

## **Role of E-Governance in Teacher Education**

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**ABSTRACT :** Teacher education is a programme which is related with competence and proficiency of teacher. The programme prepares the teacher to face the challenges of education. The new trends and innovations in education have affected teacher education necessitating review and reforms. But the lack of uniformity in planning, implementation and monitoring system in teacher education and the enormous need for trained teachers deteriorate the quality of teacher education. Electronic Governance (e-Governance) is the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for the planning, implementation and monitoring of government programmes, projects and activities. The application of e-Governance in educational sector is poor as compared to other sectors. The study discusses how the application of e-Governance in teacher education proves to be a solution for all the challenges in teacher education.

**Keywords :** e-Governance, Transparency, Accountability

### **INTRODUCTION**

UNESCO defines e-Governance as :” Governance refers to exercise of political, economic and administrative authority in the management of a country’s affairs including citizens’ articulation of their interests and exercise of their legal rights and obligations. E-Governance may be understood as the performance of this governance via the electronic medium in order to facilitate an efficient, speedy and transparent process of disseminating information to the public, and other agencies, and for performing government administration activities.” In the indian context, former President of India, Dr. A P J AbulKalam defined e-Governance as “A transparent smart e-Governance with seamless access, secure and authentic flow of information crossing the interdepartmental barrier and providing a fair and unbiased service to the citizen.”

E-Government can transform citizen service, provide access to information to empower citizens, enable their participation in government and enhance citizen economic and social opportunities, so that they can make better lives for themselves and for the next generations. It is the application of information and communication technology (ICT) for delivering government services, exchange of information communication transactions, integration of various stand-alone systems and services between government to government (G2G), government to business (G2B) and government to customer (G2C), as well as back office processes and interactions within the entire government framework. E-Governance is understood as a set of activities involving the effective contribution of information and communication technology (ICT) for strengthening administration and management.

India has one of the largest systems of teacher education. Besides the university departments of education and their affiliated colleges there are a number of government and government aided institutions and self financing colleges and open universities who are engaged in teacher education. Still there is a need of establishing more teacher education institutions to meet the enormous crisis for trained teachers. This has made the administration of teacher education institutions intricated. Researches reveal that integration of ICT can help to reduce the intricacy and enhance the overall administration of teacher education.

### **IMPORTANCE OF TEACHER EDUCATION**

According to NCTE (1998) in any educational programme teacher is the most important element as he plays the pivotal role in the implementation of the whole educational process. The teacher is the one who determines the learner’s achievements and weaknesses by his professional competency. So it is evident that the quality of education basically depends on the of teachers. The role of teacher education as a process of nation building is universally recognized. Education of teachers not only facilitates improvement of school education by preparing competent, committed and professionally well qualified teachers who can meet the demand of the system, but also functions as a bridge between schooling and higher education.

But teacher education in India due to various factors beyond its control is facing some challenges.

### **PRESENT SCENARIO OF TEACHER EDUCATION IN INDIA**

Within the federal structure of the country, the broad policy and legal framework on teacher education is provided by the central government and the implementation of various programmes and schemes are undertaken largely by state governments. Within the broad objective of improving the learning achievements of school children, the twin strategy is to a) prepare teachers for the school system (pre service training) and b) improve capacity of existing school teachers (in service training).

The National Council of Teacher Education, a statutory body of the central government is responsible for planned and coordinated development of teacher education in the country by laying down norms and standards for various teacher education courses, minimum qualification for teacher educators, course and content and duration and minimum qualification for entry of student teacher for the various courses. It also grants recognition to institutions (government, government aided and self financing).

There are many government owned teacher training institutions for providing in service training. The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) along with its six Regional Institutes of Education (REI) prepares a host of modules for various teacher training courses and also undertakes specific programmes for training of teachers and teacher educators. National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA) provides institutional support. The State Councils of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) prepares modules for teacher training and conducts specialized courses at state level. The Colleges of Teacher Education (CTEs) and Institutes for Advanced Learning in Education (IASEs) provides in service training to secondary and higher secondary school teachers and teacher educators. The District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs) provide in service training at district level.

Despite having a well uniformed structure of teacher education system, the quality of education cannot be claimed to be the best. The teacher education curricula have received severe criticism. There is hardly any difference between the performance of trained and untrained teachers because of outdated teacher education curricula.

Teaching learning process has been undergoing drastic change where the teacher's role is more of a facilitator than of autocratic master. Now project based learning, development of thinking skills and discovery learning approaches are being introduced. But the teacher training programmes and the curriculum followed in the teacher education have very little focus on new trends in education.

Teacher education institutions have been proliferating and mushrooming all over the country with profit motive without caring for the quality of education provide by them.

Moreover, lack of good infrastructure, effective, real time monitoring mechanism and widespread corruption prevalent in the system has worsened the scenario. As a result there are mushrooming of a large number of unrecognized and fake universities or institutions distributing fake teacher training certificate, diplomas, degrees etc.

### **NEED OF E-GOVERNANCE IN TEACHER EDUCATION**

E-Governance brings transparency in the system thereby reducing corruption upto a large extent. It helps to reduce the intricacy in the teacher education system. The objectives of e-Governance in teacher education should be

- to expand the teacher education sector in all its modes of delivery to increase the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER).
- to expand institutional base of teacher education by creating additional infrastructure in existing institutions, establishing new institutions and incentivizing through state governments and non government organizations.
- to make teacher education opportunity accessible to socially deprived communities.
- to promote autonomy, innovations and academic reforms in institutions of teacher education.
- to undertake institutional restructuring for improving efficiency, relevance and innovation in teacher education.

According to Info Dev Report (2002) an effective e-Governance satisfies the following needs

- providing greater access to government information.
- promoting public engagement by enabling the public to interact with government officials.
- making government more accountable by making its operations more obvious and thus reducing the opportunities for corruption; and

• providing development opportunities, especially benefitting rural and traditionally underserved communities. In teacher education e-Governance will enable the stakeholders to control the improved operational efficiency in grants, utilization of certificates, feedback mechanism, approval processes etc. E-Governance provides online facility for furnishing of applications and online payment of fees. The government organisations such as NCTE, NCERT, UGC, NUEPA, SCERT etc. Will be able to build coordination among them and with the teacher training institutions as well as training programmes through e-Governance. E-Governance is an integrated solution that facilitates the processing and maintenance of large volumes of information including student, faculty inventory, asset management, facility management, transport, library, staff details, pay roll and student fees among various departments in an institution. E-Governance solution in the field of teaching education will bring a drastic change making the process uncomplicated, well organized and error proof. It is also user friendly, time saving and cost saving.

### **CHALLENGES**

E-Governance is a wonderful tool to bring transparency and accountability. However, it has its own share of challenges that include administrative, legal and technological challenges. There may be instances where e-Governance can itself be a source of corruption. Use of e-Governance in India would also require an efficient mechanism to deal with e-waste. The biggest hurdle before Indian e-Governance initiatives comes from poor cyber security in India.

### **CONCLUSION**

E-Governance can help in building a transparent, corruption free, easily accessible, low cost effected, uncomplicated teacher education system. To achieve the goal of proper utilization of e-Governance in teacher education government should support by enacting favourable legislations and updated amendments.

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