

Role Of District Institute Of Education And Training In Elementary Education

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Abstract

Teacher training institutions play a pivotal role in molding the educational landscape of a nation. These institutions are entrusted with the task of preparing teachers through comprehensive preservice and in-service education programs. These initiatives empower educators with the essential skills and knowledge needed to excel in their profession. Across our nation, numerous teacher training institutions are dedicated to this noble mission. One such eminent example is the District Institute of Education and Training (DIET). As a cornerstone educational entity at the district level, DIET provides indispensable academic support to school teachers. It assumes a critical role in enhancing teacher competencies by organizing a spectrum of professional development activities, including workshops, seminars, content enrichment programs, and conducting action research. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 underscores the imperative of fortifying teacher training institutions. This is because the preparation and ongoing professional growth of teachers are pivotal endeavors that directly influence the quality of education. By strengthening these institutions, we can ensure that teachers are adequately prepared to meet the diverse needs of their students and make substantial contributions to the overall enhancement of the education system.

KEYWORDS: Teacher education, D.I.E.T, Quality Education, Elementary teachers.

INTRODUCTION

The essence of a nation's stature is intricately woven with the excellence of its educational framework. The National Education Policy 2020 underscores the pivotal role of teachers as the fulcrum of transformative reforms in education. Ensuring high-quality education hinges fundamentally upon the proficiency of educators. The caliber of teachers is shaped by the depth of knowledge and skills acquired during their educational journey, the wealth of professional experiences amassed, the practical application of these insights, and their ongoing engagement with educational advancements. This iterative process enables teachers to continuously evolve, refine, and adapt, thereby ensuring they remain abreast of contemporary educational practices. Hence, teacher education emerges as a cornerstone in this paradigm, pivotal in shaping the trajectory of educational excellence. Teacher education encompasses an array of meticulously crafted programs, policies, procedures, and provisions tailored to imbue educators with the requisite attitudes, knowledge, methodologies, and skills essential for proficient performance in their vocation. The vision of teacher education is to cultivate educators who embody roles as nurturers, facilitators, and dynamic contributors to society, fostering a robust educational ecosystem within the nation.

Teacher Education institutions:

Teacher education institutions are dedicated to delivering comprehensive teacher education programs, encompassing preservice and in-service training initiatives, professional development opportunities through various workshops and training sessions aimed at skill enhancement and knowledge enrichment. These institutions also foster research activities, provide crucial academic support to local schools, facilitate material development and the creation of Teaching- Learning Materials (TLM) through workshops, and offer orientation and content enrichment programs tailored for school headmasters, teachers, and administrators aligned with new educational policies and guidelines. Various types of teacher education institutions, such as Regional Institutes of Education (RIEs), College of Teacher Education (CTEs), Institutes of Advanced Studies in Education (IASEs), State Councils of Educational Research and Training (SCERTs), and District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs), play integral roles in advancing teacher education programs across different regions and contexts.

THE ROLE OF DIET IN IMPROVING QUALITY OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION IN DISTRICT LEVEL:

DIET is a nodal institute at the district level of planning, implementing, monitoring pedagogical activities in the schools of a district. The DIET is to design training programmes for elementary school teachers of the district after ascertaining the needs of the teachers of the district. It conducts training programmes for elementary school teachers, BRCCs, CRCCs and BEOs of the district. It also provide scope for doing action research. It provides resource support to the teachers at field level(schools).It reviews block and cluster level performances of teachers and resource conditions. It monitors pedagogical activities in the district and plans for qualitative interventions accordingly.

Review of Related literature

Arora et al. (2001) conducted a comprehensive study on the operational status of District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs), revealing inconsistencies in adherence to scheme guidelines across states. They highlighted critical issues requiring attention, particularly the involvement of local communities and the effective utilization of local resources. According to the Azim Premji Foundation Report (2010), which assessed DIETs nationwide, many institutes have struggled to fulfill their intended roles due to challenges such as inadequate infrastructure and shortages of qualified faculty. Raju (2011) investigated the impact of DIET training programs on the emotional intelligence of teacher trainees, noting significant improvements among both male and female participants. Presidha (2011) examined the functioning of DIETs in Garo Hills, Meghalaya, identifying prevalent issues such as staff vacancies and inadequate training facilities. Longchar Imkongselna (2017) evaluated the effectiveness of DIETs in Nagaland, finding that teacher trainees were actively engaged in various institutional activities.

Based on a comprehensive review of literature underscoring the necessity and impact of DIETs, this study examines how DIET operations influence the development of teachers' competencies in Odisha. The research aims to explore DIETs' roles in enhancing the quality of elementary education at the district level and to identify strengths and weaknesses in selected districts of Odisha.

Using a descriptive survey method, the study encompassed four DIETs from specific districts in Odisha, involving 200 student teachers, 20 teacher educators, 160 elementary school

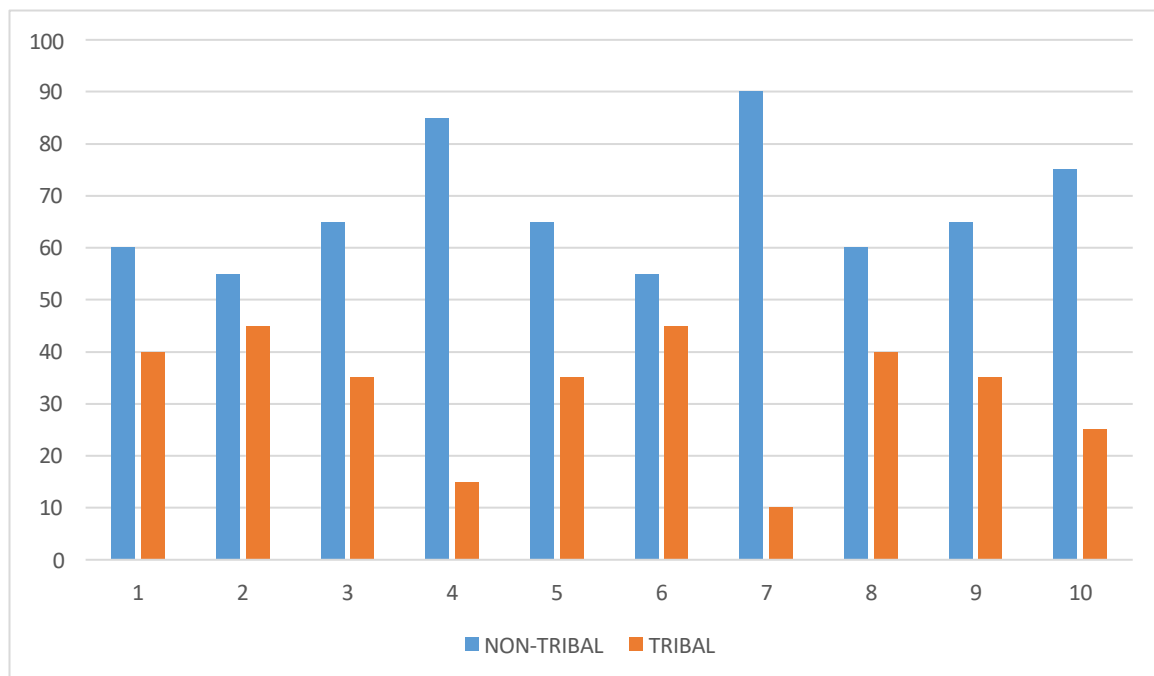
teachers, and 40 community members. Analysis of the data revealed that DIETs significantly contribute to capacity-building among elementary teachers and the development of locally tailored educational materials. However, the study also highlighted challenges such as staffing shortages, inadequate infrastructure, insufficient training accommodations, and limited space for recreational activities. Notably, DIETs in tribal districts exhibited more pronounced deficiencies compared to those in non-tribal districts.

Locality wise percentage analysis of elementary teachers view on functioning

SL.NO	STATEMENTS of the D.I.E.T.s.	NON-TRIBAL (in %)	TRIBAL (in %)
1	Inservice training given by DIETs are well planned	60	40
2	Trainings are given by well trained resource person	55	45
3	DIET coordinate the training with BRC's and CRC's	65	35
4	DIET gives ICT trainings	85	15
5	Need based trainings are given by DIETs	65	35
6	Training for development of professional commitment are organized by DIET	55	45
7	Content based training are organized by DIET	90	10
8	Leadership training for school heads and capacity building training for school teachers are organized by DIET	60	40

9	DIET conduct SSA trainings and give feedback to elementary teachers	65	35
10	Inservice training given by by DIET modifies teaching school	75	25

The table reveals that the non tribal area school teachers perceived the training programmes conducted by DIET is higher than the tribal area school teachers.



DIETs have pioneered innovative teaching methods to enhance the effectiveness and engagement of learning. One notable approach is the integration of technology in the classroom. DIETs have outfitted their classrooms with projectors, computers, and other technological tools to enrich the educational experience. Additionally, they promote the use of games and interactive activities to make learning both enjoyable and engaging for students.

Strategies for teacher training and development

DIETs have adopted effective strategies for teacher training and development, leading to notable improvements in

teaching quality. One such strategy is the encouragement of peer learning and observation, where teachers observe each other's classes and provide constructive feedback to identify areas for improvement. DIETs also host regular workshops and training programs to keep teachers updated with the latest teaching methods and technologies. Moreover, DIETs promote research and innovation in education by conducting studies, surveys, and action research projects. These efforts aim to generate new knowledge, insights, and evidence-based practices to enhance teacher education effectiveness. In conclusion, DIETs play a vital role in the professional development of teachers, significantly impacting the quality of education. By implementing successful programs, innovative teaching methods, and practical training strategies, DIETs have greatly improved the education standards in India. It is crucial to continue highlighting and applying these best practices to ensure all students receive the education they deserve. Teacher education institutions are dedicated to providing

CONCLUSION

various forms of professional development to ensure teachers achieve high levels of effectiveness in their profession. The District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) acts as the primary agency for monitoring and mentoring pedagogical processes at the district level. DIET is pivotal in identifying educational challenges through direct interaction with district stakeholders. It plays a vital role in designing and conducting small-scale research on various educational issues. The core function of DIET is to train proficient and effective teacher-researchers, offering academic and resource support to teachers in the field. By disseminating research findings, DIET systematically plans and enhances educational interventions at the district level.

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