

E-Content
Department of Education, Patna University.
M.Ed Semester II
Paper-C.C.6

By: -

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Unit V: Problems and Issues in Teacher Education.

Topic: Challenges in professional development of teachers.

Objectives:-

After reading this content, you will be able to:-

- Know the issues and problems of Teacher Education.
- Explain about challenges in professional development of Teacher Education.
- Discuss about quality of teacher Education program.

Introduction:-

There are a lot of responsibilities on the shoulders of a teacher. Teachers are confronted with a lot of expectations. On the one hand, it is expected that they should try to meet the minimum standard laid down by many profession buddies and on the other; they are expected to do a lot for the society too! The entire profession of teacher has therefore become full of challenges. According to UNESCO recommendations, teaching is that profession for which its members ensure up Public Service and this profession is expected to acquire a sense of collective responsibilities which they should assume for the sake of students' well-being and of education. The national policy on education (1986) has said that the status of teachers affects the socio-cultural ethos of society. So teacher should have freedom to innovate, to device appropriate methods of good communication and activities related to the needs and capabilities and the concerns of the community.

If we go through the history of our country, as said earlier, teachers have been given the highest respect; even in the present day. However, sad to state that today we do not witness the same scene everywhere. Their status has been diminished. Reasons are very many –viz. Deterioration in there service conditions, isolation in which teachers work, lowering in the standard of teacher training, the phenomenal expansions of education system, a general impressions that a large number of teachers do not perform their duties properly and a change in the value system of the society. Hence, challenges in professional development of teachers are too many but side by side it is a fact to note that there are solutions too.

Challenges in relevance to School Education:-

A teacher is real maker of history and as per Vedas and Puraanas teachers are more than God. They must be respected. Chanakya has correctly said that a teacher is not an ordinary person; progress and revolution both generate on his/her lap. Hence, teaching is also considered as the noblest of all professions. May be, teachers have one carrier but the roles that they play are many, whether in curricular or out of school activities sports, drama, movies-clubs, school, excursions, counseling, mentoring, behavior management, etc. In fact, teacher's role is of complete admixture like:

- Classroom manger
- Curriculum planner
- Value Educator
- Social worker
- Religious guide
- Health worker
- Emotional supporter, and
- Active member of school community with very many duties beyond the class room.

Issues in Teacher Education:-

A comprehensive, dynamic and responsive system of teacher education needs to be continuously evolved keeping the overall scenario in view. The need for improve level of education participation for overall progress should be recognized. Colleges of teacher education should take variety of initiatives to transform the nature and functions of education, both formal and informal.

Major issues in teacher education:

- Proliferation of the colleges of education.
- Isolation of colleges of education
- Regional imbalances
- Duration of teacher education programs.
- Examination system.

Further there are issues related to quality of teacher education

- Curriculum
- Personal and social skills
- Competencies
- Subject knowledge
- ICT skills

Problems in Teacher Education

- Several types of teacher education institutions thereby lacking in uniformity.
- Poor standards with respect to resource of colleges of education.
- Unhealthy financial condition of colleges of education.
- Incompetent teacher-educators education in deficiency of scholars.
- Negative attitude of management towards development of both human as well as material resources.
- Uniform education policy of the government treating excellent and other institutions alike.
- Improper selection of the candidate to be admitted.
- Tradition curriculum and teaching methods of teaching in the teacher education program.
- Inadequate duration of teacher education program.
- Hazardous and improper organization of teacher education.
- Unplanned and insufficient co-curricular activities.
- Subjective evaluation pattern.
- Practice teaching neither adequate nor properly conducted.
- Lack of dedication towards the profession.
- Lack of occupational perception.

Suggestions for improving the condition of teacher education:

There are some suggestions here for improving the condition of teacher education:

- Uniformity among teacher education institutions must be ensured and maintained in terms of curriculum, duration and timings of the programme.
- Curriculum development on a continuing basis to keep pace with current trends.
- Government should look after the financial requirements of the institutions.
- Teacher educators must be well qualified and experienced with language proficiency.

- Teacher educators to be trained in the use of ICTs.
- Privatization of teacher education should be regulated.
- Institutes of low standards should be reformed or closed.
- Conditions for affiliation should be made strict.
- Regular and rigorous inspection by NCTE should be done on a regular basis.
- Selection procedure must be improved and interviews, group discussions along with common entrance test and marks should be introduced.
- Duration of teacher education should be increased to two years.
- More emphasis should be given on practice teaching till mastery is reached with appropriate feedback
- Internship should be of sufficient time (six months) and student teachers must be exposed to the full functioning of the school.
- Evaluation in teacher education should be objective, reliable and valid.
- Teacher pupil ratio should be ideally 1:8.
- Several types of co-curricular activities should be included in the curriculum.
- Refresher course should be organized frequently for teacher educators.
- Research in teacher education should be encouraged.
- Number of teaching days to be increased to 230 per year.

Conclusion:

In the end, it may be said that the teachers are definitely the back bone of entire educational system and are central to the reforms effort. Whatever the challenges are they ought to be taken as reforming the whole education system including the quality of would-be-teachers as well as the quality of institution of teacher educators. One must know very well, that “a teacher’s life lights many lamps!”

Check your progress:

- Write your own view point on challenges in professional development of teachers.
- Analyze the incentives given to teachers to work towards their professional development.

References:-

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- iii.** National Policy on Education(1986), A Policy Perspective, Ministry of Human Resource, Govt. of India, New Delhi.

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