

Chapter 5: The Spirituality of Being a Teacher

Definition of Teacher Spirituality

Teacher spirituality refers to being a teacher with genuine love and dedication to the teaching profession, showing compassion toward students, demonstrating patience, possessing moral and ethical values, and being willing to make sacrifices for the benefit of society as a whole.

(Supitchaya Kothawi, 2014)

Components of Teacher Spirituality

(1) Self-Development

Pursuing knowledge for continuous self-development, demonstrating diligence and perseverance in seeking new knowledge and learning opportunities.

(2) Compassion in Professional Practice

Accepting cultural differences, performing professional duties based on reason and sound judgment, remaining free from prejudice, and upholding democratic principles.

(3) Initiative and Creativity

Assessing students through a variety of approaches; developing new teaching materials, educational innovations, and instructional methods; and identifying, addressing, and improving shortcomings arising from the teaching and learning process.

(4) Adherence to Professional Ethics

Devoting oneself to the benefit and advancement of the teaching profession; performing one's duties with dedication so that the teaching profession is respected and valued; and demonstrating sincerity and a strong sense of responsibility toward the teaching profession.

(5) Perseverance and Dedication

Working diligently and conscientiously, demonstrating enthusiasm, dedicating sufficient time to one's duties, and performing responsibilities to the best of one's ability.

(6) Compassion and Benevolence

Showing goodwill, generosity, care, and compassion toward students, while adhering firmly to moral and ethical principles based on religious teachings.

(7) Professional Integrity

Not claiming another person's work as one's own; recognizing and respecting the value and dignity of every human being; refraining from seeking personal benefits from students; and treating all students equally and fairly.

(8) Goodness and Virtuous Conduct

Being generous and willing to share, helping others, demonstrating politeness and gentleness, making sacrifices, and showing empathy and consideration toward others.

(9) Love and Faith in the Teaching Profession

Having a strong love for the teaching profession and valuing it above other professions; having firm faith and confidence in the teaching profession; and demonstrating a strong commitment and determination to pursue teaching as one's first and foremost professional choice.

(10) Teaching Practice

Developing effective teaching and learning methods and appropriately applying existing knowledge to instructional practices in accordance with students' abilities, needs, and potential.

Indicators of Teacher Spirituality

1) Fulfilling Professional Roles and Responsibilities

Performing one's roles and responsibilities as a teacher appropriately and conscientiously.

2) Positive Human Relations and Being a Good Friend

Maintaining positive interpersonal relationships and demonstrating friendliness, understanding, and genuine concern for others.

3) Being a Good Role Model

Demonstrating appropriate behavior and serving as a positive role model for students in both personal and professional conduct.

4) Applying Educational Psychology in Teaching

Applying principles of educational psychology to understand students and appropriately support their learning and development.

5) Love and Faith in the Teaching Profession

Demonstrating genuine love, commitment, and faith in the teaching profession.

6) Morality and Ethics

Demonstrating moral values and ethical conduct in both personal life and professional practice.

7) Teacher-Student Relationships

Establishing positive, caring, and supportive relationships between teachers and students based on mutual respect, trust, and understanding.

