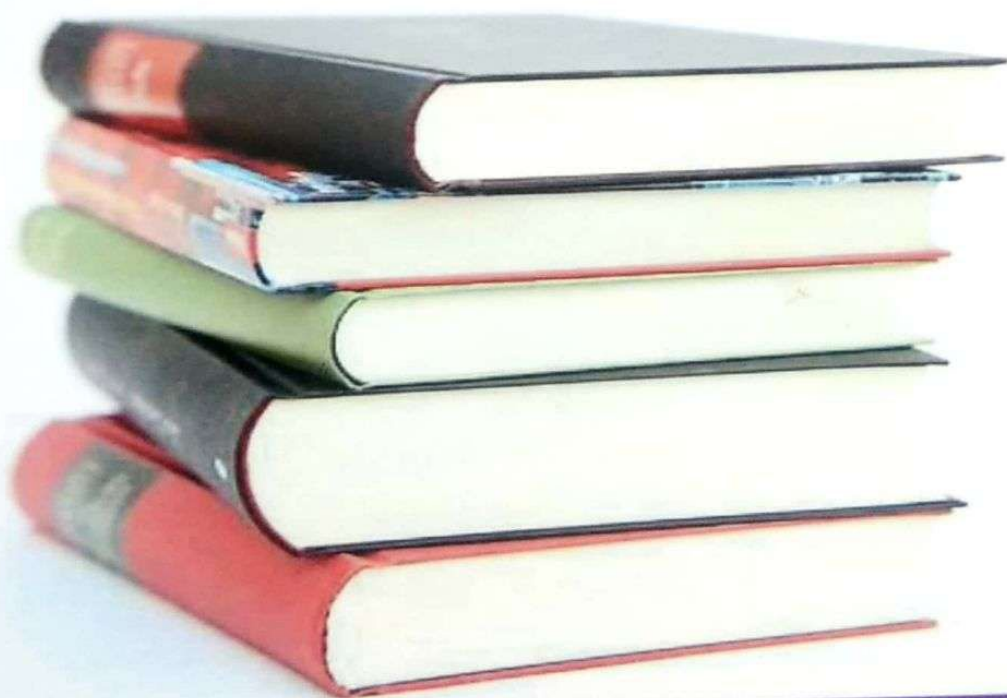


Teacher Education:

Challenges Ahead



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Ground realities in the Quality Assurance of Professional Development of Secondary Teachers: An Investigation

Shabana Ashraf*

Abstract

With the advancement and knowledge explosion, now the educators have to keep abreast of the important advances that are occurring. This is where professional development (PD) comes in. It is the process of improving skills and competencies needed to produce outstanding educational results. The Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching is a serious government effort which envisaged addressing comprehensively all issues related to teachers, teaching, teacher preparation and PD. The quality assurance in PD of teachers has become more sensitive to cope up with the emerging demands from the school system. It is the high time to study the status and quality issues of teachers' PD. This study is modest effort in this direction. The investigator studied the quality assurance in PD of secondary teachers of Govt. & Pvt. Schools of old city of Bhopal District. 100 Sec school teachers of 8 Govt. and 8 Pvt. Schools were selected as sample. Selection of schools was based on stratified random sampling method. Data were collected by using Quality Assurance in Professional Development Questionnaire (QAPDQ) & Focus Group Discussion with teachers and principals. Data were analysed by percentage analysis. The findings indicate that there is a vast gap between the objectives & implementation. In the process of implementation the objectives usually put the backburner and availability of resources govern the programme. These resources spread over availability of resources, instructional facilities and so on. 82% sec school teachers were found interested in enhancing professional capacity i.e. selection of appropriate pedagogy to transact content, to fulfill the objectives of curriculum, to enhance the system efficacy, to adopt effective evaluation procedures, availing and creating resources as well as they used the gained knowledge from PDP in teacher-learning activities while 18% of the teachers are attending the PDP because it is compulsory for developing the career advancement. It is the high time to think it over the present scenario of teacher education and do the efforts in letter and spirit.

Keywords: PDPs (Professional development Programmes), Quality Assurance and Secondary School Teachers.

Introduction

Human understanding, technical skills, character and effective citizenship collaboratively play a significant and effective role/part in the making and development process of educational endeavor. Consequently, the issue of quality assurance and professional development among teachers has become a matter of concern as there is tremendous pressure of solving this problem from all departments, institutions, and concerned authorities in order to accomplish the real objectives of teacher education. The pursuit for quality assurance in education service delivery necessitated the application of quality system management standards in the education sector. World Conference on Education for All led by UNESCO in Jomtien, Thailand, in 1990 stresses on the adoption of quality assurance in education as an emerging policy perspective in the contemporary world emanated at the Representatives of the international community agreed that all countries should pay greater attention towards improving all aspects of the quality of education and ensuring excellence of all. This is to ensure substantial achievement of recognized and measurable learning outcomes in schools, especially in literacy, numeracy and essential life skills (UNESCO, 2002). Quality assurance therefore, is one of the most critical tasks facing by every nation's educational institutions, so that societal demands for improved education service delivery would achieve the best learning outcomes and enhance the quality of life of the citizenry (Ayeni, 2010).

According to Merriam-Webster's Online Dictionary, quality assurance is "A programme for the systematic monitoring and evaluation of the various aspects of a project, service, or facility to ensure that standards of quality are being met" (Merriam-Webster, as cited by Ameen, 2007).

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