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A Study on the Policies of Teacher Education in Post-Independence Period

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Abstract:

Teaching is a goal oriented activity. Teaching is concerned with the process of behavioural changes to help students to channelize their innate capacities. Teacher education programmes have existed over a century in India. Teacher education refers to the policies and procedures designed to equip teachers with the knowledge, attitudes, behaviours and skills they require to perform their tasks effectively in the school and classroom. India has witnessed a rapid expansion and growth in every social sector since independence. Development of society depends upon the dynamic nature of its educational system. The development of education system depends on the Nations planners, administrators, educationist and the teachers. Teacher performance is the most crucial input in the field of education. Whatever policies may be laid down, in the ultimate analysis these have to be interpreted and implemented by teachers, as much through their personal example as through the teaching-learning processes. We are on the threshold of the development of new technologies likely to revolutionize teaching in classrooms. Nowadays, we face a paradox of having better books and research but progressively more indifferent teachers. Teacher education has been greatly influenced over the years by developments in the field of education as well as those in the society at large. This paper is an attempt by the researcher to study different policies related to the teacher education system in post-independence period.

Key Words: *Teacher Education, Policies, Learning, Research*

Introduction: “The destiny of India is now being shaped in her classrooms”- Education Commission, 1964-66. According to the National Council for Teacher Education Act, “Teacher education means programmes of education, research or training of persons for equipping them to teach at pre-primary, primary, secondary and senior secondary stages in schools, and includes non-formal education, adult education and correspondence education through distance mode. Teacher Education system plays a crucial role in shaping as well as modifying the quality of school education. At present time the teaching profession demands teachers to be innovative in their attitudes, flexible in their approach. Teacher education programme needs some significant efforts towards ushering in innovation in the process of

educating future teachers. It is an effort which has been modified by the vision of efficient scholars and dedicated academicians from the domain of education and it has been given a material shape by the team of dedicated individuals who have dreamt of transforming the realm of teacher education. Role of teacher is the single most important factor in assuring quality in the teaching –learning process. Teacher is the one who facilitates learners to realise their potentials, articulate their personal and context specific experiences in ways that are acceptable in the wider context of our nation.

Commissions after Post-Independence Period: In India teacher education has always been recognised as one of the most crucial means of social and national development. This view has been reflected by several commissions and committees after independence. The Government of India set up many commissions and committees time to time for addressing different issues of general education as well as teacher education. After independence efforts were made to tackle the emerging problem of access, quality and relevance of teacher education system in the country. The central institute of Education was established in Delhi in 1948 and the Government Training College at Allahabad was developed into the Central Pedagogical institute.

University Education Commission (1948-49): Just after independence, the Ministry of Education, Government of India set-up University Education Commission under the chairmanship of Dr.S.Radhakrishnan in the year, 1948. The commission recommended that the courses must be flexible and adaptable to local circumstances.

- To remodel the course and time given to school practice in assessing the student performance
- To use schools for practical training
- Courses on the theory of education to be flexible and adaptable to local circumstances.

Secondary Education Commission: Secondary Education Commission was established under the chairmanship of Dr. A.L.Mudaliar. The recommended that there should be only two types of institutions for teacher training.¹

- Training colleges should organise refresher courses, start intensive courses in special subjects, practical training in workshops.
- Teacher trainees should receive training in one or more of various extra-curricular activities.
- During the period of training all student teachers should be given suitable stipend by the state and no fees should be charged in training colleges
- The training institutions should advocate methods and training that are practicable and realistic.

¹ Dr Gaurav Singh, *Teacher Education* (New Delhi, 2013), p.12.
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Establishment of NCERT (1961): National Council of Educational Research and Training was established on 1961 for the development of school education. It also included teacher education. The recommendations of NCERT are as follows:

- To revamp elementary and secondary teacher Education curriculum.
- To reorganise student teaching and evaluation
- To focus on continuing education of teachers through establishments of centres of continuing education
- To provide a scheme of national awards to school teachers and teacher educators.

The Education Commission (1964-66): Prof. D.S. Kothari was the chairman of the education commission (1964-66) under whose name it was named as Kothari Commission. The commission studied various aspects of the Teacher education in details and observe that a sound programme of professional education of teachers is essential for quality improvement of eructation.

- To frame the training course as to prepare the students for the immediate work of teaching
- To introduce education as an independent discipline and an elective subject in courses for the first and second degrees.
- To removing the existing isolation of teacher education from schools
- To organise extension work as an essential function of a teacher traininh institution
- To organise alumni association to bring old students and faculty to discuss and plan programme and curricula.
- To establish a state Board of Teacher Education to be responsible for all functions related to teacher education at all levels and in all fields.
- To improve the quality of teacher training institutions.
- To select best and competent persons available for the faculty of training institutions
- To organise special courses for graduates entering primary teaching
- Correspondence courses and liberal concessions for study leave should be made available to unqualified teachers in primary schools to improve their qualifications.
- Reorientation of subject knowledge of secondary teachers with competent university departments and with the arts and science colleges doing post-graduate work.
- To maintain the standards of teacher education by establishing U.G.C at the National Level.
- To make provision of funds in the centrally sponsored sector to assist State Governments to develop teacher education.
- To improve the working and service conditions of teachers
- To provide adequate facilities for professional advancements to all teachers.

Indian Association of Teacher Education (IATE): IATE was established in the year 1965. The major recommendations of this association regarding teacher education were:

- Practice school – Every College of education should have one practice school attached to it
- Correspondence course - Correspondence courses should be introduced for reducing the backlog of untrained teachers
- Summer Institutes - Summer Institutes should be started to increase the number of trained teachers
- Area Organisation - Area Organisation should be set up to integrate and supervise the training of teachers at all levels.²

National Policy on Education (NPE), 1968: National Policy on Education (NPE), 1968 was established under the chairmanship of Shri Ganga Sharan Sinha. The National Policy on Education formulated the following suggestions regarding the status, emoluments and education of teachers:

- The emoluments and other service conditions of the teachers should be adequate and satisfactory with regard to their qualifications.
- Academic freedom of teachers to pursue and publish independent studies and researches and to speak and write about significant national and international issues should be protected.
- Teacher education particularly in service education should receive due emphasis³

The National Council for Teacher Education, 1973: The National Council for Teacher Education was established to work as national advisory body for teacher education. The NCTE drafted a curriculum that envisaged the role of teacher as a leader inside and outside the classroom.

- To improve the administration of teacher education
- To make the curriculum relevant to the needs of children, the needs of society and the needs of the country.
- To improve the evaluation procedures and introduce grading and semester system
- To enrich the methodology by self-learning, problem-solving and practical work
- To prepare stage-wise objectives of teacher education and give special emphasis on working with community.

National Commission on Teachers (1983-85): Prof. D.P. Chattopadhyaya, was the chairman of National Commission on Teachers. The commission made some valuable suggestions for Teacher education:

- A four-year training course after senior secondary leading to graduation and training is recommended.
- To enlarge and improve the physical facilities of a four year integrated college.

² Lokman Ali, *Teacher Education* (New Delhi, 2012), p. 2.

³ *Ibid.*, p.2

- To extend the duration of one year B.Ed course by two summer months ensuring an academic session of 220 days with longer working hours
- To select teacher on the basis of some factors like, good physique, linguistic ability and communication skills, general awareness of the world, a positive outlook on life and capacity of good human relations.

National Policy on Teacher Education (1986): National Policy on Teacher Education was adopted by parliament in May 1986. It recommended the system of teacher education to be overhauled.

- To upgrade selected secondary teacher training institutions.
- Emphasizing inseparability of pre-service and in-service components of teacher education
- To establish District Institutes of Education and Training (DIET) with the capability to organise pre-service and in-service courses for elementary school teachers and for the personnel working in non-formal and adult education sectors
- To establish, the National Council for Teacher Education(NCTE) at the national level which will have the power to accredit institutions of teacher education, provide guidance regarding curriculum and methods
- Upgrading of selected teacher training colleges to complement the work of SCERTs

Acharya Ram Murti Committee was appointed by the Government of India in 1990 reviewed the National Policy on education (1986). The major suggestions regarding teacher education were:

- i) The first degree course on teacher education should not be given on correspondence mode.
- ii) More institutions should be encouraged to introduce four years Integrated courses in the pattern of Regional Colleges of Education
- iii) The practice of using teacher training Institutions as dumping ground for unwanted staff should be stopped.⁴

National Council of Teacher Education 1993: The Government of India established the National Council of Teacher Education (NCTE), a statutory body by an Act of Parliament (NCTE Act, 73, 1993) in 1995. The objective of National Council of Teacher Education is achieving planned and coordinated development of the teacher education system in the country. This is considered as the land mark in the history of teacher education in India. NCTE was entrusted to undertake several responsibilities.

- To undertake surveys and studies relating to various aspects of teacher education and publish the result thereof.
- To make recommendations to the Central and State Governments, Universities, UGC in the matter of preparation of suitable plans in the field of teacher education.

⁴ Lokman Ali, *Teacher Education* (New Delhi, 2012), pp.42.

- To coordinate and monitor teacher education and its development in the country.
- To take all necessary steps to prevent commercialization of teacher education.
- To lay down standards in respect of examinations leading to teacher education qualifications, criteria for admissions to such examinations and schemes of courses.
- To formulate schemes for various levels of teacher education and identify recognized Institutions and set up new Institutions for teacher development.

In 1998, a curriculum Framework for Quality Teacher Education was proposed by NCTE under the Chairmanship of Prof, J.S. Rajput that provided a comprehensive base development of various teacher education programmes in India.⁵

Teacher Training and Innovation Report of the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) Committee, 2005: Recommendations made by the committee

- i) NCTE while laying down norms, standards and guidelines in respect of pre-service training programmes for elementary school teachers shall be guided by the principles laid down in Clause 28.
- ii) The appropriate Government in respect of teachers in State schools/ fully aided schools, and managements in respect of teachers in unaided schools, shall take all necessary steps, to ensure suitable in-service training and regular academic support, including through ICT, to teachers to enable them to implement the principles laid down in Clause 28.

National Curriculum Framework of Teacher: 2009 provides a new perspective and approach which for the first time has translated into model syllabi for elementary Teacher Education.

Liberalization policy was introduced in early nineties which were observed during the twenty first century. Besides academic activities, The NCTE has achieved some success by bringing a vast majority of teacher training institutions under its purview. In Uttar Pradesh, in the year 2000, few secondary teacher education institutions were started in self- financing mode by private initiators. The number of teacher education institutions in India rose up to 2679, the end of March, 2003. It was observed that during the session 2003-04, 519 courses were granted recognition. The total number of institutions increased up to 3489 at the end of the session.

Conclusion: The development of teacher education has been traced in the post-independence period. Teacher education programme in our country, by and large, have been conventional in its nature and purpose. Our teacher educations programs can only successful if these are attuned to the changing society and its needs. Whatever policies may be laid down, in the ultimate analysis these have to be implemented by teachers as much through their personal example as through teaching learning processes. India has reached the threshold of the development of new technologies which are likely to revolutionise the

⁵ Dr Gaurav Singh, *Teacher Education* (New Delhi, 2013), p.21.
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classroom teaching. The teacher is required to acquire adequate knowledge, skills, interests and attitudes towards the teaching profession. The teacher's work has become more complicated and technical in view of the new theories of psychology, philosophy, sociology, modern media and materials. The teacher should become proficient with well planned, imaginative pre service and in-service training programmes. Unless capable and committed are teachers in service, the education system cannot become a suitable and potential instrument of national development. The teacher is required to acquire adequate knowledge, skills, interests and attitudes towards the teaching profession. The teacher's work has become more complicated and technical in view of the new theories of psychology, philosophy, sociology, modern media and materials. The teacher can be made proficient with well planned, imaginative pre service and in-service training programmes. Thus, we can say that sudden and continuous increase in the number of training institutions after independence can be explained by the fact that more and more schools were being opened to cope with the increasing number of children wanting to go to schools. The slogan, "Education For All" has opened new vistas of knowledge for the future citizens of the country.

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