RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN TEACHER EDUCATION RELATED TO THE NEP 2020

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ABSTRACT

Teacher education is an important training program in any educational setup. It deals with procedures, provisions, and policies, to make candidates learn and gain knowledge about various concepts. They get trained to equip themselves with the best teaching skills, knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors which are required to perform effectively in any learning environment like a classroom or school. Teacher education helps the teachers to learn how to deal with the students and make them learn effectively. It is an ongoing process as the industry is always evolving and new effective ways of teaching keep emerging.

The National Policy on Education was framed in 1986 and modified in 1992. Since then several changes have taken place that calls for a revision of the Policy.

The NEP 2020 is is the first education policy of the 21st century and replaces the thirty-four year old National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986. Built on the foundational pillars of Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability and Accountability, this policy is aligned to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and aims to transform India into a vibrant knowledge society and global knowledge superpower by making both school and college education more holistic, flexible, multidisciplinary, suited to 21st century needs and aimed at bringing out the unique capabilities of each student.

Keywords: Teacher Education, NEP 2020,Research in Teacher Education, Development in Teacher Education, Transformation, Challenges of NEP, Features of NEP etc.

INTRODUCTION

It is well known that the quality and extent of learner achievement are determined primarily by teacher competence, sensitivity and teacher motivation. The National Council for

Teacher Education has defined teacher education as A programme of education, research and training of persons to teach from preprimary to higher education level.

MEANING

Teacher education refers to the policies and procedures designed to equip prospective teachers with the knowledge, attitudes, behaviors and skills they require to perform their tasks effectively in the classroom, school and wider community. Teacher education is a programme that is related to the development of teacher proficiency and competence that would enable and empower the teacher to meet the requirements of the profession and face the challenges therein. According to Goods Dictionary of Education Teacher education means, all the formal and non-formal activities and experiences that help to qualify a person to assume responsibilities of a member of the educational profession or to discharge his responsibilities more effectively. In 1906-1956, the program of teacher preparation was called teacher training. It prepared teachers as mechanics or technicians. It had narrower goals with its focus being only on skill training. The perspective of teacher education was therefore very narrow and its scope was limited. As W.H. Kilpatric put it, ―Training is given to animals and circus performers, while education is to human beings. Teacher education encompasses teaching skills, sound pedagogical theory and professional skills

The Indian government's New Education Policy is referred to as NEP. It was last modified in 1992 after being drafted in 1986. The Modi-led BJP government vowed in its election manifesto to create a new education policy, or NEP, to bring about changes in the education sector.

In July 2020, the Union Cabinet of India approved the New National Education Policy (NEP) with the aim to bring modern reforms in the Indian education system from the school to the college level. This policy stands on the ideology to make India a '*global knowledge superpower*.' In addition to this, it was with the introduction of NEP in 2020 that the Ministry of Human Resource Development was renamed to the Ministry of Education.

RESEARCH IN TEACHER EDUCATION

According to professionals from Schools in Bengaluru, There are many different ways to define research. A general definition of research is a systematic investigative process employed to increase or revise current knowledge by discovering new facts. It's important to understand the nuances of the different types of research, how they are used and in what situations.

Educational research involves collecting information about student learning and educational programs to improve future practice. This can include gathering information about

students' prior learning and experiences; collecting student work; surveying teachers, parents, and other stakeholders; or administering standardized tests. It may also involve exploring the effectiveness of particular teaching methods or procedures, such as a flipped classroom model, to inform other teachers' practices.

Educational research is the scientific field of study that examines education and learning processes and the human attributes, interactions, organizations, and institutions that shape educational outcomes.

Research plays a key role in all fields of study. It is the fundamental building block for academics and the entire education system. The field of educational research is an essential part of every university's academic department, as well as an important component of the overall education system itself. Education research has been conducted on a wide range of topics, with some focusing on particular areas of sub-fields within educational research, while others focus on broader issues.

Education research is an important part of the field of education. Research helps educators and policymakers develop, evaluate, and improve educational practices. It helps teachers know what methods work best for particular groups of students. It tells school districts whether or not efforts to change schools are effective. Education research also creates better teacher training programs and school improvement programs.

Many different organizations research education. Local, state, and federal agencies use education research to make decisions about funding schools and other educational programs.

They also use it to determine how well students are learning in different schools and school systems. University researchers often work with government agencies on these projects.

IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH

Teaching professionals from the Schools in Pune define it as - The importance of educational research is a critical aspect of the overall education process. Because it contributes greatly to both the quality of education and learning outcomes for students, it also contributes greatly to how people learn in general. Educational researchers seek to determine why certain things work better than others when it comes to teaching and learning. They also look at what methods are effective at promoting learning in general. This includes identifying problems that exist within the current system and developing possible solutions for them.

In addition to providing valuable insights into how schools function, educational researchers also provide valuable insight into how individual teachers do their jobs effectively to maximize their effectiveness in terms of student performance.

Researchers also look at broader issues in education. For example, some researchers study how gender affects learning styles or how students' home lives influence their academic success. Other researchers study how cultural differences affect teaching methods or the ways that students learn in the classroom. These studies can help improve education for all students by providing information about the diverse ways that people learn and process information.

It helps improve teaching and learning methods: Educational research helps to evaluate existing teaching methods, and find new ways of teaching and learning.

It helps in curriculum design: Curriculum design is a process that involves choosing the content to teach, determining its organization, planning its delivery, and evaluating its effectiveness. The process is greatly enhanced by educational research because it provides information about what people need to learn, what they know already etc.

It improves the quality of education: Educational research provides educators with data about learning processes and outcomes so that they can improve the quality of their practice as well as other aspects of education.

It contributes to economic development: For an economy or country to develop or remain competitive, it must have a good education system that caters to the needs of its people.

DEVELOPMENT IN TEACHER EDUCATION

Teachers were first asked to indicate whether or not they had participated in each of the following activities:

1) Courses/workshops (e.g. on subject matter or methods and/or other education-related topics);
2) Education conferences or seminars (at which teachers and/or researchers present their research results and discuss education problems);
3) Qualification programme (e.g. a degree programme);
4) Observation visits to other schools;
5) Participation in a network of teachers formed specifically for the professional development of teachers;
6) Individual or collaborative research on a topic of professional interest; and
7) Mentoring and/or peer observation and coaching, as part of a formal school arrangement.
   Teachers were able to indicate participation in multiple activities.

THE NEED FOR NEW NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY (NEP)

Up until the introduction of the New National Education Policy in 2020, there were many pitfalls in the Indian education system. Memorization was prioritized more over the understanding of concepts. In addition to this, the presence of multiple boards was a big issue. Each board had different learning methods for different skills, and then every student had to take the same standardized board exam. Furthermore, in the past years, more emphasis was laid on learning or mastering traditional subjects and less on developing vocational skills.

Transformation of Indian Education System Post-independence

1) 1948 – The 1st commission, University Education Commission, was set up
2) 1952 – The Secondary Education Commission was established
3) 1964-1966 – The Indian Education Commission was introduced
4) 1968 – 1st National Education Policy came up
5) 1986 – A new policy was formulated
6) 1992 – The previous education policy was modified
7) 2005 – The 1986 education policy was again modified
8) 2020 – The new National Education Policy (NEP) was passed by the cabinet

CHALLENGES OF NEP

The framework designed by NEP 2020 will bring a revolutionary change in the entire higher education ecosystem of India, but it has a few limitations, as studied by a few researchers. These are:

- As the policy aims to double the gross enrollment ratio by 2035, this requires the creation of a new university every week for the next 15 years, which is a huge challenge.
- To deliver the upgraded curriculum effectively, India needs a sizable pool of competent teachers who are familiar with the new pedagogical approach.
- Adequate funding and resources are required for proper implementation.
- As teachers generally share a disciplinary anchoring culture, it is difficult to have educators with exceptional skills who are experts in one area and lean in other subjects as well.

FEATURES OF NEP

9) **Ensuring Universal Access at all levels of school education**

NEP 2020 emphasizes on ensuring universal access to school education at all levels- pre school to secondary. Early Childhood Care & Education with new Curricular and Pedagogical Structure

With emphasis on Early Childhood Care and Education, the 10+2 structure of school curricula is to be replaced by a 5+3+3+4 curricular structure corresponding to ages 3- 8, 8-11, 11-14, and 14-18 years respectively. This will bring the hitherto uncovered age group of 3-6 years under school curriculum, which has been recognized globally as the crucial stage for development of mental faculties of a child. The new system will have 12 years of schooling with three years of Anganwadi/ pre schooling.

10) **Reforms in school curricula and pedagogy**

The school curricula and pedagogy will aim for holistic development of learners by equipping them with the key 21st century skills, reduction in curricular content to enhance essential learning and critical thinking and greater focus on experiential earning. Students will have increased flexibility and choice of subjects. There will be no rigid separations between arts and sciences, between curricular and extra-curricular activities, between vocational and academic streams.

11) Vocational education will start in schools from the 6th grade, and will include internships.

A new and comprehensive National Curricular Framework for School Education, NCFSE 2020-21, will be developed by the NCERT.

12) **Multilingualism and the power of language**

The policy has emphasized mother tongue/local language/regional language as the medium of instruction at least till Grade 5, but preferably till Grade 8 and beyond. Sanskrit to be offered at all levels of school and higher education as an option for students, including in the three-language formula

Assessment Reforms

NEP 2020 envisages a shift from summative assessment to regular and formative assessment, which is more competency-based, promotes learning and development, and tests higher-order skills, such as analysis, critical thinking, and conceptual clarity. All students will take school examinations in Grades 3, 5, and 8 which will be conducted by the appropriate authority. Board exams for Grades 10 and 12 will be continued, but redesigned with holistic development as the aim. A new National Assessment Centre, PARAKH (Performance

Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development), will be set up as a standard-setting body.

Equitable and Inclusive Education

NEP 2020 aims to ensure that no child loses any opportunity to learn and excel because of the circumstances of birth or background. Special emphasis will be given on Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Groups(SEDGs) which include gender, socio-cultural, and geographical identities and disabilities.

13) **School Governance**

Schools can be organized into complexes or clusters which will be the basic unit of governance and ensure availability of all resources including infrastructure, academic libraries and a strong professional teacher community.

CONCLUSION

The way the education is carried out is usually a subject of political discussion in several nations, which showcases both the value attached by different cultures and societies to prepare young people for their life. This education is an important element of any education system, which must be reviewed for effectiveness.

India's education system is at a critical juncture, with the path not completely clear. The Indian education system must meet the needs of the progressive society with a population of over 1.4 billion. In the past years, India has surely made several changes in its academic structure; some challenges are yet to pass.The new National Educational Policy offers a comprehensive strategy to enhance the quality of education and bridge the gap in socioeconomic disparities in Indian society. Its success calls for a robust collaboration between private and government entities. Therefore, if properly executed, NEP 2020 has the potential to shape India's education system.

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