

THE INTEGRATED TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMME ANALYSIS IN THE CONTEXT OF NEW EDUCATION POLICY

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ABSTRACT

The New Education Policy (NEP) 2020-funded Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP) is one of India's most significant teacher education reforms. This four-year program combines undergraduate studies with teacher preparation to provide students a degree in both their topic and pedagogy. The Integrated Teacher Education Program (ITEP) addresses the requirement for well-trained, thoughtful, and adaptable instructors who can adjust to a rapidly changing educational environment. The National Education Policy (NEP) strives to enhance education by ensuring instructors know content and technique. This is a major NEP aim. The ITEP promotes interdisciplinary education, giving prospective teachers the chance to learn more about a topic while obtaining classroom experience. This program emphasizes practical learning and classroom practice to assist future teachers meet students' diverse needs. To create a learning environment, it includes the latest educational research, technology advances, and new methods. The NEP emphasizes inclusion and equality, which helps the ITEP serve excluded communities. After considering everything, the ITEP is a forward-thinking curriculum that aligns teacher preparation with the holistic, learner-centric National Education Policy 2020.

Keywords: *Integrated Teacher Education Programme, New Education Policy 2020, Teacher Training, Multidisciplinary Education, Pedagogy, Experiential Learning, Inclusive Education.*

Introduction

Teaching is widely considered to be the most prestigious profession in the world because of the close connection that exists between the educational system of a nation and the overall performance of that nation. This is due to the fact that the initiatives taken by a nation's educators are mostly responsible for the success that the nation has made. Countries with high levels of education are experiencing a growth in a wide variety of areas, including agriculture, healthcare, technology, engineering, astronomy, and communication, amongst many others. One of the few ways for a country to make progress in terms of both its economy and its society is to make investments in its educational system. This is an investment that will invariably result in a good return. The people of India are fortunate enough to have access to sacred books such as the Rigveda, Aranyakas, Upanishads, and Puranas. Epics such as the Mahabharata and Ramayana are also included in this collection. These writings have been passed down through the generations of people everywhere. Among the many historic institutions that can be found in India, Nalanda and Taxila stand out. The Indian government has recognized the importance of education since independence and has set up several commissions to track its progress and make sure it keeps getting better. Several programs and policies have been put in place to raise the bar on education in India. From 1948 to 2020, several commissions and policies were established in the field of education in India. These included the University Education Commission, the Mudaliar Commission, the Indian Education Commission, the National Policy on Education, the Right to Education Act, the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, the National Education Policy, and the most recent, National Education Policy 2020. Over the years, the curriculum has undergone several revisions. Worse yet, teacher preparation programs predate

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the establishment of schools by a long shot. On top of that, there have been numerous revisions to the course outline. The National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) has just established a program to prepare teachers; the acronym ITEP stands for this program. Those who aspire to a career in education will find this curriculum very useful. This integrated degree program takes four years to complete, but in the last two years, students can choose to focus on teacher education and cut their study time in half. Graduates of the curriculum will be eligible to get not only a BA or BS degree, but also a B.Ed. degree in the field of education. The four-year ITEP is expected to begin in the 2022–2023 school year, according to the National Education Policy for 2020 published by the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE).

The Integrated Teacher Education Program (ITEP) is an all-encompassing initiative that aims to educate teachers at all three levels of education: elementary, middle, and high school. This programme was developed with the new educational framework that was mandated by NEP 2020 as a source of inspiration. The most important objective is to inspire exceptionally talented students to pursue careers in education. All aspects of Indian culture, including language, history, philosophy, and traditional rituals, will be taught to students over the course of a period of four years. In addition to this, they are also well-informed about the most recent advancements in the field of education and the ways in which these advancements are being utilized in the workplace. This program was developed with the intention of catering to the requirements of present-day laborers as its primary objective. The Integrated Teacher Education Program (ITEP) is a 40-year endeavor that will be a part of the National Education Policy (NEP) of 2020. Finding out how student-teachers feel about it is the main goal of this research. An ITEP opinion questionnaire with 34 questions is used for this inquiry. This questionnaire had already been used in a comparable study by Meenakshi G. One hundred ITEP student-teachers from Ajmer's Regional Institute of Education (RIE) make up the study's sample population. This initiative is run out of New Delhi's National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT). We will conduct inferential analysis using the collected data. Results will show that not all student-teachers have the same understanding of how ITEP should be put into practice. The overarching objective of the study is to foster the creation of processes that are innovative, productive, and efficient. In addition to this, the research intends to investigate various approaches to the ITEP, which is a four-year program, as well as strategies to make it more engaging and unconventional. In order to enhance the standard of education, the primary objective of the research is to raise the level of productivity in the field of teacher education and to reduce the number of obstacles that stand in the way. According to the findings of the study, it is required to investigate the necessity of carrying out the ITEP for a period of four years in order to initiate beneficial changes in the development of attitudes among student-teachers.

Concept and Meaning of Teacher Education Programme

It is impossible for a country to have any hope of producing teachers who are both committed and competent if there is not a diverse selection of programs that prepare teachers. By enrolling in one of these programs, individuals who are interested in pursuing a career as a teacher at the primary, secondary, or university level can find the opportunity to do so. By participating in DIETS programs, educators can receive training that will help them better work with pupils in primary school. In addition, educators who have earned a Bachelor of Education degree are prepared to operate in secondary and postsecondary educational environments.

The Indian government has made this a priority since independence, however the curricula used to educate the country's educators are rather out of date. The National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) is an agency within the Ministry of Education that is charged with developing and implementing the National Education Policy 2020. To ensure that the methods used in the Integrated Teacher Education Program are effective, they are modified (Chakraborty, 2022). Before being allowed to participate in a master's degree program, prospective instructors were required to finish a three-year bachelor's degree program in a field like history, economics, or business. This type of curriculum has a different function than an Integrated Teacher Education Program (ITEP). In the third and final year of this four-year program, students will focus on the general education prerequisites for degrees like BA or BS. Teacher preparation takes up the last two years of the curriculum. In addition to a Bachelor of Education, students who complete this program will earn a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science degree, depending on their major. They are capable of removing an entire academic year from their plans. The Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP) will be implemented in fifty-seven TEOs across the nation by the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) in the 2023–24 school year. The Department of School Education and Literacy extends a warm invitation to NEP 2020, a program that is the crown jewel of the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE).

The Current Study's Objectives

- Analyze the academic performance of pupils in their final year of high school.
- To compare the mean Concept of Integrated Teacher Education Programme.

Method

An approach known as a descriptive survey was chosen for this investigation because it was deemed appropriate for the parameters of the study. A random selection was made from among the numerous educational institutions and colleges located in the Darbhanga district of Bihar, and one hundred teacher educators were chosen. To put it another way, the field of education involved the employment of fifty males and fifty girls.

Tool Used

A self-administered survey was utilized by the researcher in order to ascertain the feelings of teacher educators on the Integrated Teacher Education Program (ITEP), which is a program that lasts for as long as four years. The standardization of this instrument was accomplished by establishing its validity and reliability. This instrument consists of forty different items, all of which are based on the Likert scale, which goes from one to five points. In order to determine the amount of attitude that teachers have toward the Integrated Teacher Education Program (ITEP), which is a four-year program, this instrument was utilized. A score of one indicates that it is never, a score of two indicates that it is rarely, a score of three suggests that it is occasionally, a score of four indicates that it is frequently, and a score of five shows that it is very frequently. When the split-half method was applied, it was discovered that the instrument had a dependability of 0.312 according to the N=100 test.

Data Collection

In order to collect information, the researcher distributed questionnaires to teacher educators who were employed at educational institutions that were pertinent to the study. Teacher educators were motivated and encouraged to share their input in an open and honest manner since they were given the guarantee that the data would be used exclusively for research purposes from the very beginning.

Methods of Statistics

For the purpose of conducting an analysis of the data, the t-test, percentage, standard deviation, and mean were the statistical tools that were utilized.

Analysis of Data

There is a positive perception among educator educators regarding the Integrated Teacher Education Program (ITEP), which is a program that lasts for a period of four years.

Table 1: Teacher Educators' Four-Year Integrated Teacher Education Program Sentiments as a Percentage

Changeable	Sample Magnitude	Mean	The proportion of instructors who educate above the mean	Percentage of instructors who are above the mean
Instructor of Education	100	26.14	68%	32%

It is clear from looking at table no. 1 that the average score for teacher educators is determined to be 26.14. Of the one hundred teacher educators, sixty-eight percent have a favorable attitude toward the Integrated Teacher Education Program (ITEP), which is a four-year program, while thirty-two percent have a negative view. The vast majority of teacher educators clearly hold a positive view of online learning.

An examination of the perspectives of both male and female educators-in-training with reference to the Integrated Teacher Education Program (ITEP), which is a four-year program.

Table 2: Showing Male and Female Teacher Educators' Four-Year Attitudes' t-Value. ITEP: Integrated Teacher Education

Changing (Categories)	N	Mean	SD	df	t-value	Outcome
Men	50	27.24	1.312	98	0.157	No significance
Female	50	27.13	1.413			

Table 2 shows that male teacher educators had an average score of 27.34 and a standard deviation of 1.312 throughout the research. The female teacher educators also had a standard deviation

of 1.413 and an average score of 27.13. Finally, the scores were open to 98 possible permutations. Actually, the computed t-value came out to be 0.157. This table shows that the t-value is 1.96 with a significance level of 0.05 and 2.58 with a significance level of 0.01. Regardless, note that when the significance level is chosen at 0.05 and 0.01 correspondingly, the computed t-value is lower than the table value.

Both urban and rural educators have expressed their opinions regarding their experiences with the Integrated Professional Education Programme (ITEP), which is a four-year program.

Table 3: Rural and Urban Four-Year Integrated Teacher Education Program Teachers

Variable (Categories)	N	Mean	SD	df	t-value	Outcome
Rural	50	29.70	1.328	97	2.80	Notable
urban	50	29.25	1.425			

The results for rural teacher educators are shown in Table 3, where the average score was 29.24 and the standard deviation was 1.428. Comparatively, urban teacher educators had a mean score of 29.67 and a standard deviation of 1.327. The 98 degrees of freedom in the system are the explanation for this. The calculation yielded a t-value of 2.79. The table displays a t-value of 1.96 at the 0.05 level of significance and 2.58 at the 0.01 level of significance. The computed t-value is higher than the table value for the 0.05 and 0.01 significance levels, respectively, to provide extra clarity. The results demonstrate that rural and urban teacher educators have vastly different perspectives on the Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP), which is a four-year program. We can validate the alternative hypothesis based on this information, which states that the statement "there is no significant difference between the attitude of rural and urban teacher educators towards four years Integrated Teacher Education Program (ITEP)" is not correct.

The findings of the ITEC program, which were derived from data collected over the course of four years by science and arts teacher educators.

Table 4: Science and Arts Instructors' views of the Four-Year ITEP

Variable (Categories)	N	Mean	SD	df	t-value	Outcome
Science	50	26.15	1.50	99	2.78	Notable
Art	50	27.45	1.55			

Table 3 displays the results for rural teacher educators. Within this group, we find a mean score of 26.13 and an SD of 1.47. The table contains every single result. Urban teacher educators, like their rural counterparts, had 98 degrees of freedom, 1.53 standard deviations, and 27.42 average scores. The t-value has been calculated to be 2.76. This table shows that 1.96 is the t-value when the significance level is set at 0.05, and 2.58 is the t-value when the significance level is set at 0.01. In order to provide more clarification, the t-value that was computed is higher than the value that was found in the table when the significance threshold is set at 0.05 and 0.01. During the course of the Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP), which lasts for four years, it becomes abundantly evident that art instructors and science teachers have quite distinct perspectives on the world.

Results

The following are the most important things that may be learned from the study of the data:

- The Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP) is a four-year program, and although 32% of teacher educators have a negative impression of the curriculum, 68% have a positive or favorable opinion toward it.
- After four years of observing the Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP), there is no discernible gender gap in the views of male and female teacher educators, and most have a positive impression of online education.
- The Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP), a four-year program, has received wildly contrasting opinions from educators in rural and urban regions.

The Integrated Teacher Education Program's Opportunities

The following is a list of some of the most significant benefits that the program, which will immediately bring about revolutions in both our society and our educational system, will bring about: It is imperative that we utilize educators who possess substantial credentials if we wish to significantly enhance and fortify our educational system. Considering that educational development serves as the basis for all other types of growth and development, our program for nation building will be able to reap

the benefits of educational development. Students who enroll in this ITEP will have the opportunity to earn four degrees simultaneously: four bachelor's degrees: arts, sciences, commerce, and master's. Because to the implementation of this plan, the students will be able to take advantage of a shorter school year, which will consist of four years rather than five. By the year 2030, students will have access to a broad selection of classes that are being provided by all colleges and institutions that have been granted accreditation. Students who are majoring in the arts, sciences, or commerce may find this choice appealing—it has the potential to be the most promising of all the options that are now available on the market. After making a decision on a certain academic path, they will have the opportunity to acquire knowledge about a wide variety of subjects. It would be helpful to develop the ITEP in order to recruit and keep educators who are highly qualified by providing them with opportunities.

Salient Features of Integrated Teacher Education Program in NEP 2020

NEP 2020 includes a number of significant ideas, some of which are as follows:

- Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, or Bachelor of Commerce in Education degrees are all available within this all-encompassing bachelor's program. As part of its focus on teacher preparation, the National Education Policy 2020 lays forth this as one of its essential needs.
- The Individualized Teacher Education Program (ITEP) will be the sole method for appointing instructors to the teaching profession beginning in the year 2030.
- We anticipate that by the year 2030, multidisciplinary colleges and universities will have successfully transferred teacher education.
- The first pilot program will be implemented in about fifty-seven diverse colleges and universities located all around the country with the use of random selection.
- The development of the course outline has been entrusted to many agencies, including the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE), a part of the Ministry of Education.
- A new program of study allows future teachers to get a bachelor's degree in education alongside a secondary degree in a field like physics, mathematics, history, economics, or commerce.
- In the event that a senior in high school makes the decision to pursue a career in education on their own, they will be able to utilize the ITEP.
- Five, three, three, and four are the stages that make up the new school system. These stages are foundational, preparatory, middle, and secondary. Instructional training will be provided for each of these steps by the ITEP.
- Why Students have the opportunity to benefit from the fact that they can complete the integrated course in a span of four years, as opposed to the typical five years that are required by the current Bachelor of Education program. It is possible for students to save an entire academic year by doing this.
- The official beginning of the Four Year ITEP will take place during the school year 2023–2024 school year.
- In order to assess whether or not an individual is qualified to be admitted to the ITEP, the National Testing Agency (NTA) will be in charge of administering the National Common Entrance Test (NCET).
- In accordance with the National Education Policy 2020, this course will be offered by universities that offer a wide range of academic disciplines. Within the next several years, it will become the bare minimum degree need for instructors.

Conclusion

Education of teachers is absolutely necessary for the growth and development of a nation so that it can flourish. One strategy that could help facilitate the attainment of this goal is the National Education Policy 2020's integrated teacher education program. One of the overarching goals of the strategy is to enhance and broaden the educational system of the country so that it can be regarded as a developed nation on a global scale. This objective is to be accomplished in spite of the fact that there may be barriers to its implementation. Putting this strategy into action will bring about a great deal of power and benefit, but there is also the possibility that it may be met with challenges. NEP 2020 is designed to result in an educational system that is both more robust and technologically advanced.

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