Issues and Challenges of Pre-Service Teacher Education

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General Description of the Paper

- The Present Paper is for the Presentation during four days Webinar (01-04,July,2020) organized by Department of Teacher Education, NCERT.
- The Paper has three Parts as (1)Pre-Service
 Teacher Education at Cross-Road,(2)Challenges
 of Pre-Service Teacher Education and (3)Way
 Forward.
- There are 12 References in the Paper[5+6+1(in Concluding Part).

Pre-Service Teacher Education at Cross-Road

- Time Duration and Curriculum of the Programme.
- Content Knowledge is at Risk.
- Increasing Horizon of Teacher's Job and Functions from Academic to Social and Global to Technological.
- Too Frequent Change that Demands Subsequent Change(infrastructure and trained man-power).
- Too much Focus on Language ,Discipline , Gender ,
 Social Issues ,etc in Theory (repetition is frequent).
- Internship-Time, Applicability and Validity.

Challenges of Pre-Service Teacher Education

- Quality Concern.
- Increasing Dropout Rate.
- Employability.
- Burnt-out due to Late Employment.
- Lack of Man-power Planning.
- Growing Privatization.
- Implementation Constrain in Content and Idea.
- Over-burdened Curriculum with less suitable Concepts.
- Course Objectives-Highly Cognitive.

Challenges of Pre-Service Teacher Education- 01

- Unplanned Growth and Expansion.
- Superficial Evaluation.
- Too Frequent Experimentation even on the Cost of Consolidation.
- Under-played Role of Regulating Body.
- Lack of Professional Value.
- Philosophical Constraints in Theory and Practice.

Way Forward

- No doubt teacher education system of the country is at cross-road and it must take some steps to move forward in the right direction.
 Following are few steps that may be crucial for the transformation of the system.
- To strengthen general education and start one year B.Ed. with relevant modifications in the curriculum or start four years integrated course with optimum number of faculty members to take care of the content knowledge of the prospective teachers.

Way Forward-01

- To check unplanned growth and expansion of teacher education.
- To address quality concern of the teacher education properly and seriously.
- To minimize the ratio of private teacher education colleges in comparison to public funded institutions.
- To strengthen mechanism of evaluation in teacher education system. Criterion-Referenced Evaluation technique must be employed.

Way Forward-02

- To adopt consolidation as the cardinal principle of teacher education system not experimentation and structural modifications.
- To implement the idea of comprehensive colleges of education in its true sense to make the teacher education colleges multi-faculty & multidimensational.
- To develop a sound system of teachers employment to address their employability concern. It must be made timely to utilize fresh talent with recently acquired knowledge & skills.
- To consider manpower planning in teacher education.

Way Forward-03

- To attract brighter candidate in the profession.
- To develop a strong pool of teacher educators.
- To relate teacher education properly with school education.
- To restrict commercialization of education in general and teacher education in particular

Concluding Remarks

 To strengthen teacher education to cater the need of the school education is the real purpose of teacher preparation and that must not be overlooked in any situation. Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education (1996) narrates that changes in schools demand concomitant changes in teacher education. It further concludes, "It is, therefore, essential that the curriculum of the teacher education be suitably reoriented so as to respond to the emerging realities at the school level."