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TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMME IN THE CONTEXT OF QUALITY TEACHER PREPARATION

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Abstract

Teacher education is the foremost important in the field of total educational system. Quality is the basic foundation of teacher education programme. If teacher education programme fails to prepare quality teachers, the overall standard of education will be deteriorated. Teachers are concerned with all round development of the children who put under their care. No educational reform can be successful unless the quality of teacher is improved. Therefore, the essence of programme of teacher education is quality and in its absence, teacher education becomes not only a financial waste but a source of overall deterioration in educational standard. In this paper, the authors try to analysis the role of teacher education programmes of the country in producing quality teachers.

Key words: *Teacher Education Programme, Quality*

INTRODUCTION

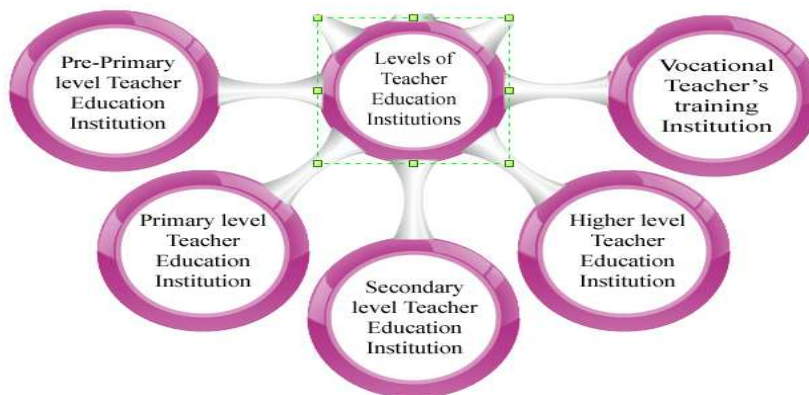
Teachers play the very important role in the total programme of national development. Teachers are the organizer who can shape and reshape the society and determine the quality of life. Mangala and Anwar (2012) states that, “The importance of the teacher in the educational programme of a country is too great. They are the pivots of the system. The greatness of a country does not depend on lofty buildings, gigantic projects and large armies. The ultimate test of a nation’s greatness is the quality of its citizen. If a nation possesses young men of sterling character and impeachable patriotism, it is found to make rapid progress in all fields. Young men are entrusted to the care of the teaching profession and it is therefore the sacred duty of the teacher to impart the right type of knowledge and make them as good human beings. It is the teacher who gives an impress of his personality to the children”. Teacher is the single most important component that affects individual’s life in terms of social, emotional, economic, as well as in the all working areas.

SIGNIFICANCE OF TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMME

The most important factor in the growth and development of education is significantly the teacher factor as teachers are regarded as the builders who determine the destiny of a nation. As the teachers are indispensable part of the education process, proper education and training of the teacher is most important. In this regard Bhatia (2011) stated, “In an educational setup, no other personality can have an influence more profoundly than that of a teacher. Everyone who remembers his own educational experience remembers teachers, not methods and techniques”. Teacher is the only living element in the teaching process that has to deal with human beings that too having diverse needs. Hence, teacher education assumes great importance. Gracious and Annaraja (2011) said “The prime function of education is to draw out the potentialities of the child and develop them to meet the challenging situations in life. Proper education will make the child understand the society and adjust with the social environment. For the development of the child we are providing education to adjust to this world. School education can become better through quality education that can be nurtured through teacher education. Teacher education is providing quality education to the prospective teachers in educational philosophy, educational psychology and educational technology apart from the techniques of teaching”.

It is the most important responsibility of a teacher for the all round development of the society and the learner. Teacher education provides not only the skill about how to teach in the classroom but it helps the teacher to develop the ability to take care of himself, to adjust with the physical conditions, healthy adjustment with the social environment, to handle and shape the future generation. “No innovation or changes can be implemented without teacher’s awareness, involvement and commitment” (NCTE, 1998). Teacher’s awareness can be possible through a systematic and best teacher education programme.

DIFFERENT LEVELS OF TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMME



Pre-primary level teacher education programme:-At present, two programmes of pre-primary teacher education is recognized by NCTE.

- Diploma in early childhood care and education
- Nursery teacher training

The entry qualification of diploma in Early Childhood Care and Education is secondary pass (X) and duration of the programme is of two years. The programme aims at preparing teachers of the children of 3-6 years age group. The entry qualification of Nursery Teacher Training programme is senior secondary pass (class XII) and duration of the programme is of two years. This programme aims at preparing teachers for children of 4-8 years age group.

Elementary level teacher education programme: - Elementary stage comprises two stages i.e. lower primary and upper primary. The entry qualification for this teacher education programme meant for preparing teachers for elementary level is class XII and the duration is two years in all of the states of India.

Secondary level teacher education programme: – Secondary level teacher education programme is meant for preparing teachers for secondary stage of education. The duration of this course is of two year. The entry qualification for this course is graduate from any stream of education.

Higher level teacher education programme: – Higher education courses in education are of four types: One year M.Ed. course, Two year M.A. in Education, Two year Ph.D. course after M.Ed. /M.A. (Education), Post-graduate Diploma in some aspects of Education after B.Ed.

Two year M.Ed. course is open to those who have passed B.Ed. examination. Candidates having Master's degree in Arts or Science with M.Ed. qualification are eligible for the appointment of lectures in training schools and colleges as well as for various administrative posts in SCERT's, NIE's and NCERT. Two year M.A. in Education is open to graduates and is equivalent to M.Ed. M.Ed.is the applied side of education, while M.A. (Education) is basis or pure side of the education. Many universities in India provide the facility of Ph.D. in Education who has passed M.Ed. or M.A. in Education.

Vocational Teacher's Training - Vocational teacher's training courses are organized for training teachers in technical subjects. They are - One year Diploma in Physical Education (DPE), Training course to prepare teachers of Music, Dancing, Painting and Fine Arts, One year training course to prepare teachers for Home Science, Certificate courses in Arts and Crafts, Courses for preparing specialists in the teaching of English, Hindi, and Geography etc.

TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMME IN THE CONTEXT OF QUALITY TEACHER PREPARATION

Teacher education is the foremost important in the field of total educational system. No educational reform can be successful unless the quality of teacher is improved. Education is goal-oriented. Accordingly, quality of education has been seen with reference to excellence in education, value addition in education (Feigenbaum, 1983), fitness of educational outcome and experience for use (Juran and Gryna, 1980), conformance of education output to planned goals, specifications and requirements (Crosby 1979), defect of avoidance in educational process (Crosby 1979) and meeting or exceeding customer's expectation of education (Parasuraman et al. 1985). Quality improvement is a never ending process. "Education quality leads to a prospective future. Hence insight on quality indicates and virtual implementation need to be given top priority and due attention should be paid to the category in the wide range of educational strata e.g. school, university, educational management, and staff" (Pour and Yeshodhara, 2009). Quality of teacher depends to a large extent on the quality of teacher education. The Education Commission (1964-66) says, "Out of all different factors which influence the quality of education and its contribution to national development, quality, competence and character of teachers are undoubtedly the most significant. Nothing is more important than securing a sufficient supply of high quality of recruits to the training profession providing them with the best possible professional preparation and creating satisfactory conditions of work in which they can be fully effective". Teachers are the effective agents of change that is why teacher education programme need to be possessed with highest quality. Only enlightened and emancipated teachers lead the nation to march towards better and higher quality of life.

The area of teacher education is the foremost aspect in the field of total educational system. The NCF (2009) states that, "In order to develop future citizens who promote equitable and sustainable development for all, it is necessary that they should be educated through the perspectives of gender quality, the perspective that develop values for peace, respect the rights of all and value work". Teaching is that skill and art through which teacher can transfer his knowledge to the learners in an efficient way. The Education Commission (1964-66) said, "A sound programme of professional education of education of teachers is essential for the qualitative improvement of education. Investment in teacher education can yield very rich dividends because the financial resources required are small when measured against the resulting improvement in the education of millions". For fulfilling this purpose he should be a master of the subject matter, well trained in his profession, man of sound physical and mental health, have the dedication and devotion to his profession. From this point of view teacher education programme is required for the every teacher to enhance their competency. As an architect of society, teachers play the key role in the total system of education where quality education has become the important issues in every aspect of education.

The major responsibility lies on the shoulders of teachers as they are the architect of the nation. Teachers are the social engineers of the country. Quality in educational programme has been variously conceptualized as meeting specific standards, being fit for purpose or as transformative. Harvey and Green (1993) offered five interrelated concepts of quality in education: as exceptional; as perfection (or consistency); as fitness for purpose; as value for money; and as transformative. Quality education is needed for leading a quality

life. Education is imparted to the learners by the teachers. So the teachers have to play a crucial role in shaping the minds of the children's by imparting quality education. "Teacher's professional preparation has been an issue of concern among the society. It is felt that every teacher should be real professional person as he/she is educating the future generation. Therefore, it is expected that he/she has to be an expert in his/her subject discipline, an effective communicator, a designer and user of learning resources, a learning facilitator, a guide and counselor of students and a participate in community life. Therefore, it is obligatory on the teacher preparation of teachers that they should provide the comprehensive coverage of professional knowledge, value and skills and have a strong functional orientation" (Desai, Pillai, and Parekh, 2010). Teacher education programme is that course which works for reshape the attitudes, remodel the habits and in a way to reconstitute the personality of a teacher. The aims of any type of teacher education and of any level are as follows –

- ❖ To make the teachers aware about the fundamental bases of education and teaching and to develop among them an insight and foresight towards education and teaching.
- ❖ To make the teachers aware about the needs and aspirations of the people, society and of the country and to prepare them for their realization.
- ❖ To provide to teachers a clear knowledge of the subjects to be taught and the activities to be conducted in the schools and to train them in the new and effective methods and techniques of teaching the subjects and conducting the activities.
- ❖ To provide education to the teachers to use a constructive way of teaching to reach out to different kinds of students.
- ❖ To provide education of the teachers for the development of self as an individual; professional development as the part of the educational process; and social development as the active member of the society.

CONCLUSION

Education is considered as a most valuable source to make the man realize the ultimate self. Teachers are the backbone of any level and any form of education. It may be formal or informal teachers are the special factor because more than anybody else, the teachers are shouldering with the responsibilities of shaping the future generation. In this regards Education Commission (1952) states that, "We are convinced that the most important factor in the contemplated educational reconstruction, is the teacher – his personal qualities, his educational qualifications, his professional training and the place that he occupies in the school as well in the community".

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