

**Department of Education, Patna University**

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**Unit II – Administration & Management of Secondary Education**

**Topic: School Inspections and Supervision**

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### **Objectives**

The student will be able to:

1. Understand the meaning, nature and types of School inspection and supervision.
2. Differentiate between inspection and supervision.

# **School Inspections and Supervision:**

## **Meaning, Need, Nature & Types of Educational Inspections and Supervision**

### **Introduction**

A dynamic system of supervision and inspection has been recognized as the corner stone of a sound system of education. Supervision and inspection are today being considered as the backbone of educational improvement.

### **Meaning of Inspection**

- School inspection is a critical examination and subsequent evaluation of schools.
- It seeks to provide the necessary advice and support to ensure school improvement.
- It is an organized examination or formal evaluation exercise, which involves the measurement, testing and evaluation of certain characteristics of activities in the school system.

### **Meaning of Supervision**

- Supervision is a process of facilitating the professional growth of a teacher, primarily by giving the teacher feedback about classroom interactions and helping the teacher make use of the feedback in order to make teaching more effective.
- According to Burton and Brueckner “Supervision is an expert technical service primarily aimed at studying and improving cooperatively all factors which affect child growth and development.”

- Therefore, supervision broadly refers to the professional guidance and support provided by the educational managers, who are expected to offer the teacher assistance that will enhance and improve teacher motivation and classroom instruction.

### **Purpose of Supervision and Inspection**

- Checking on the availability of teaching-learning materials.
- Advising on the appropriateness of the teaching- learning materials in use.
- Assessing staff levels.
- Advising on the school climate.
- Advising the availability and quality of advising and support services available to the teacher.
- Promoting curriculum change and innovation.
- Timetabling.
- Attending to the welfare of teachers.
- Attending to institutional problems.
- Data collection to facilitate planning and decision making.
- Monitoring policy implementation.
- Providing feedback on teachers' performance.
- Identifying needs for staff development.
- Identifying potential for promotion.

- Conducting quality assurance checks.
- Ensuring teacher motivation and morale.
- Providing professional support and guidance to the teachers.

### **Differences between Inspection and Supervision**

1. (a) The aim of inspection is to find reasons for closing, opening or retaining a school.

(b) The aim of supervision is to help teacher and students to carry out the teaching and learning process more effective and interesting

2. (a) School inspection is teacher and principal cantered. The fundamental aim of inspection is to serve the purpose of witch hunting.

(b) Supervision is concerned with the general structure of the school system. It deals with anything from the school curriculum to the welfare of students and teachers.

3. (a) inspection rigidly stresses strict to set down rules and regulations of irregular local conditions, which may make some of the set rules and regulations not workable.

(b) Supervision looks at management variables such as plans, policies and programmes. Supervisors work out mutually accepted formula for supervision after considering all general conditions in the school and immediate environment.

4. (a) inspections are normally not thorough because they are usually directed at specific occasional problems, such as investigating cases of fraud.

(b) Supervision is usually well planned and it is not reserved for investigating occasional problem.

5. (a) Inspectors usually demand respect. They threaten teachers, students and school heads.

(b) Supervisors earn respect by sharing expertise. They are considerate on matters they encounter during supervision.

6. (a) Inspection is usually conducted by a person.

(b) Supervision is usually teamwork that is characterised by division of labour.

7. (a) Inspection reports are usually not written immediately after inspection.

(b) Supervision reports are usually discussed with the teachers and students.

### **Need of supervision and Inspection**

There is a need of an agency of supervision and inspection in education for various reasons:

1. To ensure continuous growth and continuous evaluation is necessary.

2. For effective coordination of the total programme.

3. Introduction of various programmes and services in the school programmes requires the service of a team to coordinate and direct.

4. Early prevention is better than cure.

5. Dispersal of good practices to improve the intellectual tone of the schools.

6. To provide an opportunity for self-criticism, self-analysis and self development.

7. To provide extraneous motivation to refresh and up-date the institution.
8. It is essential for untrained as well as old teachers.
9. For increasing the degree of perfection in schools, regular supervision and inspection are essential.

### **Barriers to Effective Supervision**

- Lack of actual experience.
- Tendency towards favouritism.
- Theoretical mind functioning.
- Too limited contact.
- Fear of teacher for supervision.
- Listening to whispers of others.
- Fear of aggression against criticism.
- Lack of constructive criticism.
- Lack of word praise.

### **Nature of Educational Inspection and Supervision**

*Certain natures of supervision and inspection which are as follows:*

1. It is a creative and dynamic expert technical service.
2. It provides leadership with expert knowledge & superior skills.
3. It promotes cooperative educational effort in a friendly atmosphere.

4. It gives coordination, direction and guidance to teachers' activities.
5. It stimulates the continuous growth of teachers and development of pupils.
6. It improves instruction and the teaching learning process.
7. It helps achievement of appropriate educational aims and objectives.
8. It helps to decide and order execution and assists in improving instruction.
9. It represents a portion of the whole enterprise of school management.
10. It saves us from the victimization of soul killing administration.

## **Type of Educational Inspection and Supervision**

### ***Types of Supervision:***

There are two types of Supervision:

- (a) Autocratic &
- (b) Democratic.

### **(A) Autocratic Supervision**

- In this type, the authority is centralized in the key person or head, who has been legally appointed to look after the organization.
- The policies and techniques of the school programme are directed by him. Here, the authority and power may be delegated to the supervisors.
- There is quick communication between the authority and supervisors so that they can be easily contacted and ordered to carry out definite directions. All suggestions and prescriptions of duties and activities come from one person.

- Generally the inspectors visit individual teachers classes, meet them individually to solve their problems.
- Students are also assisted individually.
- The authoritarian leader remains in the focus of the groups' attention. He emphasizes their obedience.

### **(B) Democratic Supervision**

- Here authority is based on superiority of knowledge, skill and capacity and not on legal sanctions. There is decentralization of power. Every supervisor is required to contribute his best to group purposes and group welfare.
- The talents of all workers are utilized fully. There is maximum possible participation of all workless in determining policies, procedures and final evaluation. Each individual personality is respected and considered of supreme value. Equality is practiced in all matters; emphasis is placed on mutual relationship and respect for one another.

### **Types of Inspection**

**Clinical Visit:** During and after this visit, the inspectors analyses the data/information and discuss his analysis with the teachers for the improvement of instruction.

**Creative Visit:** In this type of visit, both the teacher and the inspector feel open-minded. This system promotes freedom flexibility and encourages open mind. In this situation, teachers and the inspectors, work together, collaborate, evaluate and describe each other's work. This encourages teachers in all respects. This can be called the best type of inspection.

**Follow-Up Visits:** In follow up of previous visits. The inspector investigates whether the suggestions, corrections and recommendation made during the previous visit have been carried out by affected schools. The visit is to ascertain to what extent the corrections and suggestions provided are helped in achieving the educational objectives.

**Full Inspection:** Full inspection consists of a team of inspectors visiting a school for several days for a fact-finding mission. They enquire into every aspect of the school program. Such visits are usually followed by a comprehensive report, copies of which are made available to the school and Ministry of Education or Schools Board. The interval between inspections is usually 2 to 4 years or more.

**Investigative Visit:** This is to investigate an aspect of administration in the school e.g. special problem of indiscipline, and/or investigation of an allegation of fraud.

**Preventive Visit:** In this type visit, the inspectors beforehand anticipate problems, as such, try to assist teachers avoid those problems/shortfalls/deficiencies. This type of inspection helps teachers to meet situation with confidence as they predict the problems beforehand and act as friend and guide. Therefore, this type of inspection is more useful and helpful in every respect as compared to the traditional type.

**Routine visits:** Routine visits are short visit made to schools in which no formal reports are written but brief comments are made. The aim depends on why an inspection is made. It may be to check on the punctuality level of teachers. One of the aims of such supervisory visits is to look into what is happening, the work being done, the human relationships and the appropriate use of the school building and equipment.

**Sampling and Survey Visits:** This type of visit samples people opinion on the approval for the opening of a new school. Such visits are made to new schools to find out whether they satisfy the condition necessary to obtain approval for opening.

**Special Visit:** This type of visit is for the inspection of one or a limited number of aspects of the school. For example, if there is a problem in the teaching and learning of a special subject such as the teaching of English or mathematics.

### **EVALUATION QUESTIONS**

1. What do you mean by School inspection and supervision? Discuss the nature of School inspection and supervision.
2. Discuss the types of School inspection and supervision.
3. Differentiate between inspection and supervision.