



INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY AS A SOURCE OF RESEARCH IN TEACHER EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT :

Education has the power to make a human being to a civilized human being. Education provides insight to the human mind and become aware about their duties and rights. An educated man can make a difference by playing their role of good citizen who are busy in activities like research, innovation, art, invention and other activities which helps the human kind to make the society and country prosperous. To achieve the objectives of advancement and development of any country education play an important role. To improve and maintain the



quality education, new development through research is needed because research is the backbone of any society and country. For research various resources are needed which is known as investment in research. It is the first rule of sound development. Investment plays as a role of input which is directly related to output and development. ICTs have an important role to play in changing and modernizing teacher education and ways of learning by research. Globalization and technological changes provides the information through which one can access and use for better purpose such as development. Education Commission under the chairmanship of D.S Kothari suggested that University should establish teaching and research department in Education, UGC should help in maintaining the standard of teacher education and many more suggestions for the betterment of research and training. In the present paper the author has attempted to explore information and communication technology as a source of research in teacher education.

KEYWORDS : *Teacher Education, Information and Communication Technology & Research.*

INTRODUCTION

Humans are the most beautiful creator among other creator of God who are always trying for their betterment and development. Among other elements education is the most powerful instrument. Quality of human existence depends on the growth of education to change the condition of human being. Education must be the journey from learning through what is observable and then to become better informed in how to put that of learning into practice. It is also debatable that what are the things, should be included in the different subjects that can make a man perfect. Perfect means it should be based on real life situation. Today's education is for the sake of education. But true education should be man making and assimilation of ideas which can make or change in the positive direction. One task of the educationist today is to restore the true value of education beyond its lucrative career.

Kennedy (1917-63) emphasized the importance of education as "Let us think of education as the means of developing our great abilities, because in each of us there is a private hope and dream which fulfilled, can be translated into benefit for everyone and great strength for our nation." Attempts have

also been made to update education to meet the individual and social needs of the present and future. The task to update education is in the hands of a teacher. Student achievement is directly related to teacher's competencies. So the importance of teacher education and research in the field of teacher education cannot be ignore for the betterment of learners achievement.

According to NCTE, Teacher Education means a programme of education, research and training of persons to teach from pre-primary to higher education level. Teaching is a complex activity. For better teaching a teacher not only should be aware about the past development in the field of teaching skills, pedagogical theory and professional skill but also about new development in the field of teacher education through research.

Radhakrishnan Commission known as University Education Commission (1948-49) emphasized on the quality of teachers and new method like tutorial system. It advocates the use of mother tongue as the medium of instruction to make learning environment more effective. The recommendation was on the basis of research and vast experiences.

Kothari Commission 1964-66 recommendations for qualitative improvement include raising the economic, social and professional status of teachers. The Commission emphasized for improving the quality and scope of teachers education and in-service programme, vigorous improvement in the method of teaching and evaluation. It includes providing quality text books and other teaching materials.

The National Policy on Education (1968) embodies that in view of sin-qua non importance of the teachers, they must be accorded and honoured place in society and their emoluments and other service conditions should be adequate and satisfactory having regard to their qualification and responsibilities, the regional language should be adopted as medium of education at the university stage and three-language formula should be accepted by all states.

A Committee under the chairmanship of Mr. N. Janardhan Reddy modified NPE, 1986 and submitted its report in January, 1992 not only emphasized the elementary education but also adult education, non-formal education, secondary education, higher education, distance education, technical and management education, sports and physical education, evaluation and examination and management of education.

NEED OF RESEARCH IN TEACHER EDUCATION

Research comprises "creative work undertaken on a systematic basis in order to increase the stock of knowledge, including knowledge of humans, culture and society, and the use of this stock of knowledge to devise new applications."

Teacher education programme is the backbone of education system in India. Teacher educational programmes going through the age of constant flux. For any decision to implement there is a need to increase research to avoid hurdle in the future. College of teacher education, University departments and research institutions need to undertake such research. Research is needed for new knowledge which can be use to improve the educational practice. Research must be the part of teacher's life. Without research a teacher cannot be a good teacher. Teachers are not only involved in classroom teaching but also evaluate student work, and share outcomes with students. This is the beginning of any kind of research in the field of teacher education.

Bamfield, (2014) assert that research can contribute to programmes of TE in many ways as follows:

1. Content of such programmes may be informed by research-based knowledge and scholarship,
2. Inform the design and structure of TE programmes
3. Teachers and teacher educators can be equipped to engage with and be discerning consumers of research
4. Conduct their own research, individually and collectively, to investigate the impact of particular interventions or to explore the positive and negative effects of educational practice.

Research can also be conducted on various fields like:

- The Upanishadic period
- The Buddhist period
- The Medieval period
- The Modern Period

For every period there is need of resources and facilities through which related literature can be reviewed in better way in the modern world and ICT (Information and Communication Technology) is an important source among other source of research in Teacher Education.

ICT as a Source of Research

Every country is connected to each other with Information Communication Technology (ICT). Every nation is having an alert eye on ICT because it brings improvement into information seeking and knowledge acquisition. In order to keep pace with the modern technological advancement of the developed nations of the world, significant technological innovations have to be adopted in the educational institutions by the Higher Educational Institutions for research. To keep pace with the developments in other spheres of human endeavour, HEIs have to enrich the learning experiences of their students by providing them technologies for research. The institution of Teacher Education must be adequately prepared to make use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) optimally. Conscious effort is also needed to invest in hardware, and to orient the faculty suitably. Managing the activities of the institution in a technology-enabled way will ensure effective institutional functioning.

The Teacher Educational Institutions should develop themselves into centers of excellence and provide facilities for research. Excellence in all the activities that they do will contribute to the overall development of the system of teacher education of the country as a whole. The following facilities should be available for the researcher for the effective performance in field of research:

- ❖ Electricity Access
- ❖ Radio Access
- ❖ Television Access
- ❖ Telephone Access
- ❖ Computer Access
- ❖ Internet Access
- ❖ Access to other ICTs (overhead projector, fax machine, multimedia equipment, etc)
- ❖ Student ICT usage (frequency of usage at home, type of usage, etc.)

Sarkar (2012) believed that Information and Communication Technology (ICT) curriculum provides a broad perspective on the nature of technology, how to use and apply a variety of technologies, and the impact of ICT on self and society. Technology is about the ways things are done; the processes, tools and techniques that alter human activity. ICT is about the new ways in which people can communicate, inquire, make decisions and solve problems. It is the processes, tools and techniques for:

1. Gathering and identifying information
2. Classifying and organizing
3. Summarizing and synthesizing
4. Analyzing and evaluating
5. Speculating and predicting

It is observed that ICT is needed for all levels of teachers to perform better, but who are working in the field of research in teacher education need to imbibe the skill of using ICT more than anyone else in the educational field because these researchers are the individual who brings the innovative outcomes. ICT helps the research in teacher education in the following way:

- ❖ ICT provides materials for research.
- ❖ ICT facilitate the researcher who can access knowledge anytime and from anywhere.

- ❖ ICT help the researcher to access rich resources in cyber space.
- ❖ ICT help the researcher to avoid duplication.
- ❖ ICT improve research efficiency.
- ❖ ICT help the investigator to avoid repetition.
- ❖ It helps to use time effectively for research.
- ❖ It helps in complex calculation of large data.
- ❖ It helps to contact with other teacher education.
- ❖ It helps the researcher to classify their data according to their need.
- ❖ It helps the researcher to use SPSS effectively.
- ❖ ICT helps the investigator to present their data graphically.

The teacher education institutions are the places where those skills can be attained and the products of the programme would be strong and professionally sound.

CONCLUSION

Development of every country depends on their standard of education, research and innovation. The quality of education is largely determined by the quality of researches in the field of teacher education. So, the positive attitude of researcher towards research is very important, because a positive favorable attitude makes the work not only easier but also more satisfying and interesting. The role of ICTs in the field of teacher education in the fast moving cannot be minimized. Students are prepared to play the role of teacher in future for future generation.

In the contemporary setting, competency and performance based curricula and quality education is favoured and preferred; and such curricula and quality education tend to require Information and Communication Technology (ICT). Globalization and technological change have created a new global economy. Global economy provides the facilities for research which saves time and money. The researcher can access knowledge of their field easily anywhere in the world.

So, there needs to be sound educationally focused rationale for including information and communication technologies (ICT) in higher educational institution for the development research and innovation. The teacher educational institution also showed the deteriorating condition of availability of ICTs. The government and management of institutions must take care of ICT facilities and enrich these facilities for the development of research.

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