

From the Desk of Dr. Atthreya

A PROFESSIONAL TEACHER



We hear of a professional doctor, a professional lawyer, a professional architect and so on.

Why are they so described? Can a teacher be described 'professional'? She or he can be if she or he is a professional.

What is being a professional? To become a professional, one takes a few conscious and systematic steps like the following.

A professional exposes oneself to an organised body of knowledge. The doctor, the lawyer, and the architect pursue a course of studies and get duly qualified.

A professional gets apprenticed to a senior to learn the tangibles and intangibles of the profession.

A professional keeps learning. A professional becomes a member of an association and avails of its facilities for so doing.

In some countries, so she/he does not become dated and static, she/he has to formallyqualify herself or himself periodically.

A professional abides by a code of ethics.

A professional pursues excellence, technical and human.

She/he does not ever say: I have arrived. "Being a professional is a journey and not a destination."

In a recent discussion, Shri Kapil Sibil, our Human Resources Minister, was observing that some of our teachers are not good enough for their job.

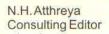
We can answer that objection by becoming a professional teacher.

We may not be able to correct the situation for the whole country. We can certainly do it for our school. And within a short time.

May be we are already taking steps like the following; and we can intensify them.



- 1. We can vote and work for excellence in what we do.
- 2. We can develop a code of ethics for ourselves. (I attach a draft which can be modified to suit our context.)
- 3. We can sit in our colleagues' classes not as critics but as admirers and benefit from each other's strengths.
- 4. We can have a monthly (say) meet when we can exchange information, ideas and experiences.
- We can hold "workshops" jointly with neighboring schools.
- 6. We can exchange notes with teachers abroad.
- 7. We can attempt a study tour to schools in India. Teachers are nation builders by chance and when they are professional teachers, they become nation builders by design.





That I have an obligation to the science and art of teaching. I will uphold the standards of my profession, continually search for new truths and disseminate my findings. I will keep myself fully informed of developments in the field of education and cooperate with others in the use of our common knowledge.

That I have an obligation to my clientele whose trust I hold. I will endeavour, to the best of my ability, to guard their interests.

That have an obligation to constantly and continuously equip myself so I can equip my students, in their formative years, for a life of dignity, decency and delight.

That I have an obligation to strive to evoke the highest potential in my wards

That I have an obligation to do all in my power to assure the progress and contentment of my fellow workers. I will at all times deal with them fairly and openly, sharing of my acquired knowledge and experience freely.

That I have a dual obligation to society, arising through my personal and professional relations in the social and economic life of our nation.

That I have a continuing obligation to my country and to the chosen way of life of my fellow citizens.

Further, I acknowledge my responsibility to discharge these obligations to the best of my ability.





