

Professional

Profession: is often used to denote any paid occupation, job or career.

A person who engages in sporting, artistic or some other activity for earning money rather than merely enjoying it as a hobby.

These higher professions have also evolved their separate codes of professional ethics.

Five Attributes

Systematic body of theory: every profession has a distinct body of organized theoretical knowledge & certain practical skills associated with it.

The practical skills also flow out of the theory. Therefore, to master them one has to learn the theory through adequate training.

This is one major difference between professional skills & non-professional skills.

Eg: it is more difficult to learn the theory of rotating electrical machines than to learn how to repair an electric motor.

Theoretical knowledge of professional subjects is developed through academic study & research.

Theoretical & practical developments reinforce each other to advance professional knowledge.

This advancement creates newer areas of specialization, requiring higher levels of academic training.

Professionals have to continuously update their knowledge & skills to maintain their competence & effectiveness.

Professional Authority

Because of their specialized knowledge, skills & experience professionals acquire a kind of authority over the clients, patients & others who seek their professional services.

Thus the clients has to trust & faith in the professionals.

Honouring this trust by safeguarding the interests of the clients & rendering them the best professional services is a moral obligation of the professional.

Using the professional authority & trust to exploit the client for personal gains is the worst kind of professional immorality.

Sanction of the Community

All professionals are social constructs.

Their operation, growth, & importance depend upon community sanction.

This sanction is given because the professionals serve the society & satisfy some essential social needs.

Eg: legal profession helps in the establishment of justice in the society.

Medical profession serves by relieving us from diseases & by promoting good health.

The community shows its sanction be conferring several powers & privileges to the professionals.

Regulative flow of ethics

Many times for personal gains individual professionals lose sight of the professional ideals & values.

They may misutilize their professional authority, that may affect the clients or society at large.

The codes of professional ethics help & encourage individuals to live up to professional ideals.

Codes of professional ethics enhances social esteem of the profession and built trust between profession & public.

Professional Ethos

Main pillar of professional ethos is the determination for excellence.

Professional excellence requires mastery of the theoretical knowledge as well as practical skills of the profession.

And continuous up-gradation of the latest developments in one's field is also the basic requirement for the profession.

Professional has to be innovative & to be impulsive in finding out solutions to the problems.

Professional has to be motivated towards the assigned job. Money is not the motivating factor or professional will not only show the interest in the job because of money associated with it, it would be against the professional ethos

Commercialization of profession is one of the problem faced by the society.

It does not mean that professional does not seek adequate compensation corresponding with the professional service they provide.

A profession is a calling in which the special knowledge & skills are used in service of the mankind.

Three Pillars of Professional Ethos



1. Striving for Excellence
2. Motivation of Service
3. Sense of Responsibility