

## Degradation of Morality in Teaching Profession

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### Abstract

This paper is divided into two parts. The first is related to the importance of the teacher and second is deviance of the teacher. Because today, many teachers do not perform their duty with full respect and they are found involved in some immoral activities with the students which a black mark on the teaching profession.

**KEYWORDS:** Deviance, teachers, students

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#### A. Introduction:

**Generally,** On every year on 5<sup>th</sup> September, the birth of Dr. Radhakrishnan is celebrated as teacher day in our country. In UNESCO, the teacher day is started observing October 5<sup>th</sup> as the “world Teachers Day “from 1994 and now one thousand countries are celebrated this day to pay the respect to the teaching community. Dr. Radhakrishnan was a great scholar and former president of India. Today also, the teacher is considered a very important and sacred person in the world in comparison of the Priest, Pope, and Moullabi. Teacher is also called Guru who teaches the pupils/ students. The teacher is regarded the second birth giver of a child, as the mother is the first or we can say that a child receives his/ her birth from the parents (mother) and second from the hands of the teacher. The first and the best natural teacher is the mother. The teacher is given the higher position or status than the parents because teacher moulds the character of the student<sup>1</sup>.

Teacher plays an important role as a helper, guider, philosopher and friend of the student. Teacher is the heart of the education and all this process. There interaction between the teacher and student should be trustworthy. Both should be hardworking, confident and faithful. Teacher makes the noble nation and man. Ravindranath Tagore said that a teacher can never truly teach unless he is hearing himself. A lump can never light another lamp unless it continues to burn its own flame. The Teacher is regarded as, a reservoir of character and moral behavior, a source of creativity among the students, developer of knowledge and personality of the student, developer of good ethics and morality among the students, developer of hardworking and confidence, and establisher of national integration. There is a Japanese proverb that “to teach is to learn”. A good teacher is one who lives all his/her life as a student, explains clearly everything, gives superior

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<sup>1</sup> Dr. P.L. Nikose, “Teacher Education: Issues and Challenges “2012 pp47-49. See also B.M. Singh, “Teaching how to live” The Tribune, September 5, 2013

demonstration, inspires, helps the students realize their potential with dual objective of educating for living and educating for marking a living<sup>2</sup>.

**B. Teacher: Meaning of:** -- Teacher is the national builder and life maker of the student. The 'teacher' is a person who delivers an educational program, assesses student participation in an educational program, or administers or provides consistent and substantial leadership to an educational program. The teaching must be in a school or in another setting delivering an educational program prescribed under the Education (Queensland College of Teachers) *Act 2005*. This requires the educational program to be based on a syllabus or kindergarten guideline approved or accredited by the Queensland Studies Authority. In effect this means the teaching must be in Queensland<sup>3</sup>. The teacher is expected to meet the basic requirements of teaching i.e. Knowledge of the subject to be taught and the skill to deliver that knowledge.<sup>4</sup> The importance of a teacher as an architect of future generation also demand that only the competent members of our intelligentsia be allowed to qualify for this noble profession as human values truly begins and ends with the teacher. Sidney Hook aptly remarked: "everyone who remembers his own educational experience remembers teachers, not methods and techniques."

**C. Traits of Teaching Profession or How a Teacher would be Effective in Teaching Profession:-- A teacher has to has following traits :-**

- (i) Teacher should know the psyche of the students
- (ii) Teacher should understand the climate of the classroom
- (iii) Teacher should motivate the students and himself
- (iv) Teacher should discover new meaning at every stage and should ready for any change or challenges
- (v) Teacher should have optimistic and have good perception
- (vi) Teacher should have a sense of time management
- (vii) Teacher should have different or various approaches of teaching
- (viii) Teacher should be mentally and physical healthy

**D. Objective of Teacher:--** The primary object of the teacher is to provide or impart the proper and latest knowledge of the subject/ facts and also values of good human beings, to upgrade knowledge of the students, to develop the critical awareness, to develop the capacity of elaboration, interpretation, communication of ideas, develop a desire of lifelong learning and improving themselves etc.

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> India legal service.com

<sup>4</sup> The Tribune, January 18, 2011

**E. Kinds or Types of Teachers:** -- There, generally, may be three kinds of teachers which are as under:-- **(i) School Teacher (ii) Station Teacher (iii) Mediocre Teacher.** The school teacher trains the minds of students and station teacher minds the trains of students.

**F. Meaning and Definition of Deviance:**-- There are some meaning and definition of the deviance which are as follows:--

**(a) Deviance: Meaning Of:** -- There is no clear and unified or universal definition of the deviance. The various jurist, philosophers, academicians noted persons and others given the different meanings and definitions of the deviance. In general parlance deviance means derived from the right way or we can say misuse of the social norms or breakup of the legal values or norms. The term usually refer to some behaviour that is inconsistent with the standard of acceptable conduct prevailing in a social group, although the term has also been used to designate personal conditions, ideas, or statuses that are stigmatized or disreputable<sup>5</sup>. Deviance is any behaviour that violates social norms or is going against the norms or to wander off track<sup>6</sup>. Deviance means when a class of society or the persons of society deviates from their path or way.

**(b)Deviance; Definition Of:** -- **The definitions of deviance are as follows:--**

**(i) According to McCarthy, in 1996,** Deviance includes “the intentional violation of organizational norms i.e., rules and regulations by public employees for personal material gain”. This behavioral category subsumes theft, smuggling contraband, embezzlement, and misuse of authority. Corruption, however, is not a synonym for deviance, although it is a subset of this practice<sup>7</sup>.

**(ii) According to John Major, Prime Minister, in 1993 ,** Deviance may be considered as banned or controlled behaviour, which is likely to attract punishment or disapproval<sup>8</sup>.

**(ii) According to Downes and Rock, in1988,** Deviance is behaviour that violates the standards of conduct or expectations of a group or society<sup>9</sup>.

**(iv) According to Wickmann, in 1991,** Deviance is like trying to nail a jellyfish to the wall, it is so illusive and slippery that it is almost impossible to define. The view is very social constructionist and qualitative. Deviance is socially constructed and must be

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<sup>5</sup> <http://www.wikipediafreeencyclopedia.com>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.dictionary.com>

<sup>7</sup> Supra n 5

<sup>8</sup> [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com)

<sup>9</sup> Ibid

interpreted. Deviance is straightforward i.e. actions that offend conventional norms are deviant.<sup>10</sup>

**G. Teacher Deviance:** -- Deviance means an action or behavior that violates the accepted norms of a group, organization, and the society. Deviance may occur in all workplaces throughout all professions when public officials violate organizational rules /or break the law and these acts are / may also be called malfeasance, misfeasance, and nonfeasance. Yet the scholarly literature typically prefers to use the term deviance. Many criminal justice agencies have codes of ethics or standards of conduct that are taught to recruits and reinforced by veterans of the organization. Many societies' and organizations' have policies, practices, and laws which are developed from this normative foundation. Some such Policies and laws are made or enacted for welfare of the society and those violates them are called deviant<sup>11</sup>. There were general principles that students had faith and respect to the teachers without any kind of controversies and teacher also had same and majority of teachers were decent and law abiding citizens. But there are teachers who are involved in corruption and other illegal activities too. Teachers of private schools and collages give assurance of admission and collect huge amounts from the rich parents of the students. They also collect money from students by assuring them success through various illegal means and ways. The teachers of the Government collages earn huge amounts of money apart from their salary through private tuitions. These dishonest and unscrupulous practices have damaged the standard of education in India and are causing an irreparable loss to the young generation<sup>12</sup>. There are some others deviance acts which are as follows:--

- (i) Absenting and Bunking from Classes
- (ii) Taking bribe for giving passing Marks and Signing on Dissertation , Ph.D Thesis , Project Reports, Papers etc.
- (iii) Participation or Indulgence in Politics
- (iv) Raping with Students
- (v) Molestation to Students
- (vi) Sexual Harassment to Students
- (vii) Obscenity to Students
- (viii) Eve teasing of Students
- (ix) Doing Unnecessary / Useless Strike

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<sup>10</sup> Ibid

<sup>11</sup> ibid

<sup>12</sup> [www.scribd.com/doc/11531903/Professional-Deviance](http://www.scribd.com/doc/11531903/Professional-Deviance)

- (x) Physical and Mentally Harassment of Students
- (xi) Misappropriation of Funds of the School or College
- (xii) Helping as Cheating in Examination
- (xiii) Drinking or Using the Wine in the School/ College or showing the abusive behaviour in school time
- (xiv) Dancing with Students
- (xv) Non- Providing help in matter of Collection
- (xvi) Making Discrimination among the Students
- (xvii) Negligence towards the Students
- (xviii) Unnecessary force to Students for Tuition
- (xix) Fabrication of illegal Charges
- (xx) Misguiding the Students

**Some deviance acts are briefly discussed as:--**

**(i) Absenting and Bunking from Classes:--** Teachers are not properly taking their classes. They remain absent from the classes. There are many examples of such in our country. In Punjab, in Faridkot, an inspection of 65 schools was conducted by the Authority and 24 teachers found absent from duty, 52 teachers were found latecomers and 11 teachers were absent for a few months ago<sup>13</sup>. According to a World Bank Harvard University Study, India is among the countries with the highest average absence rates of teachers. India has about 25% absence rate of teachers, with Punjab having the absence rate of 34.4 percent. Further it revealed that in India categories of absence of teachers is 30.2 % in case of heads, 22.2 % in case of second -in- command , 23.i % in case of regular teachers and 24% in case of contract teachers<sup>14</sup>.

**(ii) Taking bribe for giving passing Marks and Signing on Dissertation , Ph.D Thesis , Project Reports, Papers etc. :--** There are many teachers those demand the money or bribe for giving passing marks, signing on dissertation , Ph.D Thesis , project reports, papers etc. In a shocking revelation, two teachers on examination duty were found for charging money from the students for providing the marks in practical examination of the National Open School. The accused teachers were arrested by the police after a raid at the centre examination and produced in the local court which remanded them to judicial custody and charged under section 171 B of Indian Penal Code.<sup>15</sup>

<sup>13</sup> The Tribune , September 20,2011

<sup>14</sup> The Tribune, December 6, 2011

<sup>15</sup> The Tribune, May 6, 2010

**(iii) Participation or Indulgence in Politics:--** Today, the teachers are taking much interest in the politics in spite of teaching. They are directly or indirectly attached to the politics or politicians and spent most of their time in the political activities. They consider that politicians are their Gurus. In this context the Chief Justice Kurian Joseph, Himachal Pradesh High Court, speaking at the valedictory function of the North Zone Vice-Chancellor Conference, said politicization of the guru themselves was the main reason for most of the campuses turning into centres of violence. He further said that creating violence free campus would be the biggest achievements of the teaching fraternity. Teachers must take upon themselves the responsibility of the general moral characteristics. Teachers should not indulge in the politics.<sup>16</sup>

**(iv) Students Raped by the Teachers :--** A teacher of government primary school at baroh in the kalakote area of rajouri district allegedly raped a class VIII student of the school on the pretext of giving her a notebook, after taking her to his house and raped her. A case under section 376 of the I.P.C was registered against the teacher<sup>17</sup>.

**(v) Students Obscenity by the Teachers: --** A teacher of government primary school, Azimgarh, in guhla sub-division here has been booked under section 294 of the I.P.C on charges of trying to molest girl students and making obscene gestures. Earlier, on complaints against the teacher, Midha and his deputy Jasbir Singh visited the school. They talked to the students and some parents. The students told the officials that the teacher besides making obscene gesture had tried touching some of them<sup>18</sup>. The police have arrested two persons, including the principal of a private school at Gogharia village in the district, in connection with alleged obscene behaviour with a girl student of class IV. They are produced in the local court, which remanded them in judicial custody. Father alleged that the accused had threatened his daughter that she would be failed if she reported the matter to her parents. When the matter brought to the notice of the principal of the school Rajesh Kumar, instead of taking action against the accused he allegedly tried to hush up the matter. Both the accused were arrested<sup>19</sup>.

**(vi) Students Molestation by the Teachers: --** A headmaster booked for molestation by the Sirsa Police on the complaint of girl. She said the headmaster tried to outrage the modesty with her<sup>20</sup>. A teacher of reputed school in baner was arrested for allegedly molesting a least 22 girl students of the fifth standards for two months<sup>21</sup>. The incident took place at government primary school Gharaunda, where the teacher identified as

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<sup>16</sup> The Tribune, October 2, 2011

<sup>17</sup> The Tribune, December 26, 2010

<sup>18</sup> The Tribune, 3 February, 2010

<sup>19</sup> The Tribune, 21 February 2011

<sup>20</sup> The Tribune, 30 October, 2010

<sup>21</sup> The Tribune, 26 February 2013

Sukhbir molested the girls on the pretext of conducting a medical check-up. The parents alleged that the teacher took 7-8 girls to a room on the pretext of a medical check-up and molested them. The girls were taken aback by the obscene action of the teacher and some of them even crying. When parents of the girls came to know about it, they rushed to the school and thrashed the teacher<sup>22</sup>. The police have booked two school teachers for outraging the modesty of a woman peon during examinations for the Haryana board at kundli village here. She alleged that the two teachers called her in a room for serving water and molested her and threatened her with dire consequences. A case has been registered. The complaint alleged that the teachers consumed liquor during an educational tour to wagah border on February 23 and also misbehaved with some girl students<sup>23</sup>. A government school PTI teacher called a class VII girl to his room for preparing tea and tried to molest her after bolting the room from inside<sup>24</sup>. A teacher of the Government School Karnal was booked by the police for molestation with a 9<sup>th</sup> class girl student. The alleged that she called to his room, caught by accused and tried molest<sup>25</sup>. A teacher of the Government Senior Secondary School Kunjpura, Karnal district alleged for molesting of a class XI student. He thrashed and a women teacher for shielding the culprit also thrashed.<sup>26</sup> A primary School teacher has been booked for molesting a 10 years old girl at Kalanwali town in Sirsa District<sup>27</sup>. A teacher of Government Higher School Milakpur village in district Bhiwani booked for molestation<sup>28</sup>.

**(vii) Students Sexual Harassment by the Teachers:** -- Angry villagers ransacked the building of a government school at Dahman village and beat up a guest lecturer and a PTI after a girl student of the school accused them of sexual harassment and outraging her modesty. The police have taken both teachers into custody after registering a case under sec. 294 and 509 of the IPC<sup>29</sup>. The executive council of Chaudhary Devi Lal University suspended the two Assistant professors of the journalism and mass communication Department, for the alleged sexual harassment of a student. A press note issued by the university said the council had also decided to charge sheet against one and another teacher, who was also an accused in this case. In her complaint, the victim had alleged that supervisor, whom she had chosen as guide for her dissertation, had been delaying the finalization of the questionnaire for her research work for long with out any valid reason.

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<sup>22</sup> The Tribune , 18 September 2012

<sup>23</sup> The Tribune, 19 March 2010

<sup>24</sup> The Tribune, 12 May 2012

<sup>25</sup> The Tribune , 8 May, 2012

<sup>26</sup> The Tribune, September 14,2013

<sup>27</sup> The Tribune, September, 16,2013

<sup>28</sup> The Tribune, September, 23, 2013

<sup>29</sup> The Tribune, 7 October 2010

When she went to him on April 6, one Assistant Professor, who was sitting with him, told her that she would have to “fulfill the desires of her guide”, If she wants her work to be completed soon. Bajwa allegedly went to the extent of warning her that she would have to complete her studies next year when she expressed her disapproval at his conduct. She alleged that Sangwan observed silence and kept smirking during this conversation indicating his unspoken support to Bajwa’s remarks<sup>30</sup>.

**(viii) Eve teasing by the Teacher:--** A Hindi teacher of the Government Adarsh Senior Secondary School, Tarawari, who also was the secretary of district teachers union, suspended on the charge of eve teasing.

**H. Role of judiciary: --** The judiciary is playing an important and effective role in teaching profession. There are some cases regarding the teacher’s deviance which has been decided by the court. In this case a teacher namely Ranjit Singh committed raped with student with pretext that after she was enrolled for a sports meet, but actually she was not into games. An accused forced her into a room at her residence. The victim added she passed out soon after Ranjit Singh teacher raped her. Just over 16 years after her own teacher raped a class 10<sup>th</sup> student, the Punjab and Haryana High court has upheld the 10 year sentence awarded to them<sup>31</sup>. In another case, An Additional Session judge Virender Sharma has sentenced vinod kumar to 10 year rigorous imprisonment for raping a deaf and dumb girl orphanage-cum-school in 2009. Vinod of sarkaghat in mandi district was also fined Rs. 25000<sup>32</sup>.

**I. Conclusion: --** In last it may be concluded that the role of teacher has been changing due to the pressure of social and economic changes. A teacher is not only to instruct, but also to inspire the student. She or he has to influence the character of his of her students, and equip them with ideas and values to make them worthy citizens. A corrupt and incompetent teacher is not only a bad individual, but also the harbinger of a corrupt and incompetent generation. Thus, we can say that today’s teacher is turning towards the bad activities or wrong direction than the right.

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<sup>30</sup> The Tribune, 16May 2010

<sup>31</sup> The Tribune, December 21, 2010

<sup>32</sup> The Tribune, December 3, 2012



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