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INNOVATION IN TEACHER EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT:

Teacher education is a program related with teacher proficiency and competence that would make them competent enough to face new challenges in the education. Now a days the field of education is not only limited with books but has broadened in various new horizons. Development and changes in education have affected teacher education necessitating review and reforms. It demands understanding with investigative minds assimilating the required transformations, accommodating and responding to the universal needs. We also need to train teachers with new perspectives as the outer world is in the classroom and schools are opening to the world. The pre-service and in-service teacher education programs have shown paradigm shift with its emphasis on globalization and individualization. This main purpose of this paper is to indicate main changes that have incurred in teacher education in India and also provide an overview of trends, reforms and innovations in teacher education (integrated teaching, teacher curriculum and teacher innovations). It also discusses the need of teacher education program to be innovative and various practices that can be included. It has been recognized that teacher education program should be structured and modified in a way that enables them to respond dynamically to the new problems and challenges in the field of education, then only teacher can help in national development.

INTRODUCTION:

While looking into the history of mankind, we can see that different social transformation have been witnessed by each century. Those transformations touch each and every aspect of the society, and according to it there has been new emphasis and shift in educational process. According to Selvam (2009), "Education is the key to a vibrant and prosperous India seeking to maximize the contributions of all its citizens and embracing the richness and possibilities that our nation's diversity affords, as the new century begins." Education is one of the most important building blocks for a nation, serving as an instrument of economic and social development. Within this context, the all important role of the teacher is well recognised, as imparter of knowledge and information to students who are the future citizens of tomorrow. In India, the role of the teacher as not only an educator but also a guide has been emphasised through the centuries. Education is one of the oldest professions and through this profession educated people of a country are produced. It was believed that 'teachers are born and not made', but the teacher education has proved that teachers can also be made. Teacher education refers to the policies and procedures designed to equip teachers with knowledge, attitude, behaviour and skills that are required to perform their tasks effectively in the school and classroom. It is often divide into pre-service teacher education and in-service teacher education programme. The teaching profession has a vast scope to serve the society to transform itself into a better society of tomorrow. Teacher education is the professional preparation, in pedagogy, of those who want to enter the profession of teaching. This may be traditional or closed type with

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