TEACHER PROFESSIONAL ETHICS AND MORALS: CONCEPTUAL ANALYSIS AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION IN THE WORLD OF EDUCATION

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Teacher Professional Ethics, Moral Education, Student Character, Teacher Professionalism	*Teacher professional ethics is an important foundation in carrying out educational tasks that focus not only on teaching, but also on moral development and character formation of students. Teachers are required to have integrity, responsibility, and exemplary behavior in carrying out their roles amidst the challenges of globalization and digitalization. This study aims to analyze the concept of teacher professional ethics, moral values in education, and their implementation in the world of education. The method used is a literature study of books and scientific journals. The results of the study indicate that teacher professional ethics plays a significant role in shaping the attitudes, behavior, and character of students through role models and the instilling of moral values.*

INTRODUCTION

A teacher's professionalism, reflected in the application of a code of ethics and professional ethics, is a crucial element in shaping students' character. A teacher not only acts as an instructor but also serves as a role model, shaping students' values and attitudes through daily interactions. According to Darling-Hammond et al. (2020), professional ethics for teachers encompasses moral integrity, social responsibility, and a commitment to fostering student development. In this modern era of education, the application of professional ethics is increasingly crucial for creating a learning environment that supports and encourages student character development. (Qalbi et al., 2025).

However, implementing professional ethics for teachers is not without challenges, especially in this digital age. Research conducted by Bender and Heystek (2019) shows that teachers often encounter difficulties in adapting ethical principles into practical practice, particularly in online learning. In Indonesia, a study by Sukmadinata and

Mulyasa (2023) reported that only 40% of educational institutions have a monitoring and evaluation system for implementing a code of ethics for teachers. Obstacles such as minimal training, lack of institutional support, and the complexity of requirements in the digital era are major obstacles to optimizing the role of professional ethics for teachers. Teachers' professional ethics directly impact the success of students' character education. Research by Hattie (2021) found that implementing professional ethics and a code of ethics for teachers requires systematic support through policies that support ongoing training and collaboration between schools, teachers, and parents. (Information, 2023).

LITERATURE REVIEW

Teacher professional ethics are behavioral guidelines that guide teachers in carrying out professional duties by upholding the values of integrity, justice, responsibility, and exemplary behavior, which play an important role in creating a conducive learning environment and improving the quality of education (Afriyani et al., 2025). The application of teacher professional ethics is closely related to moral education, which aims to instill noble values so that students are able to distinguish between good and bad behavior and apply them in everyday life through habituation and exemplary behavior (Asyha et al., 2025). Teachers who uphold the professional code of ethics become role models in attitudes, speech, and actions, thus having a positive influence on the formation of students' morals and character, such as honesty, discipline, and responsibility (Nailatsani, 2022). Although the implementation of teacher professional ethics still faces various challenges, such as administrative demands, technological developments, and weak supervision, the support of educational institutions and continuous professional development can strengthen the application of teacher professional ethics in supporting the success of moral education in schools (Johnson & Liu, 2022).

RESEARCH METHODS

This research uses a qualitative approach with a library research method. This method was chosen because the research focuses on examining concepts, theories, and previous research findings related to teacher professional ethics and morals in education. According to Zed (2014), library research is a data collection method that examines various written sources such as books, journals, scientific articles, and official documents relevant to the research topic.

This study investigates the role of professional ethics in improving the quality of contemporary teaching. Data are drawn from primary literature, consisting of official documents, and secondary literature, consisting of books, journals, and research reports. The data are analyzed descriptively and qualitatively to determine the relationship between professional ethics and improving teacher quality.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
Conceptual Analysis of Teaching Professional Ethics

Ethics and professionalism in education are crucial foundations in the field of education, particularly in developing the character and quality of human resources. Professional ethics in education relate to the norms and moral values that serve as a guide for educators in carrying out their roles. A teacher serves not only as a teacher but also as a role model and moral guide for students. According to Hamalik (2018), the ethics of an

educator encompass integrity, honesty, responsibility, fairness, and a commitment to humanitarian values.

Ethics in the teaching profession conceptually encompasses a number of moral principles, values, and norms that govern a teacher's actions, attitudes, and responsibilities as a professional in the world of education. These ethics are not merely official guidelines, but also a moral foundation that makes teachers moral role models for students, protects the honor of the profession, and ensures the quality of relationships in the teaching and learning process. In the modern era of education, ethics in the teaching profession is increasingly vital, given the increasingly complex challenges of the times, particularly in the era of digitalization and globalization.

Moral Values of Teachers In Education

In addition to serving as agents of social and economic change, teachers also serve as character educators in society. Through positive examples and behaviors, such as greetings, polite messages, and gentle language, teachers help students develop their morals. They also help students behave in an orderly manner in their daily school life. Religion, honesty, independence, responsibility, justice, mutual respect, and courtesy are important values instilled in them. A stronger and more sustainable strategy is needed to instill these moral values because, despite teachers' effective role, some students still exhibit poor moral development, such as teasing, disrespecting others, and refusing to help others.

In addition to being educators, teachers also serve as coaches, role models, mentors, and evaluators. Teachers not only teach students relevant moral and ethical values, but they also provide real-life examples through daily attitudes and behaviors that demonstrate empathy, honesty, and integrity. Real-life activities in schools, such as the "School Cleanup Day" program, which instills a sense of responsibility and concern for the environment, support this role. To foster morality effectively and comprehensively, educators must provide students with nurturing guidance in dealing with ethical violations by explaining the consequences, setting clear boundaries, and encouraging students to reflect on their mistakes.

Implementation of Professional Ethics and Teacher Morals In The World of Education

In today's education system, teachers' professional ethics face various challenges, such as technological change, administrative pressures, and increasingly complex societal expectations. According to Zeichner and Bier (2021), teachers need to adapt their professional ethics to meet the challenges of the digital era, including maintaining student data security, using technology appropriately, and managing online communication with students. This is crucial because a teacher's job is not only to impart knowledge but also to shape students' attitudes and character through their example.

Implementing a code of ethics for teachers faces a variety of increasingly challenging obstacles. According to research by Johnson and Liu (2022), some of the main obstacles to implementing a code of ethics include diverse interpretations, inconsistent implementation, and limited monitoring mechanisms. Teachers often make ethical decisions not covered by regulations, such as resolving conflicts between individual student demands and school regulations. To address these challenges, ongoing training is needed to enable teachers to understand and implement the code of ethics in real-world situations.

Challenges in Implementing Professional Ethics and Teacher Morals

In modern education, many structural and cultural challenges hinder the implementation of professional ethics and teacher morals. One major problem is teachers' lack of understanding and internalization of professional codes of ethics. These codes are often viewed merely as rules and not applied in teaching practice. Furthermore, the numerous administrative responsibilities and professional demands from various parties, such as schools, parents, and the community, can cause psychological stress that can affect teachers' consistency in carrying out their work professionally and ethically.

Shifting social values and technological advancements pose another significant challenge. With the use of digital and social media, teachers must maintain their professional stance not only in the school environment but also in the digital public sphere. Furthermore, teachers often face moral dilemmas when making professional decisions due to differences in social norms and cultural values in society. Furthermore, the lack of institutional support for enforcing codes of ethics and continuously fostering professional ethics and morality in teachers within educational settings contributes to the problem.

CONCLUSION

Professional ethics for educators serves as the primary foundation for carrying out teaching duties, not only focusing on professional aspects but also prioritizing moral development and character building for students. Conceptually, professional ethics for teachers encompasses values such as integrity, responsibility, honesty, fairness, and exemplary behavior, which must be evident in teachers' actions and attitudes. Morals in education play a crucial role as a guideline for distinguishing between good and bad and shaping students' character through positive habits and examples.

There is a very close relationship between teacher professional ethics and moral aspects, because ethics is a concrete manifestation of the application of moral values in education. The implementation of professional ethics and morals by teachers in schools significantly influences the success of student character development. However, in practice, the implementation of professional ethics and morals by teachers still faces various obstacles, such as administrative pressure, changing social values, and technological advances. Therefore, there is a need for increased understanding, continuous development, and institutional support so that teachers can carry out their roles with professionalism, morality, and integrity.

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