitions:

- **Teacher educators:** Teacher educators are the students doing M.Ed. (Master of education) in Dept. of Education and Extension of University of Pune.
- **Views of teacher educators:** Views of Teacher educators on the issues- Meaning of ethics in education, Areas of ethics in education, Present scenario in ethics in education, Teachers contribution in ethical development and Ways of inculcating ethics in education among students are considered as Views of teacher educators in present study.

Research Methodology:

➤ **Method of Research:**

Present research is descriptive research. Researchers employed Survey method as this research has status paradigm as it collected views from the samples on ethics in education.

➤ **Population:**

Teacher educators i.e. M.Ed. students of all colleges affiliated to University of Pune.

➤ **Sample:**

M.Ed. (Master of education) students of 2012-13 batch of Dept. of Education and Extension of University of Pune.

➤ **Sampling method:**

Non probability method - Incidental sampling.

➤ **Data collection tool:**

Focus Group discussion (**Stewart D., Shamdasani P., 1990**) of samples was conducted to get views on ethics on education. Samples were asked to prepare report on key points discussed.

Data was collected from these group discussion reports.

Educational implication of Group discussion-

Group discussions help to summarize the ideas and information that a group of informants may come to hold as a group, rather than the information held by the individual members. The general idea is that each participant can act to stimulate ideas in the other people present, and that by a process of discussion the collective view becomes greater than the sum of the individual parts.

(**Krueger, 2000**)

➤ **Data Analysis tools:**

Analysis of Group Discussion-

The result of a group discussion is usually a list of statements which the group agrees upon.

However, it should also be remembered that issues where the group disagrees are also important to report. In addition to a simple list of statements, the discussion should be reported as accurately as possible for detailed analysis after the event.

For the present study Qualitative data from the Group Discussion Report was analyzed using frequency. (**Morgan, 1997**)

Analysis And Interpretation:

The qualitative data obtained from the sample was analyzed and presented with respect to following issues-

- Meaning of ethics in education
- Areas of ethics in education
- Present scenario of ethics in education
- Teachers contribution in ethical development
- Ways of inculcating ethics in education among students

A. Meaning of Ethics in Education

Results: According to Teacher educators Ethics in Education is-

- To inculcate values among students to have ideal behavior in them so that they can become good human being and live in harmony with other members of the society.
- It is to impart values in students which will make them capable and help them for self-development and even in national development.
- Ethics in education is a thinking which stimulates an individual to gain positive behavior.
- It is rules, regulations and code of conduct applicable to become an ideal teacher and student.

Teacher educators generated list of values which they felt are integrated entities of Ethics in Education. These values are-

Integrity, honesty in dealing, accountability, indiscrimination, truth finder, trust, scientific approach adaptation, professional outlook, respect, personality development, aesthetics, discipline, cleanliness, character building, confidence, patience, introspection, secularism, unity, fraternity, democracy, positive approach, self- strengthening and last but not least being sensitive towards students' problem.

Interpretation: It is reflected from the data that most of the teacher educators are well versed with the concept of Ethics in Education.

B. Areas of Ethics in Education

Results- Teacher educators feel Ethics in Education is applicable in following areas -

- 1) School:
 - Teaching staff
 - Students
 - Non - teaching staff
- 2) Educational institution management:

- Principal
 - Supervisor
 - Management committee members
- 3) Classroom:
- Classroom management
 - Teaching practices
 - Evaluation
- 4) Social factors related to education :
- Parents
 - Family
 - Social institutions
 - Society
- 5) Government institutions
- 6) Non- governmental institutions

Interpretation -Teacher educators felt that ethics are necessary in all spheres of education system. They strongly responded that ethics is lacking at all parts and sub parts of education system. Their responses showed that there is a wide scope of ethics in education for its successful implementation.

C. Present scenario of Ethics in Education

Results:

- 1) Students -
- Lack of respect for teacher is increasing among students.
 - Students cannot control their temper which results in abuse or attack on teachers.
- 2) Teachers -
- Lack of ideal behavior among teachers
 - Teacher too cannot control their temper.
 - Punish students in improper manner. E.g. Corporal punishment, abusing students.
 - Improper behavior of teacher is imitated by students.
 - Teachers are more salary oriented.

- Teachers impose their personal views on students.
- There is need to impart ethics among untrained teachers.
- 3) Educational institutions -
 - There is downfall of ethics in institutions due to privatization.
 - Increasing commercialization in educational institutions.
 - Many institutions do not pay teachers well.
 - A few schools depict ideal model of ethics but municipal run schools are in pathetic conditions as far as ethics are concern.

Interpretation: Teacher educators responded that there is lack of ethics among students, teachers and educational institution. Even though there is lack of ethics in educational field, Teacher educators felt that ethics are imparted among students through teachers' behavior directly or indirectly and to a certain extent through curriculum.

D. Teachers contribution in ethical development

Results:

- 1) Ethical values at personal level -
 - Good character
 - Respect
 - Discipline
 - Honesty
 - Positive attitude
 - Decision making.
 - Scientific approach.
 - Critical thinking
 - Personal cleanliness and hygiene
 - Practice
 - Punctuality
- 2) Ethical values at social level -
 - Interpersonal relationship.
 - Fraternity

- Helpful
- Sensitive to humanity
- Secularism.
- 3) Ethical values at professional level -
 - Dutiful
 - Accountable for teaching profession.
 - Time management.
 - Hard working.
 - Organizational skills

Interpretation: Though teacher educators responded negatively about ethics in education in present scenario but they listed many values which they have learned or taken from their teachers. It seems that their teachers have influenced their life at personal, social and professional level.

E. Ways of inculcating ethics in education among students

Results:

1. Imparting real experiences like visit to old age homes, orphanage home, field trip and picnics.
2. Inculcation of ethics through reading biographies or autobiographies and guest lectures on great personalities, interaction with inspiring personalities.
3. Cultural activities, street play, competitions, observing different days like education day, science day, celebrating national days, poster presentation.
4. Showing theme based movies.
5. Conducting workshops related to ethical issues and soft skill development, providing guidance and counseling.
6. Programs on Yoga, meditation and spirituality like Art of living.

Interpretation: Teacher educators have suggested various programs and workshops as they think this is best way to train and update teachers on implementing or inculcating innovative ways to inculcate values among students.

Conclusion:

The present study deals with finding out the views of Teacher educators on ethics in education. The findings of the study reflect that Teacher educators felt the need of Ethics in education and are aware of the concept of ethics. They have suggested various areas of ethics in educational context. They have enlisted values to be inculcated in ethical education. They have suggested various ways of implementing or inculcating ethics in education through different activities which is necessary in creating an ethical educational climate.

The researchers have observed that even though the Teacher educators are well versed with the ethics on education and have mentioned their clear views on it, but yet they need to be updated on certain factors like ethics in sexuality, ethics in internet surfing, ethics in social networking, importance of spirituality and ethics, multicultural education, character education, dynamic patterns of values and ethics self-esteem building, moral decision making, character education. etc. The educational implications of the present study are -

- The study shows more focus is required for implementation of ethics in education.
- Infused curriculum can be made which will focus on activity based learning to inculcate ethics through all subjects.
- According to the activities suggested by the teacher educators a program on Ethical Education can be prepared and practiced at school and college level.

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