



Quality Concerns in Teacher Education

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Abstract:

Professional development of secondary level teachers has been an area of great concern for teacher educators. Generally there are three different ways of achieving professional development among teachers.

- *Acquainting the teachers with modern ways of curriculum transaction.*
- *Showing them models of good teaching and*
- *Training them to reflect on their own teaching.*

In the days of fast changing economy training a teacher, to be a reflective thinker proves to be useful as it makes them a lifelong learner. In this method teachers are expected to use their classroom as laboratories to study the learning process as it applies to their particular discipline.

Keywords: *Professional development, Teacher education, Quality concern*

1. Quality in Teacher Education

Quality is the totality of features and characteristics of a product or service that bear on its ability to satisfy the stated or implied needs. In the context of education, quality refers to the features of education, which has to satisfy the needs of students, parents and society at large by developing appropriate knowledge and skills. Quality in education refers to the availability of competent teacher, an ideal student-teacher ratio, adequate infrastructure facilities etc.

2. Strategies for Strengthening Teacher Education at Secondary Level

2.1 Encouraging Innovating Activities

In every educational institution the teacher must be encouraged to undertake innovative activities.

2.2 Empowerment in Context of Knowledge and Skills

Due to advancement and modernization of the society it is necessary for the teacher to empower teachers with latest knowledge and skills without which the quality education would never sustain.

2.3 Empowerment in Context of Teacher Assessment and Recognition with Rewards

There is need to evolve a scientifically developed assessment criteria and performance appraisal mechanism for teachers including their head/ principal. This process of each other's assessment and performance appraisal would empower teacher's meaningful evaluation of self teaching, research and same for the colleagues would help to reduce the effect of biases to minimum and sustain the quality in higher education to meet the ever changing needs of globalization.

2.4 Teachers Empowerment in Decision Making

Academic decentralization has to take place in terms of empowerment to autonomous institutions to take decision with regard to changes in methods of instruction, goals of instruction, examination and other evaluation procedures.

2.5 Need for Integration of Electronics, means of Communication, Learning, Training and Education

This need is strongly felt in schools. The efforts should be taken for

- Use of electronic measuring instruments in the laboratory.
- Use of improved apparatus
- Use of computer for data collection, coding, encoding, analysis, result preparation, reporting, generating alternative methodologies for the same or similar question in science.
- Use of software leading, reading, manipulating, listing, analysis and testing.

3. More Focus on Facilitative Teaching to Develop Self Learning

There is need to orient the teachers for the new syllabus, facilitative methodology of teaching and focus on the self learning of students and teachers. In order to do so, the teachers need to

- Provide exercises in addition to classroom teaching.
- Provide exercises that can help in understanding.
- Give addresses of websites that students can easily surf.
- Give opportunities to students to develop projects such as preparing biodiesel.
- Ask students to write the structure of crystal lattices in ionic solids such as sodium chloride etc.

4. Sharing Experiences Gained from Programme

It is expected that the teachers after training must discuss and share their ideas and experiences with their colleagues for the improvement in the educational institution.

5. Regular Review and Revision of Curricular Contents

Review of curricular content of school and teacher education programme at the elementary, secondary and higher secondary stage needs to be taken up from time to time to ensure that new development of pedagogy get reflected and front line areas of education, evaluation, etc. get incorporated in the syllabus. This process ultimately helps in improving quality education.

6. Teacher Recruitment and Development Policies

Data indicates that the present recruitment procedure of teachers in some of the states is not up to the mark. Teachers are appointed in contract basis and given low consolidated pay. Even in deployment there is a disparity and no set procedure is followed. If we want to improve quality education then the policy of teacher's recruitment, salary and deployment of teachers must be taken into consideration in respect of diverse educational situation.

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