

## Professionalism

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Since independence of Pakistan in 1947, there were very few recognized colleges in the country. Pakistan was searching for highly talented professionals from all over the country. In that day and age, the efforts of Mr.A.M.Nizamani who built a college with the vision to produce professionals in various fields was a ray of hope. It filled the requirements of the country at that time and in the future. That institution was named Cadet College Petaro.

Cadet College Petaro has a history of 50 years and in this half century many Petarians have served the country in various departments of the government of Pakistan and in the private sector. Professionalism is the key to inner strength of any Petarian. A Petarian is expected to be a person of exemplary character. And Petarians have attained positions of respect in every walk of life - in the Armed Forces of Pakistan, in government services (Civil Services and elected offices), in Police services, in Industry, in Business & Trade, in Management, in Technology, in Medicine, in Educational Institutions, in Agriculture, in Journalism, in national Sports, in public service and in the Entertainment industry.

Petarians are usually very highly motivated and great enthusiasts. This is mainly due to their mental setup which plays a key role in their lives. The manners start from saluting the seniors in the corridors of the house where juniors treat their seniors as true mentors. This discipline is very critical to attain professionalism.

Cadets are trained in such a way which is seen even from example in the mess. Each cadet learns how to manage the time while having meals and finish the meal within the time provided. Cadets are not allowed to sit and eat after the meal time officially ends. And eating is allowed within the mess premises only. It is worthwhile to know that these manners are learnt with the passage of time as cadets get moulded to it and adapt as a habit.

Time management is also an important aspect which is learnt by the cadets of Petaro. We need to stand in fall-in when we go for morning parade, physical

training, classes, sports, cinema and gardening. This is a part of gaining discipline and manner which results to a professional of high calibre and strong instinct.

It is these minutiae of our daily lives which train these cadets to become professionals in their fields with fine etiquettes. Professionalism is a set of internalized character strengths and values directed toward high-quality service to others through one's work. In the daily routine of cadets, whatever it may be, real professionals show these inner strengths and attitudes – sound judgment, know-how, business savvy, mature responsibility, problem-solving perseverance and ingenuity, along with what people call "class". When these cadets pass out and become ex-cadets they show self-respect in their work and their lives.

Cadets are conscious that their work reflects their inner character. Their work is, among other things, a statement of their personal commitment to excellence of performance resulting in the competition for the sword of honour or best sportsman of the year. They don't see work as just a job to be done; they see work as service to others. They labour toward the betterment of other people and for the sake of Pakistan, directly or indirectly; thus they become both task-oriented and people oriented.

Cadets tend to see problems as challenges and opportunities, not burdensome "hassles" to be avoided when they are asked to wake up in the morning at sunrise and asked to turn lights out at a specific time in the night. They develop long-term habits of approaching problems confidently and optimistically. They don't let indecision or fear of failure lead to paralysis. They do the best they can with what they have. They have a high level of personal responsibility and respect for others' rights. They tend to have an intense dislike for gossip or otherwise uninformed criticism. Even off the college, cadets as professionals demonstrate admirable character. Their personalities show tasteful self-restraint combined with concern for others and love of life – in a word, 'class'.

Cadets demonstrate professionalism in the performance of job tasks. They have the ability to handle both task-oriented duties and people-oriented duties, as well as an above-average ability to do more than one thing at a time and remain focused under stress. They have a strong sense of their limitations: they know they can't

solve every problem, yet they do the best they can with what they have. They don't get involved personally with callers. They empathize, not sympathize, and they don't take it home. They have the conviction to give an opinion without timidity and the self assurance to take risks when necessary.

Cadets and ex-cadets have a strong desire to learn new techniques to perfect their job skills which we learn as the time passes. They have a high degree of self-discipline to organize and prioritize each day's job duties and a good ability to prioritize events and information effectively. They act decisively, using good judgment (common sense) and make decisions without analysis paralysis or tunnel vision. They have confidence in their abilities and the self-reliance to act independently when required.

Accepting responsibility for their actions and accepting criticism which also develops by Cadets. They recognize and admit their faults and/or mistakes without blaming others. They do not engage in harmful gossip or other negative behaviour and strive to discourage it in others. They have respect for private, confidential information and the willingness and ability to support and carry out directives.