



“STRATEGIES TO IMPLEMENT INTEGRATED TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMME (ITEP) IN RESPECT TO NEP 2020”

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A teacher is considered as the most creative and unique person as because a teacher has the capability to influence and motivate students through his intellect, ideals, experience, wisdom and dynamic personality and for this reasons teachers are considered a true architect of a nation. India is blessed to have extraordinary educationist like Charaka, Susruta, Aryabhata, Varahamihira, Chanakya, Panini, Patanjali, Nagarjuna, Gautama, Sankardev, Maitreyi, Gargi, Thiruvalluvar etc. are few notable gurus; who have not only enlightened India but also illuminated whole world and the entire world is indebted to their lessons. It has been rightly pointed out by the Education Commission (1964-65) that “The destiny of India is being shaped in her classroom”. After independence Government of India had given special attention towards education sector and set up various committees and commissions, however still India lags behind other countries in respect to teacher education. To overcome this National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE), under the Ministry of Education has recently introduced the National Education Policy 2020; where a lot of new rules are announced for successful implementation of Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP). ITEP is a uniquely designed four years integrated programme which involves a holistic bachelor’s degree offering B.A. B.Ed. / B. Sc. B. Ed. and B.Com. ITEP will be helpful for those students who want to join teaching profession in future. ITEP will be offered by the multidisciplinary institutions and it will be the minimum requisite qualification to become a school teacher. However successful implementation of ITEP is a real challenge for the institutions and institutions must prepare strategies for successful implementation of ITEP in their respective institutions. This paper tries to focus about the strategies, challenges and future prospects of Integrated Teacher Education Programme in respect to NEP 2020.

Keywords: *Strategies, Teacher education, ITEP, NEP – 2020*

Introduction:

Teaching profession is considered as the noble profession among all other profession as because a teacher is directly responsible for the development of a country and development of a country depends on the education system of a country. It has been observed that educated countries are making rapid progress in the field of agriculture, medicine, technology, engineering, astronomy, communication etc. as well as in other fields also. Investment in education always generates high return and education can only bring social and economic development of a nation. “India educational institutions have existed since the emergence of civilisation”(Keay, 1972) and we, the people of India are blessed to have holy books like the Rigveda, the Aranyakas, the Upanishads, the Epics like Ramayana and Mahabharat and the Puranas; as well as world famous universities in ancient India were Nalanda and Taxila. After Independence, Govt. of India put special emphasis on education and accordingly set up various education commission for the continuous development of education system like University Education Commission in the year 1948, Mudaliar Commission in 1952, Indian Education Commission (1964-66), National Policy on Education (1968, 1986 & 1992), then Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA, 2000-2001), Right to Education Act (2009) and the latest one is National Education Policy 2020. The history of teacher education programme is not a new one; it is as old as the history of education itself and the teacher education curriculum has been revised from time to time. ITEP is a newly launched teacher education programme by the NCTE for those students who want to become teacher in their future life. It is a four year uniquely designed integrated degree programme in which a student will study general course like B.A or B. Sc for the first two year and in the last two year they will study about teacher education and in this way students will be able to save a year and after the completion of the programme they will be awarded a degree like BA/ B. Sc alongwith B. Ed. It has been suggested by the NCTE in NEP 2020 that, the four Year ITEP will likely to be started from the academic session 2022-23.

Objective of the Study:

To be specific, the main objectives of this study are:

- To understand the concept of Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP) and how it will work.
- Strategies to be formulated by the Institutions for the successful implementation of ITEP.

Overview of ITEP:

The world is changing rapidly as well as education system is also changing globally. In the National Education Policy 2020, a lot of suggestion and policies have been formulated for the development of education; a lot have been discussed about education system. Importance has been given on qualitative learning like how to solve a problem, creative learning, adoption of new technology, development of morality, maintaining ethical values, compassionate and caring attitude towards others and moreover character building with right education etc. Teacher training programme is a specially designed programme

developed by the NCTE for the in-service and pre-service teachers in the earlier education policy (NPE 1986); so that they can excel in the field of education. Traditionally a student has to complete a minimum three years degree programme like BA, B. Sc or a B.Com or a Master degree programme and after that if he/she wishes to be a teacher than he/she has to compulsorily enrol for a 2 year B. Ed programme. In NEP 2020, it has been recommended that if a student wants to be a teacher in future, than after completing HS degree, he/she can directly join under the four year integrated teacher education programme and after completion of four year he/she will be awarded a Bachelor degree alongwith a professional degree in teacher education like B. Education. At later stage if a student wishes to pursue master degree than also he can continue his studies. In ITEP a lot of flexibility has been offered for students, like students do not need to wait for four years to obtain a degree, rather they can get a certificate after one year, after two year they can get a diploma and after four year an honours degree with B. Ed . It has been mentioned that the duration of ITEP will be of four years consisting eight semesters and students will get maximum six years to complete their course. The NCTE under the Ministry of Education has prepared the curriculum of the ITEP and the new curriculum enables student to get a degree in education as well as with a specialised discipline such as history, mathematics, science, arts, economics, or commerce alongwith they will develop Indian values and tradition, morality and overall a good human being in life. Moreover admission of students under ITEP will be done by the institutions only after qualifying National Common Entrance Test (NCET), which will be conducted by the National testing Agency (NTA). The curriculum of ITEP will be multidisciplinary where student will learn values, tradition and culture of India alongwith specialised paper in science and arts and it will be at par of world standard.

Challenges of ITEP:

Teacher training programme has been running in India since a longer time and the content of teacher education programme has been updated from time to time; so that teachers can deliver their best performance and brings out hidden talent from classrooms. ITEP is a revolutionary teacher training programme where a student can obtain a graduation degree with B. Ed within four years and in this way students can save a year in their academic career. NCTE has proposed in NEP 2020 that the four year Integrated Teacher Education programme will be started from the academic session of 2022-23 and initially it will be started in the 50 selected multidisciplinary institutions across the country. The curriculum of ITEP has been designed by the NCTE under the Ministry of Education and it has been also recommended that, by the year 2030 ITEP will be the minimum educational qualification for recruitment of school teachers. However to implement ITEP in higher educational institutions is a challenging task and institutions must prepare themselves properly for smooth implementation of ITEP. A few challenges of Integrated teacher education programme are shortlisted here for consideration-

- It is being expected that by the end of the year 2030 student strength of India will cross approximately 250 million and to educate them properly would be a real challenge for teachers and Institutions must recruit a pool of properly trained teachers to face this challenge.

- To run an educational institution in a proper way sufficient amount of fund is required and without adequate financing an institution can't operate smoothly and properly. Financing can be done by both Government as well as private agencies.
- Adequate number of teachers with different specializations must be recruited by the Institutions according to the rules and regulations laid by the NCTE; otherwise success of ITEP can't be guaranteed.
- One of the essential requirement for teaching learning process is proper infrastructure facility like provision for more classrooms with benches, modern laboratories for practical class, creation of smart classrooms with projectors for demonstration, provision for electricity with generator back up, internet facilities, digital library, provision for hygienic toilet facilities for all including differently abled students etc.
- Before implementing ITEP in an institution must recruit adequate number of trained teachers with necessary qualification and skills as prescribed by the NCTE. Institution must also provide a good salary structure so that talented persons can be recruited as a teacher.
- A teacher should be encouraged to join different orientation programme, refresher course and seminars conducted by the College or Universities from time to time; so that they can always keep themselves updated about modern skills and lessons of teaching and deliver their best in classroom.
- Authorities of an institution must provide research opportunities for teachers, should encourage teachers to enrol for latest course. Here authorities should also provide relaxation for teachers like granting leaves without cutting salary, making arrangement of classes during absence of any teacher, providing monetary benefits like salary increment, promotion etc. after completion of research work.
- In order to successful implementation of ITEP, which will suppose to be started from the academic session 2022-23; development of curriculum is the most challenging task. However, NCTE under the Ministry of Education is working to prepare the curriculum of ITEP but it is also the responsibility of state government as well as affiliating universities to finalize the matter.
- Again, in order to make ITEP a successful teacher education programme local requirement and aspirations should also be considered in curriculum construction.

Strategies to implement ITEP:

Strategy can be defined as a blueprint or ground plan for proper execution of a task within a stipulated time period. In NEP 2020, it has been recommended that within 2030 every teacher training institution must implement Integrated teacher education programme and ITEP will be the minimum educational qualification for recruitment of school teachers. At present all the teacher training institutions in India are conducting two year regular B. Ed course and for taking admission in B. Ed, a student must have to complete Graduation or Post Graduation degree with minimum 50% marks. But in ITEP the present system of teacher education will no longer be available, students who want to be teacher in future must enrol themselves under ITEP after higher secondary. However traditional graduation and post graduation programme will remain as usual and if a student wishes to join teacher education programme at later stage, than he must join regular two year B. Ed course after Graduation or Post Graduation. So institutions must

prepare themselves and make necessary arrangements for the upcoming teacher education programme and must develop strategies which are discussed below:

- It is the responsibility of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and the National University on Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA) at central level and at the state level the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) to work jointly and develop the curriculum of ITEP keeping in mind about the cultural diversity, regional demand and local aspiration of the nation.
- As per the recommendation of NEP 2020, ITEP will likely to be commenced from the academic session 2022-23 in a pilot mode initially at selected 50 institutions. So those 50 institutions must recruit adequate number of trained teachers with different academic disciplines alongwith Yoga, Fine Arts and Music teacher well in advance.
- To attract best teachers, who have outstanding academic credentials; authorities of an institution must provide a good salary package as well as other benefits like time to time promotion, salary increment, facilitating research activities, maternity benefit for female employees etc.
- Today the world is technology driven and education sector can't be segregated from using technology driven tools and digital learning system. Before implementing ITEP institutions must provide strong internet facilities to all teachers and students, so that students and teachers can communicate seamlessly and uninterruptedly. Moreover teacher training institutions are encouraged to set up digital libraries, so that books can be accessed at any time and from any place.
- Institutions must organize orientation programme, educational seminars, refresher course for teachers, so that teachers can always keep themselves updated about latest happenings in the field of education.
- It is also recommended to the educational institution offering ITEP to collaborate with the local university; so that teachers can join for research oriented programmes like Ph. D to develop their knowledge at the next level.

Conclusion:

After waiting for a period of over 30 years India has got a new education policy which is known as National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and it has been prepared keeping in mind according to latest development in the field of education by the other countries. NEP 2020 has replaced the earlier education policy which was known to us as National Policy on Education, 1986. The concept of ITEP is unique in nature and revolutionary in the field of teacher education programme, where our society can expect more dedicated and responsible teachers who will be committed to their profession and they will shape the future of our country through their knowledge, skills, wisdom and experience. Before implementing ITEP every teacher training institutions must identify their loopholes and need to fill it up as soon as possible; like by providing proper infrastructure facility, provision for smart classrooms with laboratories, strong internet facility, modern library, separate washrooms for boys and girls, provision for extracurricular activities like dance, drama, music, painting etc. and above all recruitment of well trained and dynamic teachers. We expect that ITEP

will play a vital role for the development of teacher education programme in India and it will change the scenario of education system in India and will also take India into a new height in the field of Education.

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