



TEACHER EDUCATION AND DISTANCE EDUCATION

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Abstract

Now a day the educational scenario has considerably been changed and distance education has emerged as an effective and alternative system of education. "Distance mode education is taking over the regular face to face mode of teacher education, This mode is user friendly and is likely to help the disadvantaged group of the society" (Passy, B. K, 1997). Updating knowledge and skills of the teachers is a part of staff development program in order to keep them intellectually alive and academically sound. Hence it is imperative that teacher development both in pre-service and in-service are greatly emphasized for molding future generation. A professional degree in education has always been considered to the level of being obligatory for all secondary school teachers. Teacher's performance in the classroom is the most crucial input in the field of teacher education. Whatever policies may be laid down in the ultimate analysis, these have to be interpreted and implemented by the teachers. Teaching teachers with proper objectives and methodologies will be equal to thousands of students. At present, teacher education is perhaps more important than medical or technical education in the country because the teachers affect not only present generation but also affect many future generations to come.



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Introduction

Education plays a major role in the transformation of the economic scenario of many aspects of life as well as country. The expectations of millions of human beings to reach a better and higher quality of life are becoming a reality. For this purpose teacher education as well as distance education plays important role. Now a day the educational scenario has considerably been changed and distance education has emerged as an effective and alternative system of education. "Distance mode education is taking over the regular face to face mode of teacher education, This mode is user friendly and is likely to help the disadvantaged group of the society" (Passy, B. K, 1997). Updating knowledge and skills of the teachers is a part of staff development program in order to keep them intellectually alive and academically sound. Hence it is imperative that teacher development both in pre-service and in-service are greatly emphasized for molding future generation. A professional degree in education has always been considered to the level of being obligatory for all secondary school teachers (Koul, B.N., Menon. M.B, 1992). As regards professional development of teachers, Peter J. Burke says that those who desire to perform well in teaching must be the learners in the sense that demands itemized have required continuous learning and application. However, teachers had been teaching their subjects for many years with stagnant qualifications, no matter curriculum and syllabi were changed at time and that teachers had little indications to continue studying

on their own and thus making it a necessary for provision of organized efforts for continuing education (UNESCO, 1972)

Teacher Education

The Teacher Education defined as “All formal and informal activities and experiences that help to qualify a person to assume the responsibility as a member of the educational profession and to discharge his responsibility most effectively.” – Dictionary of education (1973)

Encyclopedia of educational research, defines teacher education as, “The total education experiences which contribute to the preparation of a person but the term is completely employed to designate the program for courses and other experiences offered by an educational institute for the announced purposes of preparing persons for teaching and other educational service and for contribution to their growth in competency for such service.

Main Functions Of The Teacher Education

The main functions of teacher education are given below

- Developing good citizenship – teacher education helps teachers to develop a democratic outlook and prepare them to be not only a good teacher but also a democratic and useful citizen of the country.
- Methodology of teaching – Trained teacher is more familiar with the methodology of teaching, which help him to make the classroom live.
- Better understanding of the student - It helps to understand the student better. Educational psychology helps him to deal with children scientifically.
- Building confidence - Trained teachers can face the class with confidence.
- Building a favorable attitude - Teacher education develops favorable attitude towards teaching profession among student teachers, which help them in building favorable attitude with love and respect for the teaching profession.
- Improve standards – Teacher education helps to raise the standard and quality of education. They can check the wastage and suggest remedial measures to improve the quality of education.

These functions help to prepare good competent and efficient teachers who can handle the teaching learning process according to the level of the learner. To get updated values and activities as given above distance education is needed for teachers.

Distance Education

Distance education is one of the branches in the field of education that focuses on pedagogy and instructional systems design that aims to deliver education to students who are not physically ‘on site’. The distance teaching has three dimensions content, presentation and communication. The conventional teacher education program prepares for teachers for analyzing content structure and effective presentation by employing appropriate methods and techniques of teaching. Therefore, the distance education for teacher training requires awareness on content, presentation and communication. The teacher who gets training under distance mode develops three types of skills which are content related conceptual skills, presentation related to technical skill, communication related to human relation skills. If teacher get training in all the three skills that will promote better input on the student – teacher while undergoing training in the distance education mode.

Need Of Distance Education

Distance education is best suited to provide training for teachers on a large scale. It has both flexibilities and the productivity for the purpose. The distance education has been used in different courses like graduation, post graduation degrees as well as more in primary teacher than secondary teachers. Distance education plays important role in providing teacher education on a high amount of expenditure on the part of the students who undergo teacher training in various institutions.

Elements of teacher education

Teacher education is likely to contain four elements. These are, improving the general educational background of the trainee teachers, increasing their knowledge and understanding of the students to teach, pedagogy and understanding of children and learning and development of practical skills and competencies.

Teacher education has to do a whole range of different jobs. They are, the teacher enable to develop students with dynamic potentiality, to act as a role model to their students and society, to help and transform knowledge, ideas, thoughts of education through the society, to promote self confidence and creativity among students. And also many teacher educators often hope that students should develop appropriate and necessary attitudinal changes towards their job.

Objectives of teacher education

The objectives of teacher education are as follows

- To get knowledge of child psychology – the teacher should know the child psychology so that they should be able to understand and process of child's growth and development. Thereby he can prefer suitable need content in each and every stage of development and bring out changes in their behavior.
- To get knowledge of the subject – To impart knowledge related to theoretical aspect and practical aspect of the subject which the teacher to teach the concepts inside the classroom.
- To get knowledge of aim of education – Teacher should know the aims and purposes of teacher education. Otherwise his purpose will not be served and the objectives will not be fulfilled.
- To get knowledge of the principles of pedagogy – To impart knowledge of principles of pedagogy is essential one to understand the principles, process and techniques of teaching and learning process.
- To get knowledge of the Adjustment - To impart the knowledge of adjustment process, teacher should be able to understand the problems of pupils and make them to have better adjustment behavior.
- To get Assistance in guidance program - Guidance is to be made an integral part of education and it should be done during the teacher education program by the trained teacher to help effectively in the guidance program of the short.
- To get knowledge of the planning of lessons – The teachers are to be taught to plan their lessons to prevent them effectively and how to communicate with their students and others in teaching - learning process. They are to be trained to find out individual need of the students and adjustment of students in teaching – learning process.

- To get knowledge of organization of co-curricular activities – Teachers ability is to be developed to organize and supervise co- curricular activities in the school.

All these objectives can be fulfilled through distance education for in-service teacher education program.

Objectives Of Distance Education For Preparation Of Teachers Through Teacher Education

The system of distance education is a boon to the society, a catalytic process with a kind of ‘Midas Touch’ and a process of alchemy that turn educational untouchables into educationally reachable to give meaning to their life. Hence, people from all walks of life – women, students, in-service employees both in the government and private sector, unemployed, underemployed adults and teachers- utilize the rare opportunities to improve their professional qualifications through distance mode. Among them are teachers who make use of this opportunity for career development.

- To provide knowledge and understanding about school management
- To systematize their experiences and strengthen the professional competency of in-service training of teachers.
- To impart knowledge and understanding of various methods and practices needed for organizing learning experiences to students.
- To develop skill required in selecting and organizing learning experiences and imparting instructions.
- To understand the nature of learner and the learning process.
- To develop skills involved in dealing with the learning and personal problems of learners.
- To develop skills involved in selecting, developing and organizing evaluation techniques.

How to implement teacher education program through distance mode-

Several commissions emphasized to maintain the quality of teacher education and the need for professional improvement of teachers. A committee appointed by NCTE (1990) suggested that teacher education through distance mode, if suitably or organized can emerge as trend setters in quality for those in face to face mode. Keeping in view the recommendation of the NCTE committee, the possibilities and technologies available in the distance education system and the existence of a large number of untrained teachers, B.Ed program through distance mode must be started

Conclusion

Teacher’s performance in the classroom is the most crucial input in the field of teacher education. Whatever policies may be laid down in the ultimate analysis, these have to be interpreted and implemented by the teachers. Teaching teachers with proper objectives and methodologies will be equal to thousands of students. At present, teacher education is perhaps more important than medical or technical education in the country because the teachers affect not only present generation but also affect many future generations to come (Dhand Harry, 1996). Hence with right kind of teacher education program through distance education mode, the teachers should be equipped with modern approaches to improve classroom teaching. Keeping this view in mind, planners of distance education are to design innovative teacher education program that improve subject proficiency and professional

competence of the teachers. Distance education has a great impact on professional and socio-economic development of the teachers.

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