

TEACHER EDUCATION IN 21ST CENTURY



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PROFESSIONALISATION OF TEACHER EDUCATION IN INDIA: A DISCOURSE ON NATIONAL REFORMS AGENDA

Dr. Sambit K Padhi & Subrat Kumar Padhi

Introduction

Teachers are the greatest assets of any education system. They are accepted as the backbone of every education system. Teacher quality is therefore crucial and has been globally accepted to be significantly associated with the quality of education in general and students' learning outcomes in particular. It is widely acclaimed that no education system can improve without the quality of its teachers. Amongst all educational factors, teacher quality is uniquely recognized as the most significant school-related factor under the sustainable educational ecosystem. Creating quality teachers is the centre of attention among both educational researchers and policymakers since long time. Quality teachers are the key factor for the global development and their training, recruitment, retention, status and working conditions are among global priorities today. In fact, teachers are the single most influential and powerful force for equity, access and quality in education. There is a global consensus that quality teachers are the pivotal instruments to quality education. Countries across the world conceptualise and measure teacher quality in a variety of ways. Country like India is increasingly looking for quality teachers since a long time as they are the potential catalyst for building a sustainable nation. The significance of highly motivated, energised, capable and qualified teachers is time and again reflected in various educational documents of India. Education of teachers in the country has been considered crucial, not only for ensuring greater professionalism in teachers but also for facilitating school improvement and effectiveness.

In recent years, producing professionally sound teachers is a major challenge as well as a concern for governments across the globe. With the