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# Challenges in Teachers Education and Teaching

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## ABSTRACT

The National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020), was approved by the Union Cabinet of India on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2020. It is the vision of new education system in changing global scenario. The policy provides frame work from elementary Education to higher education as well as vocational training in both rural and urban India. The policy aims to transform India's education system by 2030. The Teachers shall require training in high quality content as well as pedagogy, teachers education will gradually be moved by 2030 into multidisciplinary colleges and universities all move towards becoming multidisciplinary, they will also aim to house outstanding education departments that offer B. Ed, M. Ed, Ph.D degree in the field of education stream.

The current policy aims to ensure that all students at all levels of school education are taught by passionate motivated, highly - professionally trained and well-equipped teachers. The stringent action will be taken against substandard stand-alone Teacher Education institutions running in the country including shutting them down if required as per NEP.

**Keywords:** *Comprehensive, multidisciplinary, elementary education, integrated, knowledge*

## Introduction

The National Policy in Education was prepared to improve the quality of education in the country and was focused on providing education facilities to all the citizen of the nation.

The new education policy must be help recruit the very best and brightest to entire the teaching profession at all levels. Teacher education is vital in creating a pool of school

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teachers that will shape the next generation. Teacher prepare is an activity that requires multidisciplinary perspective and knowledge.

Education is a dynamic process. Teacher performance is the most crucial input in the field of education. The education gives a new shape to the individual and the nation as well. Education plays major role in bringing social change, economic and political development of any society. Education helps people to learn right actions at right time. Such an education requires efficient teachers. It is a well-known saying that teacher is the nation builder. A teacher is the central figure in the formal teaching learning process. The future of students depends upon the teachers. The place and importance of teacher in society can never be under estimated. The quality of teacher education programme needs to be up graded. Teacher education has not come up to the requisite standards. Teachers are not able to think critically and solve the issue related to teaching methods, content, organisation etc. Teacher education programme needs a comprehensive reform and restructuring curriculum of teacher-education programme needs to be revised according to changing needs of society.

This paper focus on the various problems faced by teacher education in India. Unfortunately still there are several loopholes in the system. Centre and States Governments should join the hands to bring the quality and improvement in the teacher education, and then bright future of teacher education is possible.

### **Major Problems of Teacher-Education Following are the major problems related to Teacher Education**

**Faulty Curriculum:** The curriculum continues to be more rigid and traditional. It is highly theoretical and less in practical aspect. There is less integration of theory and practice. It is away from realty and is not related to life and society.

**Problem of selection:** There are lot of deficiencies in the selection procedure of teacher education infect there is no clear cut procedure which is to be followed during admitting students for teacher education. No attitude, aptitude, or any achievement test is conducted infect interview of students is not considered while admission. Any candidate who posses' minimum required qualification got admission easily in the course.

**Less competent teacher educators:** Teacher educators are less competent. They are not

efficient enough to develop desired level of skills among the future teachers. Several times they have lack of mastery in particular subject. They are less competent to deal with the problems of classroom and behavioural problems of student teachers.

**Not well versed in use of Technology:** With the advancement in technology the world has become interdependent and is turning gradually into a global village. But educational programmes for teachers or teacher- education have not made technologically oriented for developing teaching skills among students. Stereotyped and theoretical methods are still more prevailed in the teacher education training institutes.

**Less control over teacher education institutions:** NCTE is regulatory body which controls the functioning of teacher education institutions and holds control over the quality education. It sets and maintains the standards of education in these institutions. But in last few years teacher education institutions are so drastically increase in number (without considering demand and supply) that it has become very difficult to monitor all such institutions. Some of these institutions are compromising with the quality for the sake of money only.

**Problem of solitariness:** we can see it at three levels:-

- (a) Solitariness of the colleges of education from the university;
- (b) Solitariness of the colleges from the real life of the school and
- (c) Solitariness among the different training institutes. The teacher training institutes also stand isolated from the society and real life.

**Traditional methods of teaching:** Traditional methods of teaching are still widely used for teaching for the upcoming teachers. Students are not exposed with new innovations and experimentation. Modern classrooms equipped with latest teaching aids are found in few institutions. How we can expect from the student teacher to use new teaching methods when they are not learning and using while their study duration.

**Less appreciation to creativity:** undoubtedly creativity plays an important role in teaching but in their curriculum space for creativity is less than desirable which is crucial for the overall grooming to future teachers. But this factor is ignored while delivering knowledge in teacher education programmes.

**Lack of developing Life Skills:** Life skills are the skills which are vital for personal development and growth. These skills enable human being to deal with the life's difficulties. These skills are Thinking Skills- Self Awareness, Problem Solving, Creative Thinking, Decision making and Critical thinking; Social Skills- Interpersonal relations, effective communication and empathy; Emotional Skills-Stress Management, sympathy. The main issue is that teacher-education is still memory based i.e. there is no active involvement of students therefore there is lack of development of life skills among the students which are crucial for overall development of students.

**Lack of Co-curricular activities:** The co-curricular activities in teacher education are unplanned and insufficient. Due to lack of time management these activities are ignored. However in today's scenario in competitive era co curricular activities must be an integral part of school education. Proper opportunities are not being provided to students to plan and execute more innovative co curricular activities which enable future students more realistic to face problem in the professional life of teachers.

**Quality Issues:** Quality in education relates to the quality of the work undertaken by a teacher which has significantly impact on his or her pupils. Teacher education has not come up to the requisite standards. Teachers are not able to think critically, out of box and solve the issues related to teaching methods, content, organisations etc. as the focus is on theoretical principles consequently teachers are not able to deliver quality in actual classroom situations.

**Globalization and Erosion of Values:** Due to rapid pace of globalization and advancement of information technology the countries of world has come closer. Access of any kind of information is very easy. The facility of internet has reached every corner of each country. But there are several deviations particularly of young students who are prone to malpractices. It is said that "our inclination towards bad is more than our inclination towards good". In this scenario mobile culture, internet, face book and twitter etc. have polluted young minds. This led to the erosion of values. There should be focus in the teachers' education system to resolve these issues too.

**Social Issues:** There are several social issues are in front of teachers too as they are part of society. These are population explosion, unemployment, diversity and communal tension. How teachers can safeguard their students against these social problems. As

they are sensitive issues which they have to face in future.

**Problem of teaching practice:** This is the main problem of teachers' education. Teaching practice is neither adequate nor properly conducted during study duration. Student teachers do not take the task of teaching practice seriously. They think it useless and aimlessly. They show indifferent behaviour towards the school and children. They take teaching practice as a fun and way of entertainment. On the other side the some time school and school management also pose problems as they do not co-operate- they do not get ready to allow teachingpracticesessions properly as it is a costly affair.

**Ineffective Supervision:** Student teacher needsstrict supervision at each level in order to bring desirable improvement in teaching skills and behaviour. They require supervision while practicing skills, developing and delivering lessons, to develop confidence while facing the classroom situations. But there is lack of good supervision in educationinstitutions.

**Improper Evaluation:** Evaluation system of teacher education is faulty. Examinations are conducted at the last of the session. External and internal assessment is subjective. Sometimes to get good result the college of education marked good internal assessment to the undeserved candidatesalso.

**Lack of proper facilities:** A large number of education colleges are not financially sound .Theyhave not basic facilities such as experimental aids, laboratories, libraries, hostel, and building. Some of them even are running in the rentedbuildings. And not keeping good number of quality teachers for students. They hire bare minimum teachers and several times quality teachers are on only papers.

**Time Duration:** Normally two years duration for teacher education programme has been an issue of much long debate. The teacher education curriculum which includes theory and practical and internship in actual schools require much more time for its effectiveness.

So there is a need to extend the time period of present teacher educationprogramme.

**Classroom challenges:** Some of the common *classroom challenges* faced by teachers include lack of teamwork, minimal personal time, working towards long term goals,



arguments and students excuses etc.

Addressing these common *classroom challenges* can not only help to improve teacher retention rate but also enhance success rates of student and the ultimate quality of education.

### **Problem in Time Management**

Unlike in the past when teachers can't just finish off their syllabus and typically evaluate the students. The situation is more challenging today. They have to handle multiple roles in the college such as admissions, placements and compulsory government duties. Teachers are finding it really challenging to handle multiple roles as they have not enough time for planning properly.

### **Burden of Paperwork**

For the compliance of university orders and other government bodies there is lot of burden of paper work to full fill timely ignoring the teaching task.

Therefore it is advisable to keep more supporting staff.

### **Handle too many heads**

They are of course in the middle of many 'heads' like parents, students and school managers. Satisfying to all of them is a serious challenge for them. If management do not believe in teamwork and parents who are complaining without understanding the real situation in private education institutions can make the job tough for them.

### **Problem in Standardization:**

Every student in a class cannot learn a subject in the same manner and similarly is case of evaluation. Teachers would be eager to come up with creative ways of assessing their students and these approaches may be initiated after studying their learning styles. However, if the management insists on standardized testing methods, it will be a tough job for teachers. This forces them to shift their approach of teaching and limits the scope of creative ideas to uplift the progress of the students.

### **Less Parental Support**

The role of teacher is to provide students quality education but the process is only complete with the cooperation and understanding of parents and school management. Parents could be the ideal working partners of teachers to provide the best learning experience for students. If parents are stepping away from their responsibility, it is tough for teachers to handle few students who are not self motivated and dependent on their parents for motivation.

This is the reason that teachers are taking initiatives to set up a meeting with parents and communicating them through apps so that they can have an eye on the progress of their ward.

### **Limitations of Disciplining Students**

All students in a class may not be well mannered or respectful. There can be some cases of serious disrespect towards teachers and the rules safeguarding students can be a headache for teachers. Teachers have to look into the lawsuits and double-check it before you respond as things can turn against you in unexpected manner. It can kill love/ passion for teaching.

### **Less Time for Family and Self Development**

The whole day long teachers do multi-tasking for an effective teaching-learning process. More than a teacher, he/she should take up the role of a social worker, counselor, psycho educator, or more at times. They are expected to shoulder different roles throughout the day.

Often teachers are forced to neglect their own physical needs. They won't go for refreshments in between. There are even hectic days, where they even skip lunch.

### **Teachers being made responsible for more than they should**

Most of the time, teachers don't feel that the responsibility is equally shared between them, parents, and students. Unfortunately, they will have to bear a lot of responsibilities on their shoulders.



### **A prescribed curriculum for all students**

It is a genuine fact that each student is different from others. But problem arises when a specific curriculum is prescribed for all students. The pace of understanding a concept differs from student to student.

Situation turns crucial when teachers are expected to apply a fixed curriculum to students with shifting needs.

Teachers also don't get enough time to tailor content appealingly as per the needs of students.

### **Differentiating and Personalizing Teaching**

What works for one student does not work for the other. Teachers are clear about this and are looking for newer ways to analyze and evaluate different skill levels.

Diversifying teaching methods, but keeping it simple is the right solution, but it is hard to execute.

### **Getting Students to do Work outside the Class**

Work done by himself is a great learning. It should be extended beyond classrooms. What students are learning from schools is just a fraction of their academics. Textbook exposure to learning teachers are informed to follow the textbooks and teach by keeping a vision on final exams that the students have to go through. This led to a situation where teachers teach and students learn only what is prescribed in the textbook.

**Suggestions:** There are some suggestions here for improving the condition of teacher education which is given as:

- New and innovative teaching techniques can be used for transaction of curriculum. The teacher education programme should be modified so that teachers should be equipped for the different roles and functions imposed by new technologies.
- The socio-economic status of the teachers must be raised so as to attract talented people towards the profession. Teachers should train about stress management mechanism so that they could help students in managing the stress and sustaining

themselves in this time of social isolation, parental pressure and cut throat competition. Teacher education programmes should enable the teachers to develop the relief skills among students.

- Teachers should be able to think critically make right decisions and maintain harmonious relations with others.
- Techniques used in teaching should develop habit of self learning and reduce dependence on teachers. It will help them to reflect on their own and doing something new.
- There should be a burden on university and other governing bodies to update the curriculum.
- There should be harmony among governing bodies to avoid unnecessary creating burden of paper work.

## CONCLUSION

Teacher and his education are very significant aspects of any nation. The education gives a new shape to the individual and the nation as well. It is a well-known saying that teacher is the nation builder. The quality of teacher education programme needs to be up graded. Teacher education has not come up to the requisite standards. Teachers are not able to think critically and solve the issue related to teaching methods, content, organisation etc. teacher education programme needs a comprehensive reform and restructuring curriculum of teacher-education programme needs to be revised according to changing needs of society. No doubt a lot of stress is given on teacher-education course in India. Unfortunately still there are several loopholes in the system. After the deep study and healthy discussion with educationist, I came to this conclusion that Centre and States Governments should join the hands to bring the quality and improvement in the teacher education, then bright future of teacher education is possible. This article would be helpful to State and Centre Governments policy maker budget allotment and best educationists to bring reforms in teacher education.

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