

STATE CONSULTATION ON QUALITY TEACHER EDUCATION

Time : 2.00 p.m.
Date : 17.04.2015
Venue : Hotel Hindustan International, Bhubaneswar

INFORMATION NOTE

The essence of a programme of teacher education is 'quality' and in its absence, teacher education becomes, not only a financial waste but a source of over-all deterioration in educational standards. A programme of highest importance therefore is to improve the quality of teacher education.

- Kothari Commission (1964-66)

The quality of education depends, among other factors, heavily on the quality of teachers. The quality of teachers depends, in turn, on the quality of their professional preparation. The professional preparation of teachers, being crucial for the qualitative improvement of education, has come to receive priority by the Central and State Governments. The National Policy on Education 1986 has accorded premium to the pre-service and in-service training of teachers. The teacher education programme is the only programme in education which continues to receive the same share i.e. 75:25 of Central assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme since its inception in 1989. Despite several developments in school education and substantial investment in teacher education, the teacher education system in the country has remained remarkably stable. To put it differently, the teacher education system is relatively more change-resistant.

The National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE), a statutory body of Government of India, regulates the teacher education system in the country. It controls the quantitative and qualitative expansion of the system through its Regional Committees. Notwithstanding the regulatory authority of NCTE, the teacher education in the country has experienced phenomenal expansion under the private sector. This has inevitably led to two sets of problems: first, mushroom proliferation of teacher education institutions disregard of demand-supply equation, driven purely by profit motive; and second, unsatisfactory standards / quality of the products of the system. These concerns have been expressed in different reports such as the National Commission on Education (1964-66), widely known as the Kothari Commission, the National Policy on Education (1986), the Justice Verma Commission (2012) and the Joint Review Missions on Teacher Education.

Some of the eminently important concerns expressed in these important documents include: (i) strengthening the pre-service and in-service components of teacher preparation and teacher development; (ii) removing the isolation of teacher education institutions from institutions of higher education on the one hand and from schools on the other; (iii) exploring different models of pre-service teacher education; (iv) increased duration of B.Ed. and M.Ed. programmes; (v) judicious use of information and communication technologies in teacher education; (vi) upgrading the entry qualification of teacher educators; (vii) introduction of a transparent system of admission of candidates to teacher education institutions; (viii) introduction of relevant teacher education curriculum; (ix) infusing greater rigour in professional preparation of teachers; (x) strengthening NCTE as regulator of teacher education system in the country etc.

Taking into consideration the above concerns, NCTE has come out with a new set up of norms and standards for teacher education institutions, which is known

as NCTE Regulation 2014. This Regulation has come into force with effect from 01.12.2014. In short, NCTE Regulation 2014 is a landmark development in teacher education. With the overhauling of earlier norms and standards, NCTE is poised to qualitatively transform the teacher education system in the country. The effective implementation of the NCTE Regulation 2014 by states is likely to trigger significant changes. In fact, ICT's in teacher education in Odisha is at the minimalist level, requiring expert inputs for developing a roadmap.

This Consultation is being jointly organised by the Directorate of TE and SCERT, Odisha under the guidance of the School and Mass Education Department, Government of Odisha and technical support from Unicef, Odisha.

State Consultation on Quality Teacher Education

The School and Mass Education Department, Government of Odisha has initiated a slew of reforms in teacher education even prior to the NCTE Regulation 2014. NCTE's new norms and standards are expected to accelerate the pace and scale of spells of reform initiated by the Department. The present Consultation is intended to address two important aspects of teacher education.

Themes for Discussion

1. Implementation of NCTE Regulation 2014 for quality improvement and
2. Restructuring of SCERT, Odisha.

Consultation Objectives :

- To discuss threadbare the NCTE Regulation 2014 with their implications for implementation in the State.
- To converse on some of the latently missing issues in the NCTE Regulation 2014.
- On the basis of JRM recommendation a think tank has been constituted and vision document on teacher education, plan of action for teacher education and restructuring of SCERT with draft cadre rule has been prepared. This is developed in a consultative process. Thus in this forum the presentation would endorsement of restructuring of SCERT. The Dept. of education and SCERT is supposed to make the presentation.

Expert Speakers :

- Prof. Santosh Panda, Chairperson, NCTE, New Delhi and
- Ms Usha Padhee, Commissioner-cum- Secretary, School & Mass Education, Govt. of Odisha.

Participants :

The participants of the Consultation include: Representatives of State Universities, policy and decisions makers of Education Department, selected heads of teacher education institutions, members of Think Tank-TE etc. The participants represent the core stakeholders for quality teacher education in the State.

Dignitaries:

It has been planned to have the kind presence of the Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Govt. of Odisha, Chief Secretary of Odisha / Development Commissioner-cum-Additional Chief Secretary, Odisha, the Commissioner-cum-Secretary, School and Mass Education Department, Chief Filed Services, Unicef, State Chief Unicef, Odisha.