



Globalization and Teacher Education

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Abstract:

Globalization is a process of integrating the nation states by removing or minimizing the restrictions on the movement of material resources, financial resources, labor, technology and ideas. An important component of globalization in relation to education is the need for producing higher quality manpower that can successfully face the competition in the world. In this age of globalization we need to make the system of teacher education more innovative and futuristic in order to respond to the changing demands of the society. To maintain the standards and to update the quality of teacher education we require commitment and training of people concerned. The article is focused towards challenges in teacher education. This paper informs about views of teacher educators regarding challenges in teacher education in the context of globalization. For this purpose the researchers conducted survey in teacher education institute. The summary of the views of teacher educators shows that quality of teacher education is depends on quality of teaching practice, new information technology and E-learning in the age of globalization. Teacher's quality, knowledge of technology, curriculum are the important challenges faced by teacher education in the context of globalization.

Key words: Teacher education, Globalization, Challenges in teacher education

Introduction: -

Globalization is a process of integrating the nation states by removing or minimizing the restrictions on the movement of material resources, financial resources, labor, technology and ideas. It stands for outward-oriented policies which are supposed to benefit all the countries of the world and also create certain problems in that process. Though it is predominantly an economic phenomenon, there are other dimensions as well and in a way it affects all walks of life. Education is an important sector in any economy and globalization has its implications for this sector as well.

The aim of education is to achieve overall development and enlightenment of mind, broaden the vision, and character-building which can be beneficial to the individual himself and to the society and nation at large. To achieve this goal the role of teacher and teacher educator is important. In the age of globalization, change is so rapid that the educational system has to keep itself abreast with the latest developments. (Pandey, 2001)

The impact of globalization on teacher education and the manner in which the system should respond to the needs of globalization can be studied under the following heads-

- Content
- Equity and Excellence

Content of Education: -

The fast developing stock of knowledge and the need for its continuous updating has also initiated. No longer is education confined to a particular period of life. A key to the twenty first century, learning throughout life will be essential for adapting the evolving requirements of new generation and for better mastery of changing time from the rhythms of individual existence.

Equity and Excellence: -

An important component of globalization in relation to education is the need for producing quality manpower that can successfully face the competition in the world. This would imply selecting the best possible human material and giving them education of the highest quality. (Gandhe, 2005)

Quality and excellence have become the watchwords of the new millennium everywhere. Importance of teacher education in making an educational system work more efficiently and effectively is the important factor of it. No system of education can rise above the level of teachers'. Teacher must be trained and educated properly. Quality teacher education must, therefore be our primary concern. (Chaurasia, G. and Roy, N. (Eds.) 2006.)

It is in this context that education of teachers becomes most important in any country.

Teacher education: -

The purpose of teacher education is to produce teachers who have professional competencies. The role of teachers is no longer confined to teaching alone. They need to be thorough professionals, fully equipped with high academic standard, pedagogical and practical skills. In this age of globalization we need to make the system of teacher education more innovative and futuristic in order to respond to the changing demands of the society. To maintain the standards and to update the quality of teacher education we require commitment and training of people concerned.

Teacher educators thus have to be motivated enough to plan for their own personal and professional development. They are expected to take responsibility and take charge for their own learning and development. As such self-discipline and self regulation are the key factors responsible for success.

Effective teacher education prepares new teachers for a role which is both complex and demanding. Accomplished teaching simultaneously involves command of subject matter and how to teach it to diverse students. Putting all this into practice on a daily basis is extremely demanding in the age of globalization. (Kaur, 2010)

The basic role of teacher education is to: -

- Train teachers to teach pre-school children.
- Train teachers to teach primary school children.
- Train teachers to teach secondary school children.
- Train teachers to teach higher secondary children.

At all these levels besides having mastery over the subject to be taught the teachers also require different skills like – identifying the needs of the learner, selecting appropriate methods of teaching and learning aids etc. Besides these they also need to have catered to the all-round development of children. The role of teacher

education hence has a very vital role to play as its products go and work right from the grass root level of the society.

As we move ahead in the 21st century with LPG as our driving theme our entire focus should be on our product. What we need to emphasize is the quality by giving the necessary self-confidence through competence both in theory and its application. Both should be inter-linked so as to make his learning effective and applicable in his real life too. Our aim should be to make him face the real challenges in the life. Teacher education should concentrate on making our teacher's techno savvy. We need to use the technology for our own benefit. Teacher education should develop multi-skills among our teachers so that they are able to use technology in the teaching-learning and also participate in the process of creation of new knowledge. Teacher education also needs to look into innovative ways of evaluation along with teachers learning. (Vartak, 2004)

Challenges in Teacher Education: -

Quality assurance: - With the increasing participation of the private institutions and the ever rising thrust on autonomy for the existing institutions, it is imperative that demands would be made on quality assurance.

Professionalism: - Though we regard teacher education as a profession, we are different when we compare ourselves with the other professions like medicine, engineering etc. We are still tentative about the importance of the pre-service and in-service training in acquiring the required knowledge and skills by our students. The one year training program a pre-requisite for becoming a teacher is rigorous no doubt, but it is somewhat rigid. We are more driven by the form of the course rather than the content. Ability to generate new ideas, commitment and dedication in our work is essential to make ourselves professionals.

Technology: - We want to introduce new technology in teacher education. Introduction of ICT and computer training in our course is a step in that direction. The experience so far shows that teacher educators are not adept at using the computer in the teaching-learning process since their recently acquired knowledge is restricted only to the use of standard software applications. We need to become more focused on the systematic use of technology for making the teaching learning process more interactive and enjoyable. Technology should be harnessed for increasing our participation in the process of creation of new knowledge.

Attracting Talent: - Attracting talent into the teaching profession remains one of the major challenges before us today. The number of merit holder students opting for teaching profession is very few. We need to reflect this situation. There is always a talk that the teachers have to keep themselves abreast with the latest trends, knowledge and skills through self study, be innovative and creative through participation in varied academic activities and research. This is possible only if we can attract talented people in the profession who are self motivated and self inspired.

Evaluation system: - Generating a reliable evaluation system is another important challenge before us. Teacher educators need to look into innovative, objective, open and transparent methods of evaluation which will test the application of knowledge along with the comprehension. We should encourage pupils to face competitive exams effectively.

Equity: - The greatest challenge before us even today is the search for equity. Equity refers to the equity in the development of all abilities of the individual and it also means the equity in the development of all the strata of the society. Head, Hand and Heart are three powerful tools given to everyone by God. But today we are becoming a knowledge society.

Need of the present study: -

The standards of learning are influenced strongly by teacher's capacity, understanding and skills. School education can achieve the intended objectives of national reconstructions only if there are corresponding reflections of the same concerns in the programs of teacher education, as teacher it is the pivot on which the outcomes - expected of any educational system can blossom.

Research has shown that good teaching makes a big and qualitative difference in students learning with the help of its effectiveness, efficiency and competency. An important demand for the achievement of the cherished goal of having a good and effective teaching system is a mechanism that could work for the development of course, instructor and learner. (Singh, 2007)

The quality of pre-service and in-service teacher education also needs to be upgraded. Teacher education is stepping stone in the building of future teacher and tries to in build qualities in teacher. Hence there is urgent need to develop new models of teacher education. Hence researchers have thought about needs and challenges in teacher education. The views of teacher educators were studied regarding the teacher education in the context of globalization.

Statement of the Problem:

A Study of teacher education in the context of globalization.

Operational Definitions: -

Teacher Education: - Teaching imparted at pre-service education program in different educational institutions at degree level that is B. Ed course.

Globalization: - Globalization is a process of integrating the nation states by removing or minimizing the restrictions on the movement of material resources, financial resources, labor, technology and ideas. Globalization though initially economic also results in social and cultural integration too.

Objectives of the study: -

1. To assess the views of the teacher educators regarding teacher education in the context of globalization.
2. To identify the challenges in teacher education in the age of globalization.

Scope and Limitations: -

The present study will help teaching community for improvement in the quality of teacher education.

The study is restricted to views of selected teacher educators.

The study is limited to one Teacher Education College in Pune city.

Population: -

The Population of this study consisted of teacher educators.

Sample: -

The sample consists of 10 experienced teacher educators from Adarsha Comprehensive College of Education.

Research Methodology: -

Method: Survey Method was followed. For this purpose interview was taken from teacher educators.

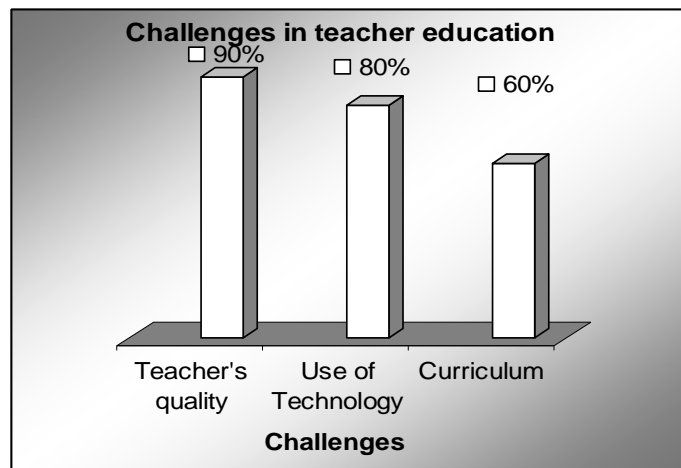
Tool: Open Interview

Following questions were asked in the interview.

- 1 What changes do you expect in teacher education in the era of globalization?
- 2 What are the factors on which Quality of teacher education depends?
- 3 What are the major challenges according to you in teacher education?
- 4 What are your expectations from teacher educators in the age of globalization?
- 5 'Quality teacher is the need of the hour.'
What are your opinions about this statement?

Results from the survey: -

Views of the teacher educators were as follows: -



- 1 Teacher's quality, knowledge of technology, curriculum are the important challenges in teacher education. Accreditation, performance appraisal are also the new challenges in the globalization.
- 2 Teacher education fulfills the requirement of present need of society and country.
- 3 Teaching practice is the core of education program. The gap between theory and practice should be reduced.
- 4 Quality of teacher education depends on the quality of program, knowledge, skills and competencies developed through teacher education in the pupil teachers.

- 5 Every teacher educator should be trained and competent in the use of modern technology like internet, media, ICT, etc.
- 6 Every teacher educator should undertake action research for qualitative improvement of classroom teaching.
- 7 Every teacher educator should make an attempt to develop pupil teacher's maturity through experience, self study and activity based learning.

Discussions: -

The results of this study are supported by following research studies. They found that:

- Accountability, performance appraisal, evaluation of teachers by the students etc. are the new features that teachers have to face it. (Kshirsagar, 2004)
- Accreditation is good concept. Performance based benefits to teachers motivates and helps in improving quality of teaching. (Sonawane, Vartak. 2008)
- Teacher should have up to date knowledge, new methods, and techniques. The duty of the teacher is to work for the betterment of the society. (Sonawane, Vartak. 2008)

Concluding Remark: -

Vision without action is merely a dream, action without vision is merely passing time, but vision and action can together change the world. Let us then prepared to change our mind set and harness our own competence and skills to meet the challenges before us by assuring quality in teacher education. It is only then we will get the respect of our beloved students.

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