



Teacher Education-Demand and Supply Issues

DR. DIVYESH M. PATEL

Assistant Professor,

Vaidya Shri M.M. Patel College of Education, Ahmedabad
Gujarat (India)

Abstract:

The success of a student depends most of all on the quality of the teacher. The quality of teachers has become a major concern of policy-makers, college and university, especially at the colleges of teacher education, and the public in general. Quality teacher is the right of every child. In an era of increasing standards and accountability in education, teacher quality and teacher training will be more important than ever. The demand of teachers has been increased during past years, but that demand has been encountered with teachers having paper qualification. Quality teachers will be a major concern in coming years while facing numerous challenges to teacher education in the era of digital technology and globalization. This paper focuses on the challenges faced by teacher education in present era.

Keywords: Demand and Supply, Issues, Teacher Education

1. Introduction

Human life is working constantly for uplifting quality at all aspects of life since its inception. Quality is the driving parameter in all human discoveries. In present era human insists for quality in materialistic objects such as even small things like pen, pencil, soap etc. But their thirst for quality human is evaporating at high rate. Student quality is the center of quality of education system. It is student by whom quality parameters of education can be measured. In fact whole education system is evolved for providing education to child. It was society's need to have an educated child. It is said that if you want to see the future of nation can not exceed the exiting level of quality of its teacher. Following are some supply and demand issues related to education.

2. Demand Issues

According to George Orwell, Society has always seemed to demand a little more from human beings than it will get in practice. This quote shows the current scenario of Teacher Education. Demand from its stakeholders does not fulfill the basic principles of Education. There are many issues from demand side which are directly concerned with functioning of Teacher Education. Such demand issues are discussed below.

2.1 Society's need

The most important and surprising question arising in today's that do we need really a quality teachers. Is society need quality teachers? Do they have real concept of quality teacher? The answer is both yes and no. No because society is looking for high percentage in written examination only. As they are demanding high percentage at any cost, education is providing it at any cost.

2.2 Teacher in demand

Teacher in demand can be identified from the output he/she delivers. This can be evaluated by both education system and society/parents both. Any school will like to have a teacher who delivers most in terms of result. Parents also love to have a tutor who can bring out most from their child in terms of percentage. It is the limited concept quality that will be most concerned in future.

2.3 Quality in demand

There are many aims of education related to personal, societal, national, intellectual, cultural, economical etc. But the most driving force of social thinking is the economical aim. Economic

stability is always in concerns and is the perhaps only parameter by which a successful education is evaluated. Due population rise, everyone is concerned about their livelihood. Present era is the time for survival. Yes it is again theory of survival is working. This view automatically diverts society and education system from other aims of education. This had cost quality also. To address the issue of quantity, quality is compromised.

2.4 One way communication

Communication between education system and society is a must for setting goals of education and nation. Society is demanding graduates having high percentage at any cost. The education system is providing it. Education system is getting message from social needs and tries to address it. Message is definitely communicated from society's side. But instead of evaluating that message, correcting that message education system is running to full fill it. Education system should educate society (parents) that high percentage is not the only criteria for which they should look for. Parents should look for humanity, personhood, nationality, values, social concerns etc in to their child. If society is not demanding anyone of these than they should be educated for that. Even if society is not demanding for this than these aims should not be out of focus from education system. They should try for this and should be included in their evaluation and curriculum. This one way communication is harming social values at long term.

2.5 Recruitment procedure

Teacher recruitment procedure depends on the marks printed on the mark sheets of the candidate. Higher the marks printed higher the chances that you will get government job. Evaluation system of teacher training institutions and higher education institutions are not validate and reliable. There may be many alternate ways of recruitment of teacher. But this practice leads towards a situation of dead lock. Many candidates having high percentages but no teaching aptitude, professionalism, content knowledge, learning ability, ability to change gets chance during government recruitment. Once they are employed they are the liability of government, society and education system to feed them money every month regularly. And this feeding continuous till he/she retires. This affects next 50 years of youth and nation. Another result of this recruitment practice is the root of quality decline i.e. social focus, student's focus, teacher's focus, parent's focus, education's focus, evaluation system's focus. This practice shifts focus of all towards only marks, marks and marks.

3. Supply Issues

Demand issues shows that it has impact on Teacher Education process. Demand issues are not the only one which is concurred with Teacher Education, but there are issues from supply side also. Teacher Education has its issues related to many dimensions of its functioning. Supply issues related to teacher Education are discussed below.

3.1 Quality – delimitation of definition

As it is discussed earlier that many aims of education are need to be addressed and inculcate in a child during schooling and graduation. If two parents meet than what will be the topic of their talk about their children? This topic of discussion gives us the definition of quality pertaining in society. On the other hand if two schools Principal meet each other than also their topic of discussion gives us an idea of the quality definition in use. In both cases most of the time the topic of discussion will be marks obtained for parents and percentage of result for school Principals. This is the advanced delimited definition of quality. To full fill customers need is the quality. This is correct definition for business. But education is something more than business. But unfortunately this definition is also applied here.

3.2 Intake

Teacher training institution explosion in almost every state result due to estimated high teacher demand under Education for All policy implementation. This estimation leads towards easy and almost non procedure for opening a teacher training institution. In present era teacher training institutions are facing many problems. Some of them are listed below:

3.2.1 Intake

Is the major issue faced by teacher training institutions? Many of teacher training institutes are not able to have intake of 100. Many institutes have given their 30-35 trainees back to university saying that they are not willing to run college this year. This problem likely to be worst during coming years. As a result many teacher educators will be unemployed even if having enough qualification. All the money invested will also lose.

3.2.2 Intake quality

This is one of the most serious problems faced by teacher training institutions. Intake coming to join teaching as a profession has actually no traits or aptitude to be a teacher. Problem faced by trainees is the content of school curriculum. Their whole focus is on remembering content during practice teaching lessons. This results in less focus on methodology and pedagogy of teaching.

3.3 Education – easy go

Education at any level is an easy go. From primary to post graduation students are just passing without having any difficulty from evaluation system. Once you entered you are assured to be passed. This is because quality compromise and marks oriented society. To establish authentic and rigorous evaluation system is also a danger now a day. Authentic and rigorous evaluation system definitely will not able to give almost 100% results. This will raise questions about their ability and quality of teaching. No one will like to get admission to such institutions offering low results every year due to real evaluation. As far as you are giving good results, no body bothers about your evaluation system, at least not parents.

3.4 Quantity over quality

Quantity gets attention overshadowing quality. As discussed earlier, to have high literacy ratio, no one seems caring about quality. This is the issue to be addressed by education system. Researches are required to evolve a methodology giving high quality while addressing quantity.

3.5 Education- not a first choice

Education system fails to attract quality graduates and post graduates. It is reality that hardly few have an Education as a first career choice. Education system has to launch new policies to attract cream towards education. Obviously, this will result in a mass of (qualified) teachers having no real professionalism and ability to prepare next generation. They just survive in this profession for whole life.

4. Conclusion

We are what we repeatedly do (*Albert Einstein*). Quality teacher will always be in demand but one must reconstruct the definition of quality education. Compromise with quality will definitely give side effects such as low quality life, value less society, low ethics, less professionalism, low humanity, social destruction, individualism etc. So quality teacher's supply and demand should be analyzed minutely and needs to be correct where ever it is required.

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