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UNDERSTANDING TEACHERS' EDUCATIONAL VALUES AND BELIEFS: A THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVE

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ABSTRACT

The Present paper emphasizes the relevance of developing reflective practices among teachers, focusing on the interaction between their values and beliefs and care in teaching. This reflective practice describes the fundamental values and key concepts of ethical policy in education. It evaluates how a teacher can effectively fulfill ethical provisions using the principles of ethical policy. It discusses the potential positive outcomes of reflective practice between students and teachers. As stated by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) in its policy document, educational values cannot be taught as a separate subject but must be integrated through all core subjects such as social sciences, sociology, and Hindi, to maintain relevance. In the context of the National Education Policy 2020, this paper has discussed the detailed teaching philosophy, fundamental values, beliefs, and the concept of character, to create a positive and impactful educational environment so that students can prepare themselves with functional teaching skills for the challenges of the 21st century.

KEYWORDS: *Reflective Practice, Educational Values, Beliefs, Ethics in Teaching*

INTRODUCTION

The NEP 2020 focuses on making teachers sensitive and reflective so that they can incorporate values, beliefs, and responsibilities into their teaching work. This will help students gain clarity in identifying their own values and beliefs, reflecting confidence and clarity. Additionally, by integrating concepts of character, values, and beliefs into the curriculum, it will also be possible to study them. The Policy emphasizes developing teachers' teaching philosophy. This will encourage students to evaluate the impact of their personal values and beliefs, providing appropriate guidance for teachers to become effective and sensitive.

Values, Beliefs, and Character of Teachers in Education

The role of teachers in education is crucial, and the values, beliefs, and characters of teachers are also very important. Teachers not only impart knowledge but also act as motivators and guides in a student's life. The values, beliefs, and characters of a teacher leave an indelible mark on a student's life and play a significant role in establishing their social, moral, and emotional development.When a teacher teaches students in the classroom, the values and qualities inherent in the teacher are reflected in the students' daily lives and behaviors, resulting in noticeable changes each day. For instance, the values of respect, fairness, and honesty (as shown in Figure 1) are experienced by students during the teaching process, leading to the development of these values in them, thereby facilitating their character formation.

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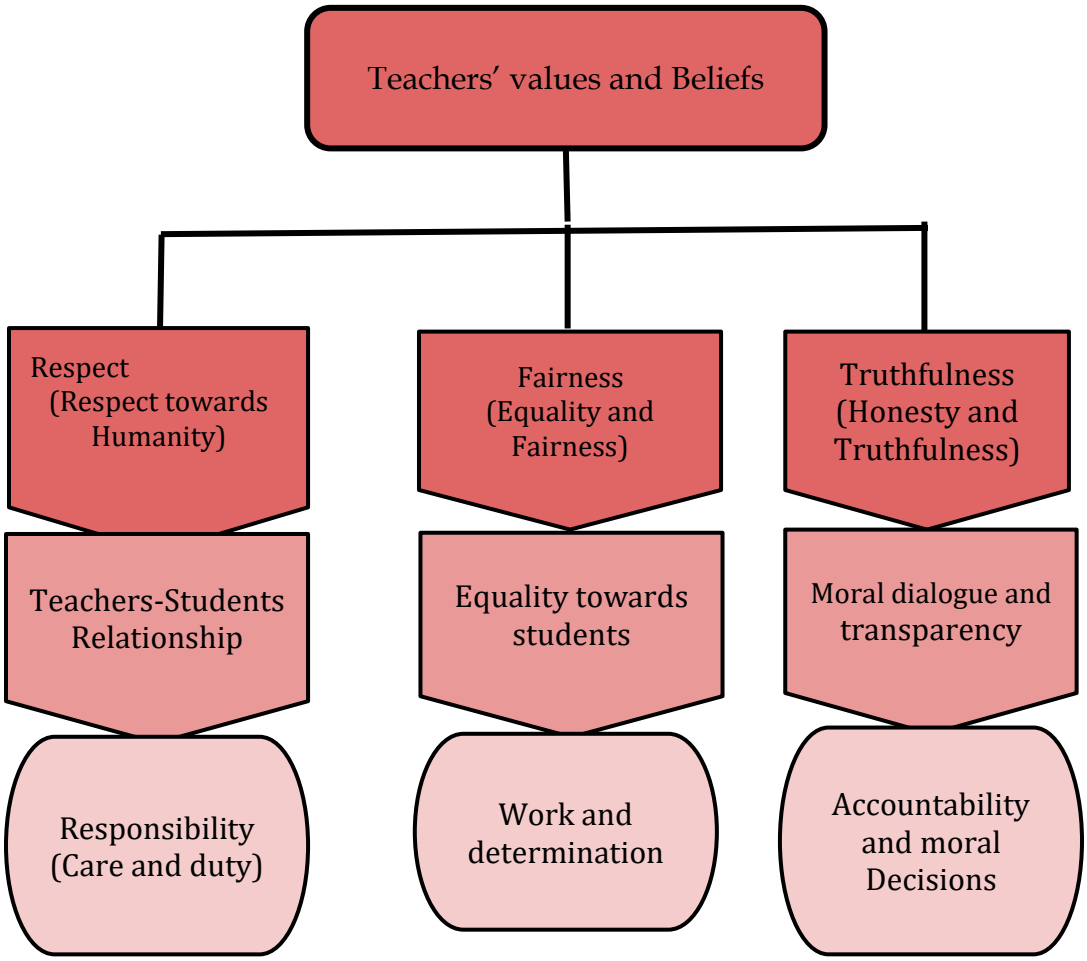


Figure 1: Values and Beliefs of a Teacher (Source: Authors' Creation)

The belief of students in their teachers holds great significance in their lives. Beliefs in learning activities, the importance of education, and students' skill capabilities help them to become self-reliant in achieving their goals.The character of a teacher, such as their responsibility towards others, respect, and integrity, emphasizes shaping the dissemination of education. A positive character in a teacher also inspires a student to live with their behavior and moral values. A teacher's ideal life and behavior serve as a model for students, guiding them to make appropriate decisions and become true, honest, and civilized citizens. Thus, the beliefs, values, and character of teachers contribute to establishing morality and empowerment in society through education. Ultimately, the values, beliefs, and character in education also aid in transmitting confidence and clarity in students' lives.

Exploring Current Teaching Philosophy

Due to changes in the dimensions of education and learning in our environment, shifts can be observed in the needs of society. Modern educational thought moves beyond traditional teaching methods, placing the holistic development of students and the experience of knowledge acquisition at its core. The elements defining contemporary teaching philosophy are Child centered teaching and Inclusive Education.Child-Centered Teaching focuses on modern teaching philosophy which is based on child-centered education, where the teacher's responsibility extends beyond merely providing knowledge to fostering independence by acting as a guide and support.Inclusive Education consists of contemporary teaching philosophy, all types of students are provided with equal opportunities, regardless of their social class or caste. Students are given the right to receive education that respects their abilities and learning styles. Thus, "inclusive education is one that provides all students with the opportunity to learn so that their full potential can be developed."The teaching philosophy like Socio-emotional Education encompasses not only cognitive development but also social and emotional development, allowing students to comprehend the practical needs, understanding, and possibilities present in society. Further, they make sure that they help their students build self-management, self-awareness, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible and caring decision making.

Practical and Problem Based teaching techniques help students to cope with any challenges they face during their daily life which leads them to a successful solution of their problems which in turn

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brings out their self dependence.Reflective Teaching asking teachers to reflect on their teaching and evaluate their practices. It is a way for teachers to experience reflection, cognition and learning all things that make them feel more mature and steely in the sense of the ongoing teaching process. We would also recommend teachers use this to examine their own practices so that they can adjust them as appropriate.

The use of Technology integration is very critical in modern educational philosophy. It helps teachers as well as students to learn with accessibility towards digital tools and online resources to make the subject explanation really interesting and interactive with the help of the professors.The modern philosophy of teaching promotes lifelong learning as a continuous activity that the students must embrace for gaining new knowledge, which will also inspire them to become self-motivated learners.A concept that has gained importance in modern educational philosophy, cultural relevance is the first step in honoring and acknowledging diverse cultural backgrounds. This treats the cultural identity of students with high priority which is one of the aims to create an inclusive educational environment.This approach is expansive and adaptable, integrating multiple frameworks, models, and philosophies, to offer students an integrated experience that inspires belongingness. It relates the teachers with the traditional processes of a teacher which makes a relevant contribution in cultivation of a pure, virtuous, and advanced society.

Importance of Reflective Practices for Teachers

The reflective practice is one of the most necessary elements in the professional development of the teachers as it enables the teachers or also any educators to make a critical appreciation of their teaching systems, values, and behaviors. These practices enable teachers to know their strengths and weaknesses in teaching. Here, teachers learn through experience and also introduce new perspectives in their teaching methods to better the teaching process. Reflective practice directs teachers into the direction of continuous growth, giving them the tools to become more responsive, mindful, and accountable.Role of Ethics in Teacher Education:Ethics plays a pivotal role in teacher education as it stirs up teachers to the ethical framework for their professional conduct. Ethics provides teachers with an understanding of right and wrong, enabling them to successfully convey this distinction to their students. In this way, teachers raise awareness among students regarding their responsibilities. Without ethics, teachers cannot fulfill their obligations effectively. Teachers should not only implement ethics in their profession but should also uphold ethics throughout their lives with genuine faith and dedication to set an exemplary example for society.

Foundations and Principles of the Ethics of Care

The primary activity of teacher education is built upon the development of ethics. Unfortunately, the elements of teaching have not been organized effectively, and teacher education programs have not been constructed properly. When a teacher teaches with the needs of their students in mind and treats all their problems as their own to resolve, the true meaning of the ethics of care becomes clear. The teaching process should develop around care, which includes understanding the needs of students, solving problems, and providing timely guidance. Thus, the principles of the ethics of care are based on the premise that both teachers and students should adhere to the ethics of care towards each other, fostering feelings of affection and respect to create positivity in education.

The ethics of care in education is based on principles and values that attempt to establish empathetic and sensitive relationships with students. This requires teachers to have unwavering trust and commitment towards their students, establishing positive collaboration between teachers and students while upholding the principles of the ethics of care. Teachers should provide a positive educational environment for students to ensure their holistic development.The educational methodology of care refers to a scenario where teachers recognize and support the personal and emotional needs of students.The educational methodology mainly talks about teaching strategy with care of ethics which emphasizes the relevance of respect and empathy in teaching practices.It fosters a nurturing environment for the students to build strong relationships between students and teachers. In such an environment students feel welcomed and valued which creates an inclusive environment for the students learning. This methodology increases students' horizon of learning, promotes psychological well-being and encourages constructive behaviour.

Continuous Development and Reflective Practices

Reflective practices examine the happening of classrooms which also go through the work progress. It helps teachers to understand their teaching strategies and improve them to better support their students. Through FDP (Faculty development Programme) a teacher revamp their professional skills and development and it also aids them to keep them up to date as per the time and requirement. NEP 2020 also advocates about the Capacity building programme for enhancing the skills of teachers so that they can perform better while teaching and learning process. As it has also focused on experiential learning which is very relevant for a teacher and students both. Teachers are very beneficial to take from self-care to professional quality of life. Instructional support of teachers is very pivotal because it aids students in direction and feedback as and when necessary to motivate the student (Pianta & Hamre, 2009).There are many practices which make the teachers review and update their teaching strategies along with content and forms, which is also getting them good accountability and responsibility.

Inclusion in Curriculum Development

As PARAKH of NCERT talks about HPC (Holistic Progress Card) which has mentioned competencies and curricular goals for students to capture by the teachers. It not only prepares students for academic success but also infuses moral and emotional aspects too. For bringing awareness about the responsibilities NCERT textbook for social science developed accordingly. It has mentioned the tasks and pedagogical practices which can help

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them to understand the right and wrong activities. In a classroom students come from a diverse background which bring multilinguality, inclusiveness and fetch compassion among students. It also boosts the teachers' understanding in terms of diverse thought processes from all across India. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has also talked about ten types of Core life skills.which are also infused to inform students about the significance of honesty, discipline and integrity.

Teacher-Student relationship built on trust and respect, which is considered a positive and effective gesture. Such a relationship is not only formal but also embodies the cultural, educational, and moral framework of society. The foundation of student-teachers relies on two things such as respect and the moral framework of society. Such a foundation brings development among students-teachers. High-quality developmental connections between teacher and students affect the students' motivation to grasp especially in difficult subjects such as English (Peng, 2021). Students trust their teacher because they are optimistic towards the teacher that he will act in a specific manner even though the student does not know whether the teacher will do so. We occasionally find ourselves in situations in which trust is needed.This is also absolutely true for students at school premises too. In many situations, students didn't have any clue about whether the teacher which he teaches is worth knowing or not. They blindly trust the teaching of their teacher that relevant content and a worthwhile learning method will be provided by them. Also,when it comes to evaluating their intellectual competences that they have learnt in class, students trust that the teacher will facilitate them with helpful and overwhelming feedback, that the teacher will not make poke of their mistakes and that the teacher will acknowledge the effort and growth that the students have made.

Reflective Teaching on Student Outcomes

We constantly engage with our surroundings and we make our pathways through life. There are no people without stories (Polkinghorne, 1988). Teachers use several techniques to deal with the range of challenges by infusing these stories in their work. Reflective teaching is beyond the teaching methods. It is about the intrinsic things of nature which must be reflected through care and ethics. Reflective teaching imprints a positive outlook on students' performance. It enables students to become self-reliant and confident in their life. Hence, students' academic performance will also escalate. Promoting a caring exposure for teachers' professional growth is important. Which yields a positive energy to teachers and adapting them to completely in their teaching process with the positive mind and spirits. Teachers have a very crucial role to foster reflection in their students' minds. It means that reflection should consist of more than simple reflective training. It has been observed through observation that teachers should admit and consider other contemporary teaching insights which can be recognised by reading research reports such as ASER report, research outcomes etc. Teachers who search their orientation towards the teaching profession through critical thinking can signify their professional practices along with the improvement of their students' learning. In other terms teachers are needed to apply their growing 'knowledge base' (Schulman, 1987) to find out problems arising in their classrooms and schools through 'reflection-in-action' and 'reflection-on-action' and make an effort to resolve such problems through regular reflection and critical thinking into their own practices (Schon,1983).

CONCLUSION

To conclude, it highlighted the reflective practice for teachers, and approaches which boost pedagogical ethics.Such practices provides teachers and apt guidance to improvise their facilitation. It also permits them to link their work in an easy and smooth way. In this way a teacher can work on their strengths and weaknesses due to which it leads to improvement in the teaching learning process.It also focuses on empathy, compassion, humility and kindness along with ethics of care. Ethics play a prominent role in education as they expose students' personal and emotional growth.Such criteria fulfill students' requirements and also yield them with a serene and positive environment.Through this method, teachers promote not only academic but also moral and emotional education. The caring environment plays a vital role in professional development, contributing to timely growth.

On the other hand, the inclusion of values and care in curriculum development supports students' holistic development. This paper also discusses trust and respect in teacher-student relationships; when a teacher has trust and respect for their students, the students reciprocate with trust and respect towards their teacher's feelings and moral values. The respect and trust between students and teachers create positive relationships, allowing for the overall development of students. Reflective teaching leaves a positive imprint on student outcomes, fostering self-confidence and self-reliance. Consequently, students' academic achievements improve significantly. The development of a caring environment for teachers is also very important, as it allows teachers to advance their teaching while considering students' interests and addressing their difficulties in simple language.

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