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सपादक

डॉ. बी.एल. भादानी

पूर्व विभागाध्यक्ष

इतिहास विभाग,

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## **Teacher Education: Challenges and Prospects during COVID-19 Pandemic**

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**Abstract:** Teacher education is a continuous process and its pre-service and in-service components are complimentary to each other. Education is instrumental in the preparation of teachers who can in their practice ensure transformative learning, where teacher and learner, learner and learner are co-constructors of knowledge. The aim of the presentation paper is to improve the teacher education quality in India by focusing on the major challenges and prospects of teacher education during lockdown period. Though in modern times there are so many aspects in teacher education, the two following references are given a special importance here- Teacher education challenges & suggestion for improvement during lockdown period.

**Key words:** COVID-19, Lockdown, Teaching, Evaluation, e-learning, Internship

**Introduction:** The world today is facing pandemic as the Corona virus is sweeping its way around the globe and its impact is visible to all. The pandemics has brought many deaths, lakhs have been quarantined and has led to a serious situation of global health emergency. The need of the hour is social distancing and excellent medical care. The pandemic has led to a total lock down world over and India is not exceptional. As of today around twenty three lakhs have been infected by the virus and around forty thousand have been reported dead in India. This has warranted a complete shutdown of all the educational institution along with other business establishment. The shutdown of the educational institutions has led to many apprehensions among the students and teaching fraternity. However the teaching fraternity has been adopting innovative methods to interact with the students focusing on the curriculum. In this context I have been trying to analyze the challenges and prospects of teacher education because it has many challenges like other educational institute. Teacher education have many courses like Del.Ed, B.Ed, M.Ed and their have practical aspect like School internship, during lockdown period students can't complete their school internship & school observation which is a big problem of teacher education.

### **Objectives:**

- ❖ To find out Teacher education Challenges during covid-19 pandemic
- ❖ To Suggest for improvement

### **Challenges of Teacher education during COVID-19 Pandemic**

During the COVID-19 period teacher education has many challenges like-

- **Technological Challenges:** The technological problem is the biggest problem in teacher education in the lockdown period. In developing countries like India, many students can't be able to use the internet, especially in rural areas. For this reason, the teacher education institutions can't able to teach all the students through different types of apps. As a result many learners are gaining but others



are being deprived. Also the condition of internet in rural areas is very poor. Technological challenges are the biggest problem of all these Teacher education institutions.

- **Examination Challenges:** Another major problem during the covid-19 period is the examination problem. It is not possible to take the second and forth semester exams on the scheduled time of the semesters. Also many are still sceptical about how the test will be conducted and where it will be held in the home or any other centre.
- **Evaluation Challenges:** Another major problem during this lockdown is the evaluation problem. Although there is still a lot of confusions among students and teachers that how the assessment process will be and what will be the total marks. There is still a lot of confusion whether the test will be descriptive or objective type.
- **Internship Challenges:** The major objective of the teacher education is school internship and that's why the duration of B.Ed and M.Ed course has extended from one year to two years. The B.Ed course introduces a new curriculum of school internship for one month of second semester for School observation and four months of third semester. But school observation & school internship are not possible in this situation, this is one of the biggest challenges facing teacher education.
- **Practical class Challenges:** Teacher education colleges have students of various methods such as language, humanities, science, commerce etc. Presently situation it is not possible to do all the practical classes in science subjects, because students are getting theoretical knowledge through online classes but practical class is not possible through online.
- **Teacher salary related Challenges:** Many Teacher education colleges are under the private sectors and those who work in these colleges i.e teachers and non-teaching staffs are not getting the salaries on time, because the college authorities are saying that the students are not paying their instalments timely during this lockdown period. Many teachers and non-teaching staffs are not paid or even half of the salary.
- **Studies Challenge:** At many teacher educational institutions students, stay in hostels, had to leave it in the beginning of lockdown. They had not realized how long the gap would be, so they could not take all their books along with them.

### **Prospects of teacher education during lockdown period**

- Present situation is very critical so i have some suggestions to overcome the challenges.
- **Encouragement for self learning:** Since all the teacher education institutions are currently closed due to covid-19 pandemic, there are no regular classes and students need to be more encouraged during staying at home. And now they should be given different practicum, so that they can complete it at home.
- **Enhancing for e-learning:** We need to encourage the students towards e-learning. Because students can get data and information through various websites and further knowledge from SWAYAM, SWAYAM Prabha, Digital Library, E-Pathsala, Virtual labs etc.

- **Providing proper guidelines for examination by NCTE**: Teacher education institutions are run by the NCTE. If the NCTE provides a specific guideline on exam related issues, students and teacher will not be disturbed.
- **Encouraging towards e-books**: If any student does not have a book in this situation, he/she can continue their studies from different websites of e-books. So the students should be always encouraged by the teachers.
- **Practice Micro teaching through online**: School internships are not possible in this situation. Teachers need to arrange regular micro-teaching class through online, So that all students can take classes for at least 10 minutes in Micro teaching.
- **Providing Materials**: Not only regular classes, teachers will have to supply subject materials which may be a photocopy of book or link of a You Tube channel or a journal or a power point presentation to the students.
- **Regular basis Evaluation**: Teachers will take regular classes as well as different tests, different types of MCQ questions and formative evaluation.
- **Giving regular basis salary**: Although a oral guideline should be issued from the University of Teacher education where the VC should say that in this situation all the teaching and non teaching staffs should be paid by shorting out the arrangements. Management must consider everything in this situation.

**Conclusion**: Teacher and his education are very significant aspects of any nation. The education gives a new shape to the individual and the nation as well. It is a well known saying that teacher is the nation builder. The quality of teacher education programme needs to be up graded. Teacher education has not come up to the requisite standards. We know that present situation is very critical due to COVID-19, So there are many challenges in teacher education and if we follow these suggestions we can overcome.

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