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Review Article

The Position of Professional Ethics of Teachers in Virtual Education of Schools

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Abstract

Introduction: Increasing the quality of virtual education is one of the main concerns of the education system in most countries of the world. In educational centers, virtual education has a special place, and to improve it, the professional ethics of teachers should be taken into consideration. Considering this importance, the aim of the present study was to investigate the position of professional ethics of teachers in virtual education of schools.

Materials and Methods: The research was a review method, in order to achieve the goal of the research, in addition to electronic education books and virtual education in this field, articles related to the research keywords from 2004 to 2022 from the databases of Civilica, Magiran, Sid, Researchgate, Science direct, was reviewed.

Conclusion: The results showed that the improvement of virtual education in schools, in addition to the need for information and communication technology infrastructure, the ability of teachers and students to use new technologies and the interaction between teachers and students, requires the professional ethics of teachers and the observance of ethics. is teaching Therefore, one of the factors that can affect the virtual education of schools is the professional ethics of teachers. Based on this, the ethical topics of teaching and its concepts should be included in the educational courses of students of cultural universities and in-service training for teachers. At the time of application, new technologies in education should be given serious attention and emphasis, and efforts should be made to institutionalize teaching ethics among teachers.

Keywords: *Professional teaching ethics, Virtual education, Teachers.*

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INTRODUCTION

Advanced countries and societies in all aspects of their political, economic and social life pay a lot of attention to educational institutions as the main gateway to prosperity, progress and success, and in all educational stages (especially in schools), educational policy, teacher preparation and program preparation. Curriculum, technology, internal and external environment, value system, ethics and provision of educational leaders are very careful about the quality of education in order to achieve their goals. On the other hand, all aspects of human life have been transformed by information and communication technology [1]. As a result of these changes and developments, educational centers have faced a new phenomenon as educational technology, which has taken education out of its traditional state and given it a special flow [2]. The use of technology in the field of education became doubly important in 2020, the year when, with the start of the Corona pandemic and the closure of educational centers, there were changes in the role of teachers and families for the education of children and teenagers. Teachers turned to digital and online technologies to teach, and parents and guardians were expected to be more involved in their children's education than ever before. Digital technology and virtual education became an essential tool that teachers could use to end a frustrating

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situation in collaboration with leaders, educators, and families [3]. Morality is one of the most basic human needs and is considered one of the most important cultural factors of development [4]. On the other hand, although electronic education has many advantages, at the same time, it has increased the chance of unethical behavior in teaching-learning models and has faced new challenges to ethics [5]. The free flow of communication in virtual education and the emergence of unethical behaviors require a very urgent action to adopt ethical behaviors [6]. Teachers are key actors for the effective implementation of distance education [7]. In addition to being skilled in their teaching field, teachers must also be skilled in the teaching profession and familiar with the principles of professional ethics [8].

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The research was a review method, in order to achieve the goal of the research, in addition to electronic education books and virtual education in this field, articles related to research keywords from 2004 to 2022 from the databases of Civilica, Magiran, Sid, Researchgate and Sciencedirect, was reviewed.

DISCUSSION

Virtual education and virtual teaching of teachers

Many words and terms such as; Computer-based education, CD-based education, web-based education, Internet education, online education, virtual education, electronic education and other concepts to define education that is provided through computer, multimedia and Internet agents. is presented to the learner, it is considered as virtual education [9].

In order to increase the quality of virtual education, the goals and content of educational programs, educational strategies, responsibilities of learners during the learning process, appropriate technology for providing knowledge and strategic programs and answering these strategic questions "to whom, what, why and when to provide content?" And this requires cooperation and coordination between teachers, students, and administrators of educational institutions [10, 11], the quality of interaction between teachers and students should be in accordance with the subject, content, age group [12], compliance of virtual education with the curriculum, Coherent, consistent and transparent evaluation, effective learning, utilization and easy use of virtual education tools, affordability of virtual education are among other effective factors [13].

Virtual teaching requires more elements and skills than face-to-face teaching. These skills are a framework for a deep understanding of the complex network of relationships between content, pedagogy, technology and the context in which they operate. Therefore, in order to teach in a virtual environment, teachers need other skills and capabilities, in addition to the skills needed in the face-to-face environment. By rethinking their professional nature, teachers in virtual education should encourage learners to communicate and participate with others, search for resources and participate in activities [14]. An effective online teacher has five tasks, including; Persuading students to use communication facilities, organization, creating a friendly atmosphere, analyzing the learning topic and guidance, should be done carefully [15].

Advantages and disadvantages of virtual education

Virtual education has not only replaced face-to-face education during crises such as the corona epidemic, air pollution, long-term closure of schools, etc., but also in normal conditions, virtual education has become an integral part of education [16]. Virtual education has five main goals, which include overcoming geographic, cultural, economic, individual, and common educational system limitations, and allows learners and teachers to interact simultaneously or asynchronously, collaboratively, and distributed with each other in the internet environment [17].

The most important features of virtual education are: speed in learning, up-to-date education, reproducibility, compensating for problems, comprehensiveness instead of teacher-centeredness, reducing gender inequality, learning without fear and expanding the culture of independent learning [18], reducing teaching costs, effective knowledge storage, increasing the benefits of learning, simultaneous

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learning of new technology, interactive learning and a rich network of resources and curriculum information for students and teachers [19].

In addition to having many advantages, virtual education also has obstacles and problems for students. School policies, poor digital skills, digital divide, digital unavailability, network problems and resistance to change, lack of clear instructions, lack of coherent school policy are among the things that need attention [20, 21]. Damages affecting virtual education include: educational damage, management damage, cultural damage, technological damage, financial damage and health damage [22].

Professional teaching ethics

Today, ethics is an integral part of human life, ethics has a complex structure for which there is no single definition [23]. Ethics is a science that discusses moral principles and values, good and bad, merit and unworthiness, goodness and ugliness of human behavior and optional traits [24]. Maintaining the moral and humane framework in performing work actions is a requirement for performing an action correctly and its effectiveness [25]. Those who institutionalize the values and principles of ethics within themselves and adhere to those principles, consider work as a source of independence and self-fulfillment, and these characteristics have an effect on a person's internal motivation and cause great desire and desire to do work [26].

Professional ethics is a rational thinking process whose purpose is to realize what values should be preserved and disseminated in the organization. Professional ethics has a significant impact on individual and group activities and performance and the organization's results [27]. Professional ethics is like a guide that facilitates the teacher to provide quality education and inculcate good values among learners [28]. In this regard, ethics in teaching is a branch of ethics in education that specifies the professional responsibilities of a teacher in teaching and education. In fact, teaching, as a strong and important part of the education process, requires skill in implementing appropriate methods and ethical considerations specific to the teaching profession [29]. Teaching, like other professions, has ethical concepts and professional values that determine and unify the responsible moral behavior of teachers and often appear in the form of a wide range of acceptable norms of professional behavior [30].

What guarantees the health of the teaching-learning process in schools and increases the commitment of teachers to the students' needs is the observance of educational ethics [31]. Professional ethics and paying attention to ethical indicators is an effective tool and a strategic advantage in identifying and creating new opportunities and to achieve the goals of the organization [32]. Organizational culture plays a role in the development of teachers' professional ethics, and most of the changes in teachers' professional ethics in schools are explained by organizational culture [33]. Professional ethics are needed to improve the work performance of employees [34]. If the professional ethics of teachers is strengthened, the educational performance will also improve [35]. Success in the professional activity of a teacher requires compliance with the principles, strategies and standards of professional ethics [36]. The professional ethics of managers makes teachers enthusiastic about their job [37]. Also, professional ethics leads to psychological empowerment of teachers [38].

The relationship between professional ethics of teaching and virtual education

In Shifting to Digital, the findings provide insights into curriculum design and development that help teachers succeed in online environments. Among the categories identified by the authors as having the greatest impact on the shift to digital, the followings are more important; support and feedback from learning technologists, financial sustainability, program goals and procedures, changes in teacher skills and attitudes, communication and evaluation, and support for the professional development of teachers. The results of this analysis led to the identification of mixed findings about the most valuable elements of professional ethics development for online and blended learning [39]. Also, due to the fact that there is not enough monitoring of teachers' work in virtual education, and the learning process of students is not followed; The professional ethics of teaching teachers finds a special place.

CONCLUSION

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In general, the results showed that the quality of virtual education can be increased by applying the professional teaching ethics of teachers and its components, which include content competence, educational competence, competence in dealing with sensitive issues, teaching quality, student growth, competence in establishing two-way relationships with students, confidentiality, respect for colleagues and correct evaluation. Considering that nowadays virtual education is accepted as an integral part of education in educational systems, it needs a new approach to education. This change of attitude requires the education system to try to improve teaching and learning processes by using new teaching methods. In the meantime, the role of teachers and their compliance with professional ethics can open the way for the effectiveness and quality of virtual education. Therefore, one of the issues that virtual educational systems deal with is the need to develop behaviors based on ethics and professional ethics by its members, especially teachers. Considering the role of the education system in facing the problems of the society, it seems necessary to pay attention to the professional ethics of teachers. In order to be able to provide job creation scenarios in line with the professional education of citizenship and establishing effective communication between the educational system and the society.

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Ethical issues (such as plagiarism, conscious satisfaction,misleading, making and or forging data, publishing or sending to two places, redundancy and etc.) have been fully considered by the writers.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interests.

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