



From the Desk of Dr. Attheyra



## 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 formally qualify 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.

Maybe 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.

5. 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.



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### CODE OF ETHICS As a professional I acknowledge

*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 I 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.*