

**TEACHER EDUCATION IN 2020: CHALLENGES AHEAD****Prasad N Joshi***Adarsha Comprehensive College of Education and Research, Pune 411004. India***Abstract**

*Focus of the present study is discussing challenges ahead for teacher education system in India in 2020 A.D. Beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and first decade witnessed the quantitative expansion of teacher education facilities across the nation. But there are certain limitations of the present teacher education system. On the background of these limitations reforms in teacher education was initiated in the year 2014. Post initiation of reforms certain challenges are ahead before the teacher education sector in India. They include realization of constitutional goals, growing financial requirements, to retain and enhance student enrolment, , in-service education of the teacher educators, to meet the demand of diverse needs of the schools and students, to prepare a teacher ready to work in globalized environment, to prepare teachers ready to work in Distance mode and e learning environment, to meet the challenges of the changing nature of the Indian Education system, to enhance qualitative nature of the teacher education programs and to address equity issues. The researcher has also attempted to suggest measures to deal with these challenges by focusing on the realization of constitutional goals, and by adopting public- private partnership model for quality enhancement.*

**Key Words:** *Diverse needs, Fundamental Duties, Public Private Partnership*



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**Background:**

India is witnessing continuous population growth over the decades. In order to provide education to increasing number of children, government encouraged expansion of educational facilities at all levels of Education viz. Primary, Secondary, and Higher education sector. As an outcome of Govt policies of education, student enrolment is increasing. To meet the growing needs of schools and students the requirement of teacher also surged. The number of institutions offering teacher education programs also increased. Besides quantitative expansion, after 1991 Indian economy liberalized. Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization policy impacted every sector of Indian economy. Education and especially Teacher Education was not any exception to these effects. According to changing nature of the economy and nature of the education sector, need felt to reform Teacher Education in India at all levels.

**Review of the Related Literature:**

Sukhvir Kaur examined the present scenario of teacher education and quality of teachers and concluded that teacher education functions as a bridge between schooling and higher education but stated that it is confined to school education only. Goel D. R. discussed number of problems associated with Teacher Education in India and observed that there is absence of Teacher Education policy in India. He also recorded his observations about research in

Teacher Education. Dr.B.S.Jamwal studied major issues related with teacher education in India and suggested remedies. Dr.Jamwal also recorded that there are several loopholes in the Teacher Education system.

### **Need and Importance of the Study:**

Post independence period as the school and higher education sector experienced structural change, teacher education sector was not any exception. Teacher education also witnessed quantitative growth. Quantitative growth should be supplemented by quality aspect. The nature and requirements of the education systems are ever changing. So it is necessary to think about future of teacher education.

### **Objectives of the Study:**

1. To study the Challenges ahead for the Teacher education system in India.
2. To suggest measures to improve effectiveness of teacher education programs in next decade.

### **Discussion on challenges of teacher education in future:**

Nature and human both are dynamic. 21<sup>st</sup> century is a century of technology. With the advent of Science and Technology the education sector is changing at a faster rate. Due to technological advancement, methodologies of teaching, methods of content delivery are changing. To meet the challenges of changing nature of Education sector is a challenging task. Let us discuss some important challenges.

#### • **Realization of Constitutional goals:**

Preamble, Directive Principles of the state policy, Fundamental Duties and Fundamental rights are the important components of the Indian Constitution. The preamble of the Indian constitution contains specific words '*Justice – Social Economic Political.*' In order to achieve Economic Justice to every citizen in India, Indian government has launched and is promoting various schemes and programs for poverty eradication. After 65 years of the independence we stood successful in offering social and political justice to a greater extent but at the same time we are not successful to a great extent in offering Economic justice to the poor. According to planning commission estimates there were 269.3 million of population is living below poverty line in the year 2011. Out of 269.3 million 326.3 million people are from rural India. So approximately 27 crore people are still living below poverty line. In contrast according to 2007-08 statistics, total number of personal income tax payers in India was only 3.31 crore. There is huge disparity between BPL and APL population. In order to bring poor above poverty line the first task to educate them. With the implementation of RTE government has shown its willingness to enable entire population educationally. But only providing education is not sufficient. It will need reforms in various sectors. Reforms in population policy, Industrial policy, in direct taxes, in administration also. But the real challenge is how to materialize these reforms. The answer is in the education system. *It the duty of the teacher education institute to mould a student teacher is such a way who will facilitate 'out of the box' thinking of the school children and students in the higher education system in order to achieve status of economic justice every citizen.*

Another challenge is to aware student teachers about Fundamental Duties of the citizens. Especially to aware student teachers about '*developing scientific temper, humanism and spirit of inquiry and reform*' is a challenging task for teacher education.

- **Financial Challenges:**

With the implementation of NCTE regulations 2014, teacher education institutes need substantial finances for effective conduct of teacher education programs. The debt ridden governments may not be in a position to provide additional financial resources to teacher education institutes. So to meet growing financial needs is the important challenge for teacher education system. Infrastructure Development will require huge capital investment. Hiring Human resources to utilize infrastructure in order to achieve goals is a challenging task. On the background of limited financial resources it is inevitable to get help from private donors. The public private partnership will be a solution to overcome the problem of availability of finances. Participation of private organizations in teacher education programs will ensure better infrastructure, equipments and maintenance of the same.

- **Challenge to prepare teachers ready to work in Distance mode and e learning environment:**

Till 21 st century we are focused on face to face mode of teaching. But scientific development and ever advancing Information and communication technology opened up the doors for distance education and e learning. The role of the teacher and teacher educator will be far more different in distance mode and in e learning environment. The teacher and Teacher educator will have to assume multiple roles to attain objectives. In e learning environment teacher may act as a presenter or content developer or graphic designer or similar suitable role. To prepare student teacher capable to perform these tasks is a major challenge for teacher education system.

- **To prepare a teacher ready to work in Globalized Environment:**

The LPG (Liberalization, Privatization, and Globalization ) policy offered several opportunities to Indian teacher to work in Globalized environment. World needs quality teacher and as India is having high ratio of young population. So Indian youth have good opportunities to work in overseas schools. To develop skill set necessary to teach in overseas schools is a challenging task for teacher education institutes in future.

- **To retain student enrolment for teacher education programs:**

From academic year 2015-16 the duration of the undergraduate and post graduate teacher education programs enhanced and now these courses are of the two years duration. It is a challenge for teacher education system to retain student enrolment in restructured teacher education programs.

- **To cater to the diverse needs of the School students and schools:**

Nowadays schools are having different affiliations and they follow different curriculum/ syllabus viz- CBSE, IGCSE, IB, SSC Board etc. So it is challenging task for teacher education institutes to prepare a student teacher who in future will perform effectively in any of the curriculum.

- **In service education of teacher educators:**

In order to achieve constitutional goals, to meet changing expectations of schools from teacher, to familiarize with new teaching methodologies and other academic needs, in service education of teacher educators is a challenge. If teacher educator is capable to meet ever changing expectations of the education system then and then only he/ she can transmit acquired knowledge, skills and attitude among student teachers. There is a another challenge

to change the current nature of the in service education programs. Lecture method in orientation and refresher courses should be minimized. Instead of lectures more practicum component should be introduced.

• **Other challenges:**

To enhance qualitative nature of the Teacher education programs, to address equity issues, to train the teacher according changing needs of the society are some other challenges for teacher education system in India.

**Suggestions:**

- Focus on Soft Skills development in teacher education curriculum.
- Encouragement to Public – Private partnership in teacher education programs.
- Establishment of separate institution for imparting in service education to teacher educators.
- Mandatory participation to teacher educators in in service education programs.
- To initiate reforms in in service education of teacher educators.

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