



Teacher education and NEP 2020

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Abstract

Over the last half a century and particularly, in the recent decades, teaching learning has been undergoing drastic changes. There has been a shift towards student centered classrooms with teacher's role more as facilitator of learning rather than an autocratic master. Unlike in the past when the teacher was entrusted with transferring the contents of curriculum to a passive audience of students, today new experiments are being tried out in the classroom that includes project based learning, development of thinking skills, and discovery learning approaches. As part of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) the textbooks have also been modified (in my opinion, to make them worse than before in many respects). Many teachers are not properly trained in implementing the concepts behind the new curriculum and many are not equipped to properly implement the curriculum.

Keywords: teacher, sarva shiksha abhiyan, opinion

Introduction

The funniest thing is that the teacher education centers and the curriculum followed in the teacher education have very little focus on new trends in education. The SSA training programs have excluded the teacher educators and have been confined to in-service teacher training alone. The pre-service teacher education sector has been kept away from the SSA and therefore, the teacher aspirants passing out of the B.Ed colleges get exposed to the new curriculum only when they join the schools. Teacher education institutions have been proliferating and mushrooming all over the State with profit motives until the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) with its headquarters in Bangalore, came up with and insisted on mandatory norms and standards for these institutions. As a result of their intervention, many institutions have constructed buildings with classrooms and procured infrastructure to meet their standards. These institutions were even forced to increase the salary of teacher educators to the basic amount in the government scale. But later, the effectiveness of NCTE intervention reduced and the powerful lobby of private education institutions had their way in running their teacher education shops.

There has been a great expansion of higher education over the years. Today, there are more than 200 universities and 8000 colleges. Kothari commission remarks "The destiny of India is being shaped in its classrooms." No doubt education plays a significant role in nation's development but the quality of education is greatly determined by the quality of teachers, therefore, great efforts were made and still are being made to improve the quality of teacher education.

Some of the crucial reforms brought about by NEP for teacher education

▪ Pre-Service Teacher Education

The NEP 2020 recommends drafting a National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education or NCFTE 2021 to guide pre-service teacher education and training. The NCFTE will prescribe the best pre-service and in-service education/training practices for teachers working in Academic, vocational, and other unique education stream.

▪ Teacher Recruitment & Employment

For recruitment in a private or government school, the teacher must qualify through Teacher Eligibility Tests (TETs) conducted by the National Testing Agency. NEP 2020 encourages schools to deal with a shortage of teachers by sharing teachers across campuses, especially for disciplines such as art, craft, music, and dance. The policy also recommends reaching out to local eminent persons or experts as 'master instructors' in traditional arts.

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- **Enculturation of Teacher Empowerment**

The policy defines the essential role of teachers in NEP 2020. Teachers are to be given the right to participate in setting school goals and policies in the long run. Involving teachers in the reform process by giving them the freedom to decide what and how to teach will provide them with space and ownership over their work. The critical aspect of teacher autonomy is deemed to empower teachers and motivate them to perform better. The policy also aims to recognize, document, and share innovative pedagogies and teaching methods devised by Indian teachers. And finally, under the enculturation of teacher empowerment, NEP will also work to build vibrant teacher communities for better networking and reducing isolation among teachers.

Defects Concerning Papers

A student teacher should know the meaning of education, its objectives, the socio-cultural and politico-economics background, the principles that guide construction of curriculum etc.

But a proper preparation towards a good. Orientation is impossible in a short duration. Following steps may be taken in this connection: (i) allowing more time to learners for good reading and sound build-up of the intellect and attitude, (ii) pruning the existing course (iii) arranging for exchange of experience than merely attending lectures, (iv) changing the mode of testing inputs (v) the content must have direct implications in the daily school teaching.

Problems of Practice Teaching

Inspire of all kinds of elaborate arrangements regarding practice in teaching, student teachers are non-serious to the task of teaching, deficient in sense of duty irresponsible, aimless, indifferent to children, lacking innovative measure in teaching which are great obstacles in the development of pedagogical skills.

Problem of Supervision of Teaching

The supervisory organizations for practice teaching aims at bringing improvement in the instructional activity of the student teachers by using various techniques and practical skills in teaching and help them to develop confidence in facing the classroom situations.

Lack of Subject Knowledge

The B.Ed. programme does not emphasize the knowledge of the basic subject. The whole teaching practice remains indifferent with regard to the subject knowledge of the student teacher.

Isolation of Teacher's Education Department

As has been observed by education commission, the teacher education has become isolated from schools and current development in school education. The schools consider the teacher education department as an alien institution and not a nursery for the professional development of school teacher. These departments only observe the formality of finishing the prescribed number of lessons no caring for the sounders of pedagogy involved in the procedure.

Lack of Regulations in Demand and Supply

The State Education Department have no data on the basis of which they may work out the desired intake for their institutions. There is a considerable lag between the demand and supply of teachers. This has created the problems of unemployment and underemployment.

Lack of Proper Facilities

In India, the teacher education programme is being given a step-motherly treatment. About 20 percent of the teacher education institutions are being run in rented buildings without any facility for an experimental school or laboratory, library and other equipments necessary for a good teacher education department. There are no separate hostel facilities for student teachers.

Image of Teacher Education

It would be useful to review the basic assumptions and reality of teacher education in order both to understand the image problem in its historical perspective and to create an appropriate agenda to deal with it. Some of the basic assumptions underlying university based teacher education programmes are as follows:

- That there is a common body of knowledge theory and skills associated with teaching that must be acquired by every prospective teacher;
- That universities are the repositories of this professional knowledge; iii) That universities tend to be future oriented with respect to professional needs and development;
- That colleges and departments of teacher education enjoy congenial relationship with academic departments and research activity in higher education;
- That teacher education programmes are best managed when associated with professional research and development and service activities;

Healthy Practices in Teacher Education

Theoretical aspect of professional management of teacher education is clarified and glorified in all its dimensions. When it comes to practical reality in teacher education institution it is a matter of divine glory of the time. There has been knowledge explosion in very discipline. A college / university teacher has to continuously update his / her knowledge in his / her chosen field of expertise, or run the risk of becoming totally outdated in a very short period of time.

While the really motivated and industrious teachers use their own resources to keep themselves abreast of new knowledge and to train themselves in the latest processes, methodologies and techniques of teaching, it is necessary to provide systematic and organized orientation programmes for the large number of teachers at the college and university level.

The Academic Staff Colleges developed by University Grants Commission under the National Policy on Education (1986) has the main philosophy to keep in mind that teacher is central to the system. While it is universally accepted that the teacher is the pivot of the educational system, our system does not provide adequate opportunities for their professional development. It is, therefore, necessary to develop inbuilt mechanisms to provide opportunities for teacher within the framework of knowledge society. It is also accepted that a teacher must not be confined only to transmitting information, she / he must also orient students to meet the challenges 303 of life, to not merely become a trained professional, but also a better citizen.

Incompetency of Students and Teachers

The existing training programme does not provide adequate opportunities to the student teachers to develop competency because the organizers of teacher's training programme are not aware of the existing problems of schools. Therefore there should be a close matching between the work schedule of the teacher in a school and the programme adopted for teacher preparation in a training college.

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- allowing more time to learners for good reading and sound build-up of the intellect and attitude,
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Lack of Facilities for Professional Development

Most of the programmes are being conducted in a routine and unimaginative manner. Even the association of teacher educators has not contributed anything towards development of a sound professionalization of teacher education in the country.

Obligation towards Students

Students and teachers are integral part of educational process. Teacher teaches whereas student learns. Unless there is dedication on the part of teacher and sincerity on the part of students the whole educational process can not be effective. It is expected that teacher of today will go beyond limit for the betterment of child.

- Sincerity in Teaching: It is obligatory on the part of the teacher to teach effectively and to the fullest in the best possible way in required time with the help of available resources. Teacher also ensures that the students are gaining as desired.
- Motivating the Students: Teacher should motivate the student not only to study subject but also for life. Without motivation, achievement decreases drastically. Motivation succeeds in difficult times and hence, the teacher should encourage students in all the possible ways.
- Providing Emotional Stability: Students are highly emotional by nature and very often situation comes where a normal student may also get emotionally unstable. In such situations teacher has to comfort the students in the best possible manner.
- Psychological Handling of Students Impulses: In day-to-day activities students may display very strange habits or actions. The teacher should make an attempt to understand the motives and feelings behind particular action and deal with it psychologically so that the action of the student gets positive direction.
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- Development of Leadership Qualities: Every student when prepared for life has to act as a leader in different situation. Teachers provide such opportunity to the students by making them participate in stage activities, morning assembly etc. Teacher also demonstrates leadership qualities by exhibiting it himself.

Obligation towards Parents

Parents send their children to school with a hope that their children will do better, learn every required language and ability along with the subjects. It is the teacher who helps the child in achieving the desired goals of society as well as of parents. Hence, it becomes obligatory on the part of the teacher to remain in touch with the parents for the well being and educational growth of the child. Some of the obligations towards parents are as follows:

- Providing Regular Information about Child's Performance: Parents usually do not come to know how their ward behaves and performs in the class in routine manner. Teacher should inform the parents about the general behavior and performance in relation to, attention towards studies, paying respect to senior's teacher's etc. The teacher should discuss all this during parent teacher's meet so that if any problem is corrected it is corrected in the very beginning.
- Guiding Parents in Deciding the Child's Future: Parents usually have knowledge of only a few fields / profession which they have acquired personally or from friends or relatives. Parents tend to decide the option for their children on the basis of their limited personal experience and knowledge. The reality is that professional arena is expanding every day. Hence, a teacher should guide parents about the professional / educational options available for better future of child keeping in mind the caliber of student and current trend prevailing among the students of present generation.
- Informing about the Attitude and Aptitude of Child: In present time parents are not able to judge the attitude and aptitude of their child owing to busy schedule or lack of awareness. Whereas, the teacher observes the children every day, individually, as well as in group where child reveals all his aptitude and attitude, which is of great importance in understanding the personality of child. Teacher should share all his findings with parents so that parents are able to understand their children in a better manner.
- Help Parents in Providing Conducive Home Environment: At some point of time students face some of the other problem which has its origin at home or which can be solved at home only. Students find it difficult to share their problems with parents due to various reasons. In such situations when a teacher learns of such problems he / she should call the parents and share the situations and suggest them various ways to improve the home environment.
- Giving Proper Direction to Hobbies and Interest: Parents find hobbies and interests as wastage of time. Teacher gathers such information of hobbies and interests of individual student and shares it with parents. Teacher convinces the parents on the pursuit of different hobbies and interest as it is of great importance and benefit for all round development of Child's personality. Teacher suggests parents to give better dimension to such outlet of feelings so that students become more creative and talented.

Conclusion

Teachers in the contemporary society need to be through professionals fully equipped with both, high academic standards, Pedagogical and practical skills and ethical and moral values. However, it is unfortunate that teaching is still in a transitional stage and is experiencing serious occupational identity crisis. The debate on whether teaching can be called a profession dominates the educational scene even at the end of twentieth century. Teachers, often themselves are uncertain as to the nature of their occupation and to which category they belong non-professional, semi-professional or professional. There is a feeling among teaching community that they have been accorded a second class status while being given first class responsibilities.

Considering the lacklustre efforts to improve the working conditions and remunerations for teachers in the past, the NEP 2020 for teachers has come as a welcome change. Steps for pre service teacher education and in-service NEP teacher training programs can help build a better learning experience for students everywhere. If implemented well, the education sector is likely to become a lucrative career option for talented young people in the next few years.

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