



## Meaning of Profession

### Introduction:

The term "Profession" as used in the modern context, has no specific counterpart in the ancient societies. There however, existed three classic professions; they are- theology, law and medicine, but the practitioners did not unite to form organized professions. These three professions had for a long time in the west a prestige, which was "highly prized and zealously guarded". By the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the impact of scientific age and industrial revolution created new areas of specialized intellectual activity and the need for new professions, which began to proliferate rapidly. The use of word, profession/professional is not so old. In this regard, some educationists have defined this as "when a number of people found to be practicing indefinite techniques based on specialized training". It may also be defined as under;

- a. Based upon serving- occupation
- b. Based upon subject- specialization
- c. Based upon technical – qualification
- d. Based upon intellectual – diversion
- e. Based upon social welfare – intention
- f. Based upon full time – devotion
- g. Based upon expert – consultation
- h. Based upon fee – monetary motivation
- i. Based upon loyal – association
- j. Based upon ideal- communication etc.

Few words are loosely used as profession. Almost every specialized group and its members can claim to offer a significant service to society, begin to identify themselves as professionals. Occupations that were new, a few years ago are fully recognized professions. New professions are emerging at an accelerating rate. Even within a specific profession, a high degree of specialization is splitting it into several professional groups. Moreover, many of the recognized professions are developing sub-professional groups which perform the less specialized skills of the profession.

## **Evolution of profession**

Evolution of a profession is not a matter of chance but effort, hard work and sincerity of the people who comprise it. The term profession as used in modern society had no counterpart in the ancient world. In Greece, Carman (1961) writes about profession- "the lawyer was not a trained advocate practicing before a specially trained judge; he was the litigant's friend speaking on his behalf before the litigant's peers". In Rome, Becker (1962) commented on professional - "as the general rule, the Physician was only a slave in a wealthy household; accountants, engineers and architects were employees of the state".

During the middle ages, men who provided what we now think of as professional services were either members of the priesthood or members of exclusive guilds. The medieval universities arose from the influence of these guilds and became the training centres for the professions. The common organization of the universities was clustered around four faculties; the faculties of arts, theology, law and medicine. Eventually, the professions broke away from the dominance of the church and set up their own associations, which in turn established centres of training for their membership. The Royal College of Surgeons, founded in Europe in 1518, is one example of the shift in control, although the connection with the church continued for some time.

By the end of the sixteenth century with the exception of teaching, the professions had become secularized; that is, those pursuing training no longer joined the holy orders; they formed their own secular guilds. Teaching, however continued to be dominated by the church until sometime after the reformation and teachers continued to be members of the priesthood. Throughout the eighteenth century, divinity, law and physic (medicine) continued to be recognized professions.

## **Meaning of profession**

Professional is the one pertaining to a profession. It addresses to an individual engaged in a profession following a career, competing for money, prizes or means of subsistence, as opposed to an amateur. A professional is above the capability of a person showing the skill, artistry, demeanor, and fulfilling the minimum requisites of entry and conduct appropriate of a particular profession, for example, one who deliberately engages in sport for livelihood or gains regarding the rules of interpretation for each sport.

In a simple way professional can be called as "People who carry-out application of their knowledge and technical skills". A professional creates some control over others to get admitted to professional ranks, rules and ethics to govern philosophy and practice of the profession and for the benefit of its collective membership and the society. To

quote for a few examples, medicine, law, communication, education and physical education & sports etc. are truly fit in its ambit.

According to Chamber's English Dictionary 1990, the word 'profession' connotes the act of professing; an open declaration; an avowal; a pretence; an employment not mechanical and requiring some degree of learning and cutting; habitual employment; the collective body of persons engaged in any profession; religious belief, entrance into a religious order; the vow then taken.

One of the puzzling aspects of the professions is the comparatively few studies which have been devoted to their history. In general there is relative paucity of published research, references and related literature of historic and interpretive nature on the subject. So, also the term 'profession' lacks a precise definition.

### **Definition of profession**

According to Carsounders (1928), a profession may perhaps be defined as "an occupation based on the specialized training and intellectual study with the purpose to provide skilled training on advice to others with a definite fee or salary". The above quotation "fee or salary" needs emphasis in today's context, and is of no consequences since remuneration mode is commonplace in view of the emergence of new professions whose members are largely salaried works. He also defines as "The profession emerges, when a number of people are found to be practicing with a definite technique based on the specialized training"

Stainhacis defined profession as "a practice of discipline to the service of mankind," On the other hand, Rakesh Gupta expressed the explanation of profession into the following three fold dimensions such as;

- a. Specialized expertisation in the field
- b. Full time assigned advocacy
- c. Source of earning of money in lieu of provided service

### **Criteria of profession**

If profession lacks a precise definition, the identification of criteria applicable to profession emerges very clearly.

Following are the six criteria of profession given by Abraham Flexner (1915)

1. They involve essentially intellectual operation.
2. They draw their raw material from science and learning.
3. They work up this material to a practical and definite end.
4. They possess an educationally communicable technique.
5. They tend towards self-organization.
6. They are becoming increasingly altruistic in nature.

To the above six criteria, Liberman M. (1956) added two more criteria of greater significance as given below;

1. A broad range of autonomy for both the individual practitioners and for the occupational group as a whole; and
2. An acceptance by the practitioners of broad personal responsibility for judgments made and acts performed within the scope of professional autonomy.

The outstanding marks of recognized professions are easily identifiable. If intellectual competence, scientific knowledge and continuous learning are the fundamentals, then professional association formation is simply essential as a reflection of the normal urge of humans to band together to further common interests. This explains why most professions have been able to emerge with a single, overall, all-inclusive, general association of practitioners. Quite often, special interest associations are noted but these are typically subsets of the whole.

### **Significance of the profession**

The professional is a biomedica to serve in a respective area of his specialization. The professional should have his own significance to get the recognition as professional in the field. The following significance of the professional can be presented as under:

1. To develop the concept of democracy for professional and non-professional people.
2. To maintain the high standard in management and practice.
3. To raise the status of professional community and people.
4. To recognize the professional as being fully competent, accepted by all in the society.
5. To fulfill the needs and requirements of the society in the specific field.
6. To strengthen the professional by supporting the research outcomes for practical implementation.
7. To guide the professional to serve within the limitations of the professionalism.
8. To provide the scope for their respectable earning.
9. To provide the designation, as per their experience and status.
10. To provide an opportunity to act as "Authority" of the field.

### **Physical education as a profession**

Physical Education as a Profession leads to the fact that the following must form the basis of a profession, that is –

- competent service;
- unique body of scientific knowledge;
- specialized preparation;
- regulation of admission at entry point;
- regulation of professional and ethical code.

Although each profession is different but they all observe the following practices:

- Members recruit and admit only the best qualified men and women to their ranks.
- Applicants must undergo an extended period of training to meet the established requirements. During these preparatory years, they acquired a broad cultural education, a thorough understanding of the principles upon which the profession is based and mastery and the competence their work requires.
- To protect the public against incompetent practitioners, professional men secure a state license to practice or some other form of control regulates their admission to membership.
- Desire to serve mankind motivates member of professions. They place the duties of their calling above the thoughts of personal success, comfort and financial awards.
- Members of professions keep studying and pushing back the frontiers of knowledge in their fields.
- They form organizations to promote their interest and improve ethical standards.
- Professional people make their chosen work a lifetime carrier.
- Members of professions establish codes of ethics. These codes are not state laws but rather, group imposed standards of approved behaviours for all members to observe in their relationships with associates and the public.

It is most appropriate to consider physical education as a profession in the light of previous discussions of the terms profession,' 'professionalism' and 'professional'. The attempt is inclusive of another approach to determine physical education as a profession in relevance to other established professions. This manner of evaluation may depict strengths as well as deficiencies and will enable one to determine areas in which improvement is needed.

## **Conclusion**

To conclude, by "profession" the underlying consensus amongst varied authorities nevertheless leads to those occupation that fulfill certain criteria normally associated with profession as against occupations. Further, it is generally thought that profession enjoys the right of autonomy of setting professional norms vis-a vis society in lieu of the important service they render to it. This looks to be a functionalist's perspective which views professions as functional for the fulfillment of certain important social needs.

Thus the term "profession" which is described in many ways depending upon ones orientation, often is narrowed down to those occupations that require advance study in college or university to assured of certain competence in a particular field, with technical basis, asserting an exclusive jurisdiction, link both skill and jurisdiction, to standards of training and convince the public that its services are uniquely trustworthy.