

Think Tank-TE : An SCERT-Unicef, Odisha Initiative

TENTH THINK TANK-TEACHER EDUCATION CONSULTATION
Think Tank-Teacher Education:
Retrospect And Prospect

Minutes of the Consultation

Date : July 18-19, 2018

Venue : Hotel Fortune Park Sishmo, Bhubaneswar



Department of School and Mass Education
Government of Odisha



DIRECTORATE OF TE & SCERT
ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR

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TENTH THINK TANK-TE CONSULTATION

Think Tank-TE : Retrospect and Prospect

Involving many people, all with differing views and perspectives, ensures that a more complete picture of the organisation's realities and opportunities can be constructed. This eclectic mix of individual perspectives is critical; no one person, nor group of people for that matter, can ever know it all.

- Ken Blanchard 2003

1.1 Context

After being in a brief spell of animated suspension, Think Tank-Teacher Education organised its 10th Consultation on July 18-19, 2018. However, it is the first Consultation close on the heels of the induction of a few new members with specialisation and expertise in different domain areas of school education and teacher education. Keeping this in view, the Consultation was designed with two distinct objectives: first, to expose the new members to the concept, structure, processes and accomplishments of Think Tank-TE; and second, to collaboratively explore the hitherto unexplored areas for further revitalisation of the teacher education programme of the state. Accordingly, even at the risk of some repetition, the theme of the Consultation - Think Tank Teacher Education: Retrospect and Prospect was chosen. Out of 30 members of the Think Tank-TE, 22 members participated in this Consultation (the list of members in Annexure I).

2.1 Consultation Design

In the line of preceding Consultations, the 10th Consultation was structured in such a way so as to engage the members in intense reflective debate and discussion, leading to consensus-building on authentic interventions to make the system work more effectively and efficiently. In cognizance of area of specialization and expertise of the members, they were requested to make presentations on relevant themes. This aside, a visit to two DIETs was organized as part of the proposed Adoption of DIETs, decided in the 8th Consultation. Altogether, nine sessions were devoted to nine critical areas of concern for indepth discussion (the Programme Agenda reflecting Technical Sessions in Annexure II).

As a matter of principle, each presentation was followed by critical reflections of the esteemed members and the participant – stakeholders. The operative principle of the Consultation was to provide enough opportunities for the members to have their say as well as opportunities to be heard. The members worked as a team, merging their individual perspectives into an eclectic mix of differing perspectives with commonness of goal.

3.1 Consultation : Content and Process

The Opening Session was presided over by Shri Pratap Indra Dash, OAS (SAG), Director, TE and SCERT, Odisha, Bhubaneswar. Shri Bhupendra Singh Poonia, IAS, State Project Director, OPEPA, Bhubaneswar graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Among others, Prof. H.K. Senapaty, Director, NCERT, New Delhi, Prof. R. Begur, Education Specialist, Unicef, New Delhi and Shri Biranchi Narayan Mohanty, OAS (SAG), Director, Elementary Education, Odisha were the distinguished Guests. In his inaugural address, Shri Poonia drew the attention of the Think Tank-TE members to some of the concerns that besiege the elementary school system, such as reverse flow of students from government schools to private schools, unacceptably low levels of student achievement, large scale teacher absenteeism in its varied forms, and the disconnect between what teachers learn in training programmes and their professional practice in classroom. He sought the support

of Think Tank-TE members to redress the phenomenon of dysfunctionality of the schooling system.

Based on extensive reflective conversations among the members relating to a large number of issues and concerns in school education and teacher education, the following unanimously-agreed suggestions were put forth for consideration of the appropriate authorities of the State Government:

- 3.1.1 Steps may be taken to break the isolation between teacher education institutions (TEIs) and schools. The non-existent or the weak linkage needs to be sufficiently strengthened through appropriate mechanisms at different levels.

Action : TEIs, DPO, DTE and SCERT, OPEPA and the Department of School and Mass Education.

- 3.1.2 Absence of research culture in TEIs and research – informed policy-making, and classroom practice is a critical concerns, which is in dire need of redress. For this, School of Education in State Universities may be started.

Action : DTE and SCERT, Department of School and Mass Education, Department of Higher Education and State University authorities.

- 3.1.3 Teacher Education Cadre Rules with necessary modifications, if required, submitted to the administrative Department may be expeditiously taken up for ensuring motivation, professional commitment, career advancement and accountability, leading to improved system quality.

Action : DTE and SCERT and Department of School and Mass Education

- 3.1.4 State Policy on Continuing Professional Development of Education Functionaries 2016 (Draft) may be critically revisited, and based on the revised Policy Framework, the Programme of Action may be developed for implementation of the policy imperatives. This is required to make the professional development programmes need-based, job-embedded, site-anchored, intensely engaged and closely monitored with appropriate feedback.

Action : DTE and SCERT, and Department and School and Mass Education

- 3.1.5 Innovative and positive practices conceptualised, tried and tested, though a few in number, may be documented, disseminated and discussed with peer teachers to trigger creative initiatives among stakeholder – teachers.

Action : CRCCs, BEOs, DEOs, DIETs, DTE and SCERT, OPEPA, Department of School and Mass Education, and Unicef, Odisha³

- 3.1.6 DIETs, which have demonstrated their field visibility, may be adopted and mentored for transformational change in their ecosystem – schools, CRCs, SMCs etc.

Action : DTE and SCERT, Department of School and Mass Education, and Unicef, Odisha

- 3.1.7 The process of Restructuring SCERT, based on MHRDs Concept Paper on Strengthening SCERTs (2017), may be expedited. In order to develop SCERT into a robust State Resource Centre, there is a need to :

- Have its own cadre, delinked from Secondary Teacher Education Cadre as has been mooted earlier;
- Faculty positions (Professor, Associate Professor and Assistant Professor with UGC Scale of Pay) may be a combination of permanent positions, and positions for Professor of Practice (domain experts) to be brought on deputation for three to five years.
- Faculty selection for SCERT may be made stringent, rigorous, unbiased and transparent, being open for attracting right people for right jobs from anywhere, not being sectarian and regional.
- A High Level Selection Committee may be constituted to select academic faculty for SCERT adopting a multi-layer selection procedure to select the best of minds available.

- If obviating the Orissa Public Service Commission (OPSC) for selection of faculty is not permissible under existing circumstances, shortlisted candidates (selected through the High Level Selection Committee) may be sponsored to OPSC for final selection.

Action : DTE and SCERT, Department of School and Mass Education, and Unicef, Odisha

3.1.8 If SCERT has to meaningfully gravitate on academics, research and extension for quality improvement of school education and teacher education, it may be more meaningful to delink it from the Directorate of Teacher Education. This would help SCERT to gravitate on its core functions.

Action : Department of School and Mass Education, Government of Odisha

3.1.9 A State Teacher Education University may be established, with affiliation of all TEIs and government-managed institutions running professional courses in teacher education in the form of : (i) upgrading an existing TEI (even SCERT), or (ii) establishing a new institution afresh.

3.1.10 A Teacher Education University, worth of being a university, have to have a multidisciplinary perspective and to offer a number of allied courses as in case of Germany and Singapore.

3.1.11 In order to facilitate the process, a Task Force, comprising experts in Teacher Education, may be constituted, and assigned with the task of working out the nitty gritty.

3.1.12 Whether a separate Teacher Education University or not, the overriding object is to create a teacher education system of “world class” standard. This is a nonnegotiable requirement.

Action : DTE and SCERT, Department of School and Mass Education, and Unicef, Odisha.

3.1.13 SCERT, Odisha may enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with CIET (NCERT), New Delhi and with similar ICT-specialised organisations, within the country and the outside, for effective integration of ICT in teacher education programme.

3.1.14 A detailed Plan of Action may be prepared for ICT integration in teacher education programme, both pre-service and in-service components.

Action : DTE and SCERT, Odisha, Department of School and Mass Education Department, CIET (NCERT) New Delhi, Unicef, Odisha and others

3.1.15 Continuous and Comprehensive Assessment, currently in practice in schools of the state, may be critically evaluated and efforts may be taken to make it more effective in terms of enhancing the quality of teacher performance and the students' learning outcomes.

Action : DTE and SCERT, OPEPA, Department of School and Mass Education, and Unicef, Odisha

3.1.16 The initial steps taken for Adoption of DIETs may be accelerated without any further delay so as to turn the identified DIETs into model DIETs.

Action : DTE and SCERT and Unicef, Odisha

1.1.17 Efforts may be made for development of professional standards framework for teacher education in the state. This would help ensuring standards of teacher education programmes as well as the standards of teacher educators, leading to enhanced learning outcomes.

Action : DTE and SCERT, Department of School and Mass Education, and Unicef, Odisha

The Consultation came to a close with thanks to the Chair, esteemed members of the Think Tank-TE and the stakeholder – participants.

**Director
TE & SCERT, Odisha, Bhubaneswar**



List of Participants**Think Tank-TE Members**

1. Prof. Shyam B. Menon, Vice Chancellor, Ambedkar University, New Delhi
2. Prof. H.K. Senapathy, Director, NCERT, New Delhi
3. Prof. M.B. Menon, Formerly Deputy Vice Chancellor, Wawasan Open University, Penang, Malaysia
4. Prof. Janaki Rajan, Department of Education, Jamia Millia Islamia
5. Prof. Pranati Panda, Professor, NIEPA, New Delhi
6. Dr. Sitansu S. Jena, Professor and Dean, School of Vocational Studies, Ambedkar University Delhi, Karampura Campus, Shivaji Road, Delhi
7. Prof. (Ms.) Anita Rampal, Central Institute of Education, University of Delhi
8. Prof. Amarendra Behera, Joint Director, Central Institute of Educational Technology, NCERT, New Delhi
9. Dr. Kashyapi Awasthi, Asst. Professor, National Centre for School Leadership, NIEPA, New Delhi
10. Dr (Ms) Disha Nawani, Professor and Chairperson School of Education, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai
11. Prof. Nityananda Pradhan, Principal, Regional Institute of Education, Bhopal
12. Prof. Dhaneswar Harichandan, Professor-cum-Director in Charge, Institute of Distance and Open Learning, University of Mumbai
13. Dr. Ajay Kumar Mohanty, Joint Registrar, Hembati Nandan Bahuguna Garahwal University (Central University), Srinagar, Uttarakhand
14. Prof. S.L. Jena, Lead Coordinator Think Tank-TE, Odisha
15. Dr. M.M Mohanty, Former Director, SIEMAT, Odisha
16. Prof. Satyakam Mishra, Formerly Director, Higher Education, Odisha, Bhubaneswar
17. Prof. U.N. Dash, Former Professor of Psychology, Utkal Univ. & Univ. of Delhi
18. Prof. Sanghamitra Mohanty, President Vigyan Academy, Odisha
19. Prof. B.N Panda, Professor and Head, Department of Education, RIE, Bhubaneswar
20. Shri Pramathesh Das, Formerly Deputy Director, TE and SCERT, Odisha
21. Prof. R. Begur, Education Specialist, Unicef, New Delhi
22. Mrs Lalita Patnaik, State Chief-in-Charge and Education Specialist, Unicef, Odisha

Government Representatives

1. Shri Bhupendra Singh Poonia, IAS, State Project Director, OPEPA
2. Dr. Pratap Indra Dash, OAS (SAG) Director, TE and SCERT, Odisha, Bhubaneswar
3. Shri Biranchi Narayan Mohanty, OAS (SAG), Director, Elementary Education, Odisha, Bhubaneswar
4. Dr. (Ms.) Snigdha Mishra, Deputy Director (TE) and Unicef Programme IC, TE and SCERT, Odisha
5. Dr. Nibedita Nayak, Deputy Director (Admn.), TE and SCERT, Odisha, Bhubaneswar

SATH Team

1. Ms. Stuti Parasrampuria
2. Ms. Arooje Sajjad
3. Ms. Tejaswini Panigrahi

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Venue : Hotel Fortune Park Sishmo, Bhubaneswar

PROGRAMME AGENDA

Day 1 : 18.07.2018 (Wednesday)

10.00 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	:	Registration
10.30 a.m. – 11.00 a.m.	:	Welcome and Introduction
11.00 a.m. – 11.15 a.m.	:	Tea Break
11.15 a.m. - 12.00 noon Session I	:	<p>Session I Think Tank-Teacher Education : Looking Back and Looking Forward Chair : Prof. Shyam B. Menon, Vice Chancellor, Ambedkar University, New Delhi Lead-off : Prof. S.L. Jena, Lead Coordinator, Think Tank-TE, Odisha</p>
12.00 noon – 12.45 p.m.	:	<p>Session II Continuing Professional Development for Education Practitioners : Roadmap for Action and Implementation Chair : Prof. Anita Rampal, Central Institute of Education, University of Delhi Lead-off : Dr. M.M. Mohanty, Formerly Director, State Institute of Educational Management and Training, Odisha, Bhubaneswar</p>
12.45 p.m. – 1.30 p.m.	:	<p>Session III Restructuring of SCERT, Odisha : The Larger Picture Chair : Prof. H.K. Senapathy, Director, NCERT, New Delhi Lead-off : Prof. S.L. Jena, Lead Coordinator, Think Tank-TE, Odisha Ms. Lalita Pattnaik, State Chief in Charge, Unicef, Odisha</p>
1.30 p.m. – 2.15 p.m.	:	Lunch
12.15 p.m. – 3.15 p.m.	:	<p>Session IV : A University for Teacher Education Chair : Prof. Shyam B. Menon, Vice Chancellor, Ambedkar University, New Delhi</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Towards a National University in Teacher Education : Rationale and Possibilities Lead-off : Prof. M.B. Menon, Formerly Deputy VC, Wawasan Open University, Penang, Malaysia • Odisha State Teacher Education University : Concept and Road Ahead Lead-off : Prof. Satyakam Mishra, Formerly Director, Higher Education, Odisha, Bhubaneswar
3.15 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.	:	<p>Session V : ICT : Potential and Possibilities for Quality Teacher Education Chair : Prof. Dhaneswar Harichandan, Professor-cum-Director in Charge, Institute of Distance and Open Learning, University of Mumbai Lead-off :</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Amarendra Prasad Behera, Joint Director, NCERT, New Delhi • Dr. Sitanshu S. Jena, Prof. and Dean, School of Vocational Studies, Ambedkar University, Delhi
4.00 p.m. – 4.15 p.m.	:	Tea Break
4.15 p.m. – 5.00 p.m.	:	<p>Session VI : CCE for Learner Assessment : How Can Teacher Education Programme Help?</p> <p>Chair : Prof. M.B. Menon, Formerly Deputy VC, Wawasan Open University, Penang, Malaysia</p> <p>Lead-off : Dr. Disha Nawani, Prof. and Chairperson, School of Education, TISS, Mumbai</p>
5.00 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.	:	Planning for Visit to TEIs
Day 2 : 19.07.2018 (Thursday)		
9.00 a.m.-12.30	:	<p>Visit to TEIs :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group A : DIET Nayagarh at Rajsunakhala • Group B : RNIASE, Cuttack
12.30 p.m. - 1.30 p.m.	:	Return to Venue
1.:30 p.m. - 2.15 p.m.	:	Lunch
2.15 p.m. – 3.15 p.m.	:	<p>Session VII : Reflection on Visit to TEIs : Diagnosis and Design for Change</p> <p>Chair : Prof. M.B. Menon, Formerly Deputy VC, Wawasan Open University, Penang, Malaysia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group A Lead-off : Dr. Ajay Kumar Mohanty, Joint Registrar, Hemabati Nandan Bahuguna Garahwal University, (Central University), Srinagar, Jamu and Kashmir • Group B Lead off : Dr. B.N. Panda, Professor of Education, RIE, Bhubaneswar
3.15 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.	:	<p>Session VIII : Raising Standards in Teacher Education Institutions</p> <p>Chair : Dr. Disha Nawani, Prof. and Chairperson, School of Education, TISS, Mumbai</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting Standards for Teacher Education Programmes <p>Lead-off : Dr. Pranati Panda, Prof. NUEPA, New Delhi</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening Institutional Capabilities : Leadership Matters Most <p>Lead-off : Dr. Kashyapi Awasthi, Assistant Professor, National Centre for School Leadership, NUEPA, New Delhi</p>
4.00 p.m. – 4.15 p.m.	:	Tea Break
4.15 p.m. – 5.00 p.m.	:	<p>Session IX : Closing</p> <p>Chair : Shri Bhupendra Singh Poonia, IAS, State Project Director, OPEPA</p> <p>Open Discussion : Way Forward and Next Steps Facilitation :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Pratap Indra Dash, Director, TE and SCERT, Odisha • Ms. Lalita Pattnaik, State Chief-in-Charge, Unicef, Odisha • Prof. S.L. Jena, Lead Coordinator, Think Tank-TE



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