

# L–11: Professional Values and Ethics for Technical Teachers



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## Lesson – 11

### Professional Values and Ethics for Technical Teachers

**Learning Outcomes:** At the end of this lesson, you will be able to:

- LO 1. Explain values expected of a technical teacher.
- LO 2. Describe the process of developing values in students.
- LO 3. Justify the importance to follow professional ethics by a teacher.

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## Lesson – 11

### Professional Values and Ethics for Technical Teachers

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

A professional person like technical teacher has to fulfil many roles namely - a good teacher, a good engineer, an ethical professional and above all, an ethically correct person. Values are important in life for any person to be successful in his/her endeavours. It is doubly true for teachers, since they are the architects of tomorrow's generation. For technical teachers, it becomes even more important as they create tomorrow's engineers and technocrats. They create nation's future wealth and intellectual property, through their students. Technical teachers are indirectly responsible for a generation's growth, prosperity and development. A teacher might be required to train student in order to develop teaching skills to prepare them to serve as educators, so a positive attitude and a team-centred mind-set can make all the difference. Therefore, this lesson discusses about the desired values and ethics in a professional person, especially one who is teaching in a technical educational institution.

#### 2.0 VALUES EXPECTED FROM TEACHERS OF TECHNICAL INSTITUTIONS

It is quite obvious that whatever values a technical teacher desires to inculcate in their students to make them good engineers, those must first be practiced by the teachers themselves. To be a successful technical teacher it is expected to adhere to and inculcate following values in his/her daily life and teachings:

- a) **Role model:** The teacher must practice best values in his/her own life and become the role model for students. They learn from his/her behaviour, actions and thought process much more than what they learn from the classroom teaching. A good teacher keeps a dignified demeanor commensurate with their expectations, uses moderate and modest language and chooses mild adjectives in adverse comments. The students learn far more from teacher's practiced values rather than empty preaching in class.
- b) **Compassion:** This value increases the tolerance of the teacher towards weaker and unwilling students. It makes teacher empathetic to student's difficulties or challenges in learning what is taught in class. The issues could be language barrier, cultural barrier, backwardness, financial condition, emotional distress or even health related. These issues cause students to be inattentive in class-room study or in laboratories. This value brings out some students from their shell of timidity, disinterest and general lack of interest in learning. This value refrains the teacher from subjecting any child to fear, trauma, anxiety, physical punishment, sexual abuse and mental and emotional harassment.
- c) **Unprejudiced and even-handed:** The teacher must treat all students in an even-handed manner. He must not discriminate based on their background, language caste, creed, religion, sex, economic status, disability, language and place of birth.

This is especially applicable while evaluating their answer sheets or conducting laboratory-based oral tests

- d) **Encouraging:** A teacher with positive attitude will encourage students to do better than they did before, to give their best and to bring out their potential completely. S/he would help weak students to overcome their difficulties and extend the limits of testing for very bright students.
- e) **Trustworthy:** The teacher must be able to keep information pertaining to students, colleagues and administration confidential. The students must feel encouraged to share their innermost thoughts, their aspirations, and their mental blockages with their teacher, with confidence that their privacy will be maintained.
- f) **Respectful:** Respect begets respect. Each student must be respected as an individual. In most colleges, the students are already grownup persons and legally adults. Even though their behaviour might be childish and immature, sometimes bordering on insult to teacher, s/he should not lose his/her habit of treating them as a 'person' whose individuality and rights are to be respected. The student recognizes this value and respect teacher in return. A teacher who is derisive in class to students or environment or management, quickly loses student's respect. Teacher should also teach students to respect diversity of languages, religions, outlook and viewpoints and right to dissent with others.
- g) **Focused:** His/her endeavor must be focused on student's physical, social, intellectual, emotional and moral development. The atmosphere in his/her classroom, should promote safety, security and acceptance, always avoiding any form of bullying, hostility, dishonesty, neglect or offensive conduct.
- h) **Honest:** A teacher must fulfil all his/her promises and contracts. He must accurately describe his/her qualifications, credentials and achievements to all those enquire. He/she must account for all funds and resources at his/her disposal and be thrifty with expenses.
- i) **Humility:** A secure and contented teacher also shows humility to accept his/her mistakes and vows to improve. If s/he is unable to answer a question asked by a student in the class, s/he must accept his/her ignorance and promise to try for giving the answer in next class. Humility is an excellent protection against getting over-confidence and hubris (Excessive pride).
- j) **Lifelong learner:** Teacher must upgrade and refurbish his/her learning abilities, skills, academic knowledge and new technology, very frequently. S/he should cite his/her latest experiences and learning to students to impress upon them the advantages of staying up-to-date with new developments. It's his/her duty to ensure that teaching methods used are relevant and comprehensive.
- k) **Research:** Teachers must engage in educational research to continuously improve their teaching strategies, be attentive to continuing education requirements and career development. S/he must research new teaching methods, attend classes to

maintain certifications, consult colleagues for professional advice, participate in curriculum improvements and stay up-to-date on technical advancements.

- l) **Team player:** This value creates a trust between teacher and his/her colleagues and parents. A teacher realizes that s/he can do greater good of more students by joining hands with others, and that s/he is not the sole factor of influence on student's growth and others have equal role to play in shaping their future. Thus, a teacher must create a culture that encourages purposeful collaboration and dialogue among colleagues and stakeholders. In addition to fostering healthy relationships with students, a teacher must build strong relationships with parents, staff and colleagues in the college, guidance counsellors and administrators.
- m) **Nationalist:** A deep sense of gratitude for being a citizen of a free and democratic nation should be deeply imbibed in a teacher. S/he should keep the country uppermost in mind and refrain from taking part in any activities that may spread feelings of hatred or enmity among different communities, religious and linguistic groups. The teacher should transact the curriculum in conformity with the values enshrined in the Constitution of India.

## 2.1 Development of Values

*Values* are adopted and cultivated by a teacher himself or herself. Many persons, when they join as teacher, are bereft of many desired values. So, it is of paramount importance that development of these values is undertaken, its process is understood and emphatic training is imparted to them, to bring them up to the pre-determined expectations. Since the learning about all desired values may be a long and tedious process, but the learning path may be broken down into simple sub-groups as:

- a) **Values related to daily practice** and those that affect daily performance such as punctuality, lesson pre-preparation, revising what is discussed in class and asking simple questions to refresh memory. These helps create a wonderful teaching / learning atmosphere in class.
- b) **Values related to important activities** undertaken over a medium term such as a semester or a year. These include planning rigorously for introduction of a new course or a new laboratory practical, preparing lesson plan or designing practicals for these and so on. It also includes planning for weak students' remedial classes.
- c) **Values pertaining to teacher's character building** and setting standards for students. Most of the ethics-oriented behaviour and values fall in this category. Many of these values will help students to become a better engineer, a better co-worker and a better all-round person, when they start a job in their career. These values can be imparted through out-of-curriculum coaching, such as in inter-semester vacation.

The development of the above values can be undertaken sequentially or simultaneously. In addition to classical method of one-to-many lecture approach, teachers must be given topics in value development and asked to address the group about them, their importance, and

their impact on others and cite case studies where their application yields in positive outcome. Importance should be attached to estimate the effect on students due to 'absence of each value'. Mentoring by senior teachers can be done for inculcation of values.

### ACTIVITY 1

List at least three examples of professional values to discuss with peers and mentors.

## 3.0 ACADEMIC ETHICS IN TECHNICAL TEACHERS

Ethics are set by government agencies, society, culture, professional bodies, teacher associations and college organizations. Teachers help students learn the academic basics, but they also teach valuable life lessons by setting a positive example. As role models, teachers should follow a professional code of ethics. This ensures that students receive a fair, honest and uncompromising wholesome education. A professional code of ethics outlines teachers' main responsibilities to their students and defines their role in students' lives. Above all, teachers must demonstrate integrity, impartiality and ethical behaviour in and outside the classroom in their conduct with students, parents and co-workers.

### 3.1 Ethical Conduct towards Students

A professional technical teacher having ethical conduct towards students can do the following:

- a) Treat all students with love and affection.
- b) Respect the value of being just and impartial to all students irrespective of their background, gender and cultural differences.
- c) Respect basic human dignity of the student in all aspects of college life
- d) Make planned and systematic efforts to facilitate the student to actualize his/her potential and talent.
- e) Will neither intentionally expose the student to negative criticism, nor look down upon him for student's failings.
- f) Will not reveal confidential information concerning students, unless required by rules and law.
- g) Make a constructive effort to protect the students from conditions detrimental to learning, health, or safety.
- h) Present facts without distortion, bias, or personal prejudices.

### 3.2 Ethical Conduct towards Colleagues

A teacher's ethical conduct toward his/her professional colleagues is equally important. A teacher having ethical conduct may do the following:

- a) Cooperate with fellow teachers, parents and administrators to create an atmosphere that's conducive to learning.

- b) Refrain from making unsubstantiated allegations against colleagues and higher authorities
- c) Avoid making derogatory statements about colleagues, especially in the presence of pupils, other teachers, officials or parents.
- d) Never make wilfully false statements about a colleague or the college education system.
- e) Never discuss private information about colleagues unless disclosure is required by law.
- f) Never interfere with a colleague's freedom of choice, and work to eliminate coercion that forces educators to support actions and ideologies that violate individual professional integrity.
- g) Avoid gossip, including false or mean-spirited comments about co-workers.

### 3.3 Ethical Conduct towards Professional Practice

A teacher having ethical conduct may conform to the following professional practices and performance:

- a) Refrain from engaging himself/herself in private tuition or private teaching activity.
- b) Refrain from accepting any gift or favor that might impair or appear to influence professional decisions or actions
- c) Not intentionally misrepresenting official policies of the college or University, and clearly distinguishing the management's views from his or her own personal opinions.
- d) Account honestly for all funds committed to his or her charge.
- e) Not using institutional or professional privileges for personal or partisan advantage.
- f) Update himself from time to time and transfer current knowledge, skills and practices to student.
- g) Will follow Intellectual Property related fair practices.
- h) Do fair assessment of students.

#### ACTIVITY 2

List at least three examples of professional ethics that require to be discussed with your peers and mentors.

### 4.0 NETIQUETTES FOR TECHNICAL TEACHERS

Due to growing use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and the use of internet widely using the cell phones and computers by millions of people of every age has brought in the term **netizens**, which derived from the words 'Internet' and 'citizen' '**netizen**'. The code of conduct to be followed by **netizens** is called by the term **netiquette** from two words 'Internet **etiquette**'. **Netiquette** is required for communication on Internet



in both online verbal and non-verbal forms for email, social media, online chat, web forums, website comments and many more.

Due to growing use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) by individuals and society of this digital age, there arise a need for formulation of policies by educational institutions globally for the ethical use of such technologies including software's and E-content. These ethical policies constantly change with changing Information Communication Technology (ICT). Four characteristics are necessary netiquettes for all netizens.

- Plagiarism
- Intellectual property and Copyright
- Legal use of Software
- Code of conduct on Internet.

#### **4.1 Plagiarism**

Today, the condition of education system is deteriorating due to plagiarism. Plagiarism is considered as an academic sin. It is unethical. The word 'Plagiarism' has been derived from the Latin word 'Plagiare' means 'to kidnap or abduct'. Plagiarize means stealing ideas or words of another person as one's own without proper citation. This may happen by incorporating someone else's work as your own work with or without the consent or full acknowledgement. The plagiarism could be intentional and unintentional. It is important that an ethical teacher or student should not plagiarize content that s/he prepares such as handouts, course materials, writing papers, preparing web-pages on websites and so on, which can even lead to litigation problems.

The regulatory body 'All India Council of Technical Education' (AICTE) and 'University Grant Commission' (UGC) have seriously taken up this issue in higher education and have provided guidelines. Refer to levels of plagiarism and penalties at [https://www.ugc.ac.in/ugc\\_notices.aspx?id=2079](https://www.ugc.ac.in/ugc_notices.aspx?id=2079) for UGC letter and Gazette Regulations (UGC Gazette Notification, 2018 [2]). The Government of India is planning to make strict law for prevention of plagiarism in academics.

##### **a) Plagiarism Detection Software**

Today educational institutions, use plagiarism detection software to uncover potential plagiarism because manually it is impossible to detect them. This software also helps to deter students from plagiarizing content. There are many free Plagiarism Checker - Free Online Plagiarism Detector available on Internet. One of them is <https://smallseotools.com/plagiarism-checker/>. The free online software has limited database against which it checks the documents for plagiarism and are not much dependable. Some of them are restricted to 1000 words at a time.

There are other proprietary plagiarism software's which check submitted documents



automatically and generates reports too. These software's are much better and can be purchased for number of license users and now are being used by many educational institutions. These propriety plagiarism software's' check submitted documents against billion(s) of web pages, database of million student papers, publications, scholarly journals and articles etc. The pricing of such software's depends on its feature and collection of repository or database.

## 4.2 Intellectual Property and Copyright

According to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), intellectual property '....refers to creations of minds, such as inventions, literary and artistic works, designs and symbols, names and images used in commerce'. It is an overarching term for a variety of assets created by the human mind otherwise classified as intangible prosperity. The rights to the intellectual property can be claimed exclusively by the creator or recipient of ownership transfer and covers the expression of an idea rather than the idea itself. [WIPO Headquarters Switzerland, Accessed on 27/02/2020[3]]. Further, IPR and Copyright aspect can be learned from In order to protect from website <http://www.wipo.int/treaties/en/ip/wct/>. To avoid Intellectual Property and Copyright issues; you are suggested either to purchase the licence to use the IPR or use appropriate Creative Commons (CC) Licensed knowledge or software. Today there are large 'Open Educational Resources (OER)' and courses with CC Licencing which an teacher can use for academics without legal hurdles.

### a) Creative Commons (CC) Licensing

Creative Commons [Creative Commons, Mountain View, CA 94042. (2017)] [4] helps to legally share your knowledge and creativity to build a more equitable, accessible, and innovative world. Creative Common work spans a variety of different areas like Arts and culture; Legal; Open Access; Open Science; Education and OER; Policy and advocacy; Open data; Technology. With the internet the universal access to education has become possible. But its potential is hindered by increasingly restrictive copyright laws and incompatible technologies. The Open Education program with Creative Commons Licensing works to minimize these barriers, supporting the CC mission through education, advocacy and outreach on using the right licenses and open policies to maximize the benefits of open educational resources (OER) and the return on investment in publicly funded education resources. Further, the use of CC Licensing E-content can be learned from their website <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/>

## 4.3 Legal Use of Software

It is unethical to use of un-licensed or pirate software in technical institution. The use of license software and open source software's in educational institution is necessary to avoid legal problems from proprietary software developers. One of the important aspects to be pursued is to either purchase license software's or should use open source solutions for

educational purposes. Otherwise this will call for litigations against educational institution for using software's without license.

#### 4.4 Code of Conduct on Internet

Netiquette in simple words mean the use of good manners in online verbal- textual communication such as e-mail, chats, forums, blogs, and social networking sites to name a few. Following are some 'Core Rules of Netiquette on Cyberspace/Internet'

Rule 1: Respect People's Privacy

Rule 2: Do not abuse, hack or hurt online community

Rule 3: Respectful Communication- remember the human element

Rule 4: Adhere to the same standards of behaviour online that you follow in real life.

Rule 5: Do not hurt sentiments on Cyberspace where people of different cast, creed, and religion are available.

Rule 6: Respect others time and bandwidth.

Rule 7: Make yourself look good online with content and engagement.

Rule 8: Share expert knowledge online community for the information that you post remains forever.

Rule9:Do not use metaphorically speaking or double meaning language.

#### ACTIVITY 3

State any three examples of non-netiquettes as an ethical teacher you have experienced.

#### 5.0 ROLES OF TECHNICAL TEACHER VIS-À-VIS VALUES AND PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

With respect to values and educational ethics, a professional teacher recognizes that quality education is the common goal of the public, parents, technical administrators and educators, and that a cooperative effort is essential among these groups to attain that goal. Towards achieving this goal, s/he promises to adhere to:

- Making concerted efforts to communicate to parents all information that should be revealed in the interest of the student.
- Respect the values and traditions of the diverse cultures represented in the community and in his or her classroom.
- Pledge to protect public sovereignty over public education and private control of private education.
- Manifest a positive and active role in college/community relations.

#### 6.0 SUMMARY

This lesson has discussed the desired values required in a profession to fulfil the multiple roles of being a good teacher, a good engineer/an ethical professional and above all, an ethically correct person. The teacher ought to be a role model and should be able to exhibit

the values in his or her own life in an acceptable and responsible manner. He or she should also exhibit the values and educational ethics as a professional during the interactions undertaken with the students and other stake holders of technical education system.

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**DISCUSSION FORUM**

- Start a discussion on social media on some values and ethics to be followed by technical teachers