

Teaching Professionalism and Students Academic Achievements

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Abstract

This current review study was an attempt to explore the perception of various researchers about teaching professionalism and its effects on students' academics. A very large number of data are available on teaching professionalism. Yet, there are few number of research studies that show the impact of teaching professionalism on students' academic success. After an intense study on the perception of various researchers, the researcher discovered that positive professional attitude of teachers in the shape of personality, knowledge, managerial and communication skills have significant influence on the academic growth and development of students.

Keywords: Professionalism, Teaching, Students, Academics & Achievements

1. Introduction

Nations are built and destroyed in classrooms; that is the future of a Nation depends on the youths, while youths are the product of educational organizations. Thus, teachers are considered as the builders of a nation. If the teacher shows positive professional attitude towards students from all the perspectives such as maintenance of personality, knowledge, communication and management during the class, then students will be easily motivated towards their academic performance (Khan, 2016). There is a great relationship of professional development between teachers and their performances. Positive professional attitude of teacher have a significant effects on the overall academic achievements of the students (Borko, 2004).

During the last few decades, the professional life of teachers has significantly changed. Educational development and technological changes brought a lot of positive modifications in the educational environment of the schools, colleges and universities. Professional development is also among the positive modifications of educational institutions i.e. schools, colleges and universities (Kirk, 1998). Borko (2004) mentioned in his study that improvement or modification of education totally depends on the professional development of the teachers. No doubt, one can say that teachers have key role in bringing changes in the educational system. Professional attitude of teachers needs to be changed for bringing positive modifications in educational system (Villegas-Reimers, 2003).

Attitudes are important to educational psychology because they strongly affect the thinking abilities and social thoughts of children. Attitudes of teachers greatly influence the student's performance as well as their own performance. It is necessary for teachers to teach students with interest and also in such a way that the attention of the students are concentrated on them (Eggen & Kauchak, 2001).

Attitude is the personal and mental state that affects the performance of an individual while profession is the occupational status of a person. Combining the profession and attitude means the intention of a person while performing or fulfilling occupational or professional duties. Professional attitude always varies from one to another (Bain & Ken, 2004). Teachers with positive attitude always shows good performance in teaching/learning process. Students also respect the teachers with positive attitudes towards students (Villegas-Reimers, 2003).

A teacher with positive professional attitude always performs the assigned duties in right way. Professional attitude contains beliefs, experiences, desires, hopes, likes, dislikes and intensions. The attitude of teachers must be collaborative and disciplined. Teaching is a profession which largely depends upon the attitude of a teacher. Effectiveness of teaching is either possible when a teacher show positive attitude toward his/her profession (Ball & Lampert, 1999).

Negative professional attitude refers to disinterest of teacher towards their profession. Negative and unfavorable attitude makes teaching difficult, tedious and unpleasant (Litt & Turk, 1985). A teacher who has positive attitude towards students can contribute more to teaching and learning process, similarly positive attitude of teachers also helps in strengthening the relationship among students and teachers (Brown & Richard, 2008).

2. Objectives of the study

2.1 To assess the relationship of teaching professionalism and students' academic performance in light of available literature

3. Review of related literature

Teacher is one who has direct interaction with students, parents and also with the society. They do not feel ashamed to ask others about new things. They feel happiness while sharing ideas and views with their colleagues

and friends. Due to these among other reasons, teachers are considered as geniuses and respectable part of the society. Positive thinking, belief in services, self-regulations, dedication, self-sufficiency and guiding others are some basic tips for the well-being and for the good professional attitudes of the teachers (Villegas-Reimers, 2003).

For the effective learning of students, it is necessary that teachers adopt positive attitudes towards their students; otherwise students will be hesitant and burdened from their teaching. Teacher's beliefs, practices and attitudes are important in understanding and improving the educational process. For the purpose of effective learning and creating a conducive atmosphere, the teachers must make good plans and adopt positive attitudes toward their students (Borko, 2004).

Attitude is the consistent tendency to react positively or negatively in a particular way . Attitudes are totally dependent on the mental and emotional aspect of an individual (Fazio & Roskes, 1994).

Attitude is the personal reaction of teachers towards their students. It is just like other factors influencing the teaching and learning process. Performance of teachers is mainly dependent on their reaction towards students. In this context, Drent and Meelissen (2008) states that the attitude of teachers is considered one of the most important factors influencing the teaching and learning process. The study further states that attitude of the teacher concerned can have significant influences on teaching process. In a similar study, it is found that if the attitude of teachers is positive toward their students, then students will respect their teachers and appreciate teacher's performance (Hargreaves, 2000). It also affirmed by several studies that some teachers have high experiences and qualifications but have no respect and appreciations from students. It does not mean that they have lack of confidence or any other problems but mainly it is concerned with their attitude towards their students (Capra *et al.*, 2006).

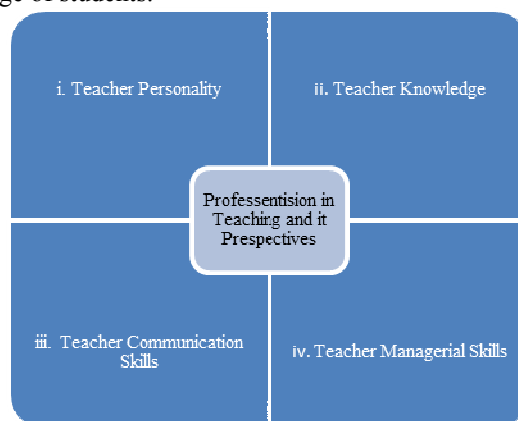
The basic aim of teaching students is to prepare them for their actual professional field of life. Attitude of teachers has great role in this regard. If the teacher adopts positive or good attitude with students then they can easily promote their academic as well as their social life (Hussain *et al.*, 2011).

There is a great relationship between the professional development of teachers and can easily learn and achieve their desired goals (Borko, 2004). Professional developments not only change the attitude of teachers but also help in the development of overall academic achievements of the students in their educational institutions (Villegas, 2003).

According to Khan, A. and Khan, S. (2016), there are four main prospective of teacher professional life.

1. Maintenance of personality
2. Upgrading knowledge
3. Management
4. Communication

A teacher who is competent in all aspects will not only enjoy the teaching profession but can contribute more to the knowledge of students.



Four Main Perspectives of the Teaching Profession

1. Personality

“Personality consists of stable characteristics that explains why a person behaves in a particular way” (Mullins, 2005 Pp-58). In a broader sense, personality may be defined as “ the characteristics that makes one unique and different from others” (Callahan, 1966).

A person is judged based on the personality because the personality is the combination of all those unique characteristics that makes one unique and socially acceptable (Holt, 1971). Maintenance of personality is among the key factors that greatly influences the teaching and learning process. It means that the relationship of personality between the teacher and students in academics is significant (Binti & Othman, 2009).

Training events for the effectiveness of different personality traits may not only develop the personality of a teacher but it has a great role in the academic development of the students. Arif (2012) gave further explanation on the following main personality traits

1. Conscience: *dependable, hard-working, organized, self disciplined, persistent, responsible*
2. Emotional stability: *Calm, secure, happy, unworried*
3. Agreeable: *Co-operative, worm caring, good-natured, Courteous trusting*
4. Extravert: *Sociable, outgoing, talkative assertive, Gregarious*
5. Openness to experience: *Curious, intellectual, creative, cultured, artistic, sensitive, flexible imaginative*

According to Dickson and Wiersma (1984), and Gibney and Wiersma (1986), the personality of teachers having great roles in the effectiveness of teaching and learning processes include emotional stability, emotional maturity, calmness, low anxiety, empathetic, sensitivity and warmth are all the basics of effective teaching (Gage, 1965).

2. Knowledge

Different teachers have different ways and methods of teaching, but it little is known about which teacher attributes greatly to knowledge base of the students. Teachers with good knowledge significantly influence the teaching and learning processes (Johannes *et al.*, 2010). Different studies indicate that there is a significant relationship between teacher knowledge and students achievement (Glewwe & Kremer 2006). The authors are also of the opinion that teachers with high qualification are always preferred by students and their parents.

3. Communication skills

Effective teaching needs the practice of scientific discourse in the class-room (Mortimer and Scott, 2002). According to Driver *et al.*, (1999), a teacher is responsible for the effectiveness of learning program. The author recommends that the teacher can use pictures, graphs, tables and examples related to the topic. Following the above, Lange (2012) explains the four steps for the effectiveness of teaching profession as:

1. **Recognize the importance of your work (As a teacher you must understand the worth of your work)**
2. **Update the level of Knowledge (As a teacher you need to update knowledge by getting involved in different research activities)**
3. **Stress the multifaceted nature of teaching (the teacher should make the teaching process joyful by facing all the situations with great zeal and conduct)**
4. **Contribute to the teaching community at large (Besides these, the teacher should consider the opinion of community by introducing or establishing something new in the teaching curriculum in conformity with the norms and traditions of the community)**

To facilitate students, teachers need to have good communication skills. Teaching does not depend on the technicality but it totally depends on the teaching methods and the communication pattern adopted by the teacher (Loss, 2000). It is researched that Effectiveness of teaching mainly depends upon the communication skills of a teacher. Good communication is not only needed for the effective teaching profession but it is also very important for the effectiveness of every segment of life. In this context, it is necessary to teach them communication skills at both the initial education level for the teaching work, and continually in the profession

4. Managerial skills

Management of class is a complicated task that takes time. In the beginning, a teacher feels burdened and uncomfortable in the teaching learning process. It is all because of this reason that class room management is totally related with experience. Teachers with good management skills can easily satisfy the students. **Bob Kizlik (2014) suggested the following as effective classroom management.**

1. *Know what you want and what you don't want.*
2. *Show and tell your students what you want.*
3. *When you get what you want, acknowledge (not praise) it.*
4. *When you get something else, act quickly and appropriately.*

Teaching is considered as a very easy task and a very great number of people involve in this profession. Similarly, a very little number of teachers are satisfied with their profession. The main barrier which create hurdle for teachers in the way of successful teaching is classroom management. Managerial skills of teachers do not only influence the academic success of the students but it has great impact on the overall promotion of the institution (**Robert *et al.*, 2003**).

Teaching is one of the most underestimated professions in the world. Majority of people consider that no special skills are needed for effectiveness of this profession, but the fact is it is very difficult to face and handle a classroom full of students. For effective teaching, it is not enough to have a good command on the concerned subject. A good teacher is basically needed to maintain the routine discipline of the class (Okeley, 2010). The author further stated that being a good teacher, it is necessary for you to possess the following classroom management skills.

1. *Authority*
2. *Knowledge*
3. *Individualization*
4. *Time-management*
5. *Patience.*

4. Findings and Discussion

After the review of different research articles concerned with teaching professionalism and the students learning process, it is confirmed that professional attitudes of teachers have great impact on the academics of the students. Such emerging concept is supported by the studies whose findings indicated that professional attitudes of teachers have great impact on the students' academics (Eggen & Kauchak, 2001; Bain & Ken, 2004 & Chelo, 2010). The study has shown that positive professional attitudes have significant role in the academic success of the students. The findings of the present study are supported by the study conducted by Ball and Lampert (1999) whose findings revealed that positivity is necessary for a teacher with the profession for making the profession effective and boosting the academic experience of the students. The present study has revealed that negative attitude of teachers may cause the academic failure of the students. Same findings have also been found from the study conducted by Litt & Turk (1985) that the negative attitude of teachers is the main cause of students' failure in their academics.

5. Conclusion

It has been concluded that positive attitude of teacher have very constructive impact on students academic achievement and contribute to effective teaching and learning process. The study has affirmed that sound personality, up to date knowledge, classroom management and better communication skills are the influential factors which makes the learning process effective one. Hence, the researchers recommended that the teachers may consider all the aforementioned factors for effective teaching.

6. Recommendations of the study

On the basis of findings and conclusions, the researcher recommended

1. Different awareness programs such as workshop, seminar etc may be conducted for the professional development of teachers.
1. Teachers should be concerned with their personality as it is part of their profession.
2. The academics or knowledge level of teachers may be improved from time to time for updating the knowledge and improving the level of information. For this purpose special seminar, workshops, lectures for teacher should be conducted in their concerned field.
3. Good managerial skills necessarily be adopted for physical education teachers during classroom lecture. It is recommended that the institutions of higher education with the collaboration of higher education commission (HEC) may organize the managements seminars, workshop and training programs for developing and improving the managerial skills of teachers working at the university in Pakistan
4. Teachers may adopt good communication skills with students inside and outside the premises of institute. Therefore it is also recommended that the teacher may develop the communication skills by participating in different types of workshop, seminars and training programs.

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