

## Concept and importance of Teacher Education

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**Abstract:** The concept of teacher is incomplete without the concept of teacher education. The quality of education is determined mainly by the quality of teachers. The teachers should get full concept of teacher education so that they come out as full beings in the field of teacher education. Thus the concept is important to be understood.

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### 1. Introduction:

Teacher education is an integral component of the educational system. It is a broad and comprehensive concept. It is ever-evolving and dynamic in nature. It encompasses teaching skills, sound pedagogical theory and professional skills. It is composed of two words, i.e., teacher and education. Teacher is the one who makes something known to you and education means the all-round development of personality. Thus, it means the education of teachers. The following definitions will help us in understanding the concept of teacher education:

**1.1 Good's 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.

**1.2 Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia:-** Teacher education refers to the policies and procedures designed to equip prospective teachers with knowledge, attitudes, behavior and skills they require to perform their tasks effectively in the classroom, school and wider community.

**1.3 National Council for Teacher Education:-** Teacher education is a programme of education, research and training of persons to teach from pre-primary to higher education level.

**1.4 Tasleema and Muddasir:-** Teacher education is a dynamic field, involving diverse means and techniques, procedures and skills, strategies and approaches, rules and regulations that help teachers to grow in the teaching profession and also works towards the growth of the teaching profession.

**1.5 Encyclopedia of Educational Research(1941):-** Walter S. Monroe qualifies, teacher education as, the total education experiences which contribute to the preparation of a person but the term is completely employed to designate the

programme for courses and other experiences offered by an educational institute for the announced purposes of preparing persons for teaching and other educational service and for contribution to their growth in competency for such service. Such teacher education programmes are offered in teacher colleges, normal schools and colleges and universities.

Thus teacher education is a programme that is related to the development of teacher and that would enable and empower the teacher to meet the requirements of the profession and face the challenges therein. It is a process of professional preparation of teachers. It builds capacities among teachers to construct knowledge, to deal with different contexts and to develop the abilities to discern and judge in moments of uncertainty. The different method, techniques, innovations, skills, rules and guidelines that brings out the development of a teacher is teacher education.

### 2. Need and importance:

The National Curriculum Framework (2005) placed demands and expectations on the teacher, which needs to be addressed by both initial and continuing teacher education. Any change in the nature, purpose, quality and character of the school demands a concomitant change in teacher education. But the changes at the level of teacher education have not adequately responded to the emerging realities at the school level. All that the teachers are expected to do in their workplaces need to be reflected in the teacher education activities and programmes. The American Commission on Teacher Education rightly observes, "the quality of a nation depends upon the quality of its citizens. the quality of its citizens depends not exclusively, but in critical measure upon the quality of their education, the quality of their education depends more than upon any single factor, upon the quality of their teachers." The following

points highlight the need and importance of teacher education:

(1) Universal accessibility to quality education is pre-requisite for any development and teacher education is serving to achieve the purpose of universalization of quality education.

(2) In order to reinforce faith in democratic socialism, secularism, justice, liberty, freedom, equality of status, the role of teacher education needs to be understood in its true perspective. It is teacher and teacher education that develops faith among student teachers towards the main goals of the nation.

(3) Teacher education like any other educational intervention, can only work on those professional commitments or dispositions that are susceptible to modification. While we can't remake someone's personality, we can reshape attitude towards the other and develop a professional rather than a personal role orientation towards teaching as a practice.

(4) According to Delors Commission (1999, p.18) reported, "Given the present and foreseeable advances in science and technology, and the growing importance of knowledge and other intangibles in the production of goods and services, we need to rethink the place of work and its changing status in tomorrow's society. To create tomorrow's society, imagination will have to keep ahead of technological progress in order to avoid further increases in unemployment and social exclusion or inequalities in development." Thus teacher education has to play an important role towards these problems.

(5) Highlighting the need and importance of teacher education, the National Knowledge Commission (2007, p.54) reported that, "Training and orientation programmes must be conceptualized to enable education to effectively utilize technology to cater to diverse learners' interests. The content of the training modules must promote familiarity with the theories and practices of self-learning. Their delivery should take place through several modes, including web-supported, audio-visual and face to face interaction on a regular basis with experts, practitioners and peers. Most importantly, these packages must be updated regularly and administered directly. The B.Ed. curriculum must also be revised, updated and made to emphasize theories and practices of self-learning."

(6) Explosion of knowledge, universal education, expectation and aspirations for better quality of life have led to the exploration of alternatives to formal system which suffers from inherent inadequacies of rigidity and structural deficiencies. These alternatives include non-formal education, adult education, distance education etc. These alternatives have to perform functions of different nature, their training has essentially to be

job specific. Developing skills, competencies and commitments in the personal involved in alternative strategies demand preparation and use of teaching and learning materials to be specifically designed for the programmes. So the teacher education prepares and contributes to complementary educational service systems like non-formal education, adult literacy and distance education.

(7) A large number of teacher training institutions do not practice what they preach. Several of the skills acquired and methodologies learnt are seldom practiced in actual school system. This highlights the need to bring realism and dynamism in the curriculum of all stages of teacher education.

(8) Teacher education is a professional programme and envelops both pre-service and in-service programmes in which the teachers have to be innovative and research minded. Integrated programmes of teacher education have not yet taken roots in the country except in the RCEs of NCERT. So there arises the need for teacher education to set up integrated programmes throughout the country.

(9) There are children having mild or moderate disabilities who can be served by the general classroom teachers only if they are properly sensitized to the needs of such children. Gifted and talented children also need to be identified and provided necessary educational inputs. In addition, there may be children lagging behind due to specific learning difficulties which may have remained unidentified. Teacher education have included the concept of inclusive education in order to cater such children, so it had itself highlighted its need and importance.

(10) The need and importance of teacher education is evident as a teacher has to perform multiple activities besides those that were intrinsic to teaching and learning. Teaching, evaluating, communicating, guiding and counseling, organizing co-curricular activities, participating in community programmes, diagnosing and remedying problems of students, are only some of the main activities. All these need excellence in academic and professional preparation of teachers.

(11) The learners need considerable freedom to explore, enquire and investigate. Curricula should give enough space to student teachers to develop logical reasoning, critical thinking, problem solving and meaning making. Their socio-cultural environment, their developmental stages, physical and psychological changes, they are undergoing and influence of these factors on their learning styles etc. Should be given due consideration in teacher education. Therefore considerable diversity is needed in content and pedagogy to develop reflectivity in teachers. Today

individual differences are given much importance due to teacher education.

(12) Different issues like policy issues, curriculum issues, evaluative procedures and practices, children with special needs, children from specific cultural, social, economic needs can not be ignored. These issues needs to be studied and solved and teacher education performs these functions in the form of research.

(13) The training of teachers is a major area of concern at present as both pre-service and in-service training of school teachers are extremely inadequate and poorly managed in most states. Pre-service training needs to be improved and differently regulated both in public and private institutions, while systems for in-service training requires expansion and major reform that allow greater flexibility. Thus teacher education can't be ignored at these levels of pre and in-service.

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