INTEGRATION OF TECHNO-PEDAGOGICAL SKILLS IN TEACHER EDUCATION TO ENHANCE EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS AMONG PROSPECTIVE TEACHERS

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Abstract

Presently the entire sector of the education undergoes in several aspects and particular in the pedagogical aspects. Traditional ways of imparting knowledge are being replaced with ICT integrated pedagogy. Techno-pedagogy has been the present way of providing education. There is a direct integration of the digital platform and tools to the offline traditional classroom. In techno-pedagogy the classroom is blended with usual physical and virtual mode of education. The teaching aids in traditional educational system are being replaced with digital tools and techniques to teach a concept.

Teacher education undergoes such new changes in the curriculum with the integration of technology leading to the improvement of the quality in teacher education. All the pedagogical practices in teacher education can be integrated with technology and this techno-pedagogy is used in the teacher education is an optimistic way.

Employability is the prime aim of any pattern and level of education. In teacher education too employability is very important in terms of the placement of the prospective teachers in schools. With the integration of the techno-pedagogy the employability skills of the prospective teachers could be enhanced. Teacher trainees who are exposed to techno-pedagogy have more chance of employability in best schools. In the light of these concepts, this article discusses on the importance of techno-pedagogy skills that can be developed among prospective teachers to increase their employability.

Keywords: *Techno-pedagogy, Teacher Education, Prospective Teachers, Techno-pedagogy Skills, Employability.*

Introduction

Education in the 21ˢᵗ century is aimed at transforming individuals into self-sufficient beings with all the required sills and behaviors. Education is required to empower individuals at all stages of their life. The role of education being changed from ancient to modern times like in ancient time, education was authoritative and now it has become democratic and in very recent times it is moving towards more pragmatic. These changes lead to the evolution in education sector. Present education is more focused on the employability of the individuals and hence the necessary knowledge and skills required for the present industry is kept as the aims and objectives of education.

Teacher Education

Teaching is an important sector of the society that plays vital role in national building. Quality education is provided only by quality teachers. A mediocre teacher just does his or her job. But only teachers' superior in spirit has the aspiration to impart quality education to students. Such quality education will change the upcoming generation drastically leading to positive change in the society.

Quality Teacher Education

The quality of the school education is directly linked to the quality teacher education. If the quality in teacher education curriculum is maintained, then quality of the prospective teachers will be improved. In order to develop quality teacher, teacher education has to be updated frequently according to the changes occur in the society. Presently there is several changes in the society and in the industry. Influence of the internet net and mobile technology has been very rapid in every aspect of the society and it is being reflected in the field of the education too. Thus, there is much more integration of ICT in the field of education at level from school education to higher education. So, to improve the quality of the teacher education, there is need for the integration of the ICT and techno pedagogy in teacher education as well.

Techno-pedagogy

Techno-pedagogy is a novel approach of integration pedagogy and technology in making teaching learning process effective. Techno-pedagogy is recently evolved concept in which traditional pedagogical practices is coupled with ICT leading to blended learning environment.

Pedagogy is a science that deals with the study of the different way of teaching and learning between students and teachers. The various learning and teaching methods that are employed in the classroom by teachers and students is often considered as the pedagogy.

Techno-Pedagogical Content Knowledge (TPACK)

Techno derived from Latin word 'Texere' which means to construct. TPACK knowledge is the collaboratively developed concept in which the competencies that is required by a teacher which intersecting technology and pedagogy together. Here the appropriate use of technologies to various subject areas is employed. For instance, a teacher which teaching science, he /she can project the animation of the concept to students and thereby the teacher integrates the usual pedagogical with the technological knowledge. Here the teacher must have knowledge of using internet and retrieving animation of the particular concept and then he/she must have skills to handle projector and doo presentation and explain the concepts to students. Thus, the leaner acquires both teacher-oriented knowledge and exposure to internet e content simultaneously.

Technology, pedagogy and content knowledge when blended together, learners are able to assimilate in-depth knowledge over a particular concept taught by the teacher. It is more effective and efficient over traditional class with the addition of technology into the classroom activities.

Process in Techno-pedagogy

The techno-pedagogy proceeds in the following steps as given by R.Gloria and A.E.W. Benjamin. (2014).

1. Structuring which involves find out the apt technologies or online platform or e—content for the particular concept and framing a method to integrate it in the teaching learning process.

2. Execution is the actual phase of implementing the methods involving pedagogy and appropriate technology.

3. Evaluation is the phase of verifying and looking back the learning outcome and finding out if it satisfactorily meets the goals of the particular class.

4. Finalization is finding out the apt methods of online and offline and using it in the classroom in a blended way.

Techno-pedagogy skills

It is a new and emerging area of integration of technology with existing pedagogical practices. It involves using information communication technologies and pedagogical

methods together in knowledge creation and dissemination to students. The entire ecosystem of the traditional learning is being replaced by techno-pedagogical approaches. Following are the techno-pedagogy skills required to effectively impart education through techno-pedagogy.

1. Knowledge on technology

Prospective teachers must be oriented towards the various available learning technologies available like on line resources, MOOCS, web learning platforms, online teaching and learning tools, e- content creation tools, social media tools, media tools, editing tools, audio- video tools, online libraries, online web based resources etc.

2. Blended learning mechanism

Prospective teachers must be given skills to use both online and offline methods of teaching and learning. They must be trained to use both the methods and the available tools in it. For instance, while dealing with microteaching, teacher trainees are taught on the key concepts of microteaching followed by an assignment for them to view microteaching in youtube before they are actually going to practicing it. After viewing in youtube, they will practice it. This will lead to integration of technology and pedagogy leading to blended learning.

3. ICT Skills

Various ICT skills like knowledge and use of applications in desktop, mobile, knowledge on operating software and hardware in real time to create knowledge, to identify exact resources and to use technology in classroom practices.

4. Technosavy skills

Knowledge and application in using various gadgets is to be imparted to teacher trainees so that when they become teachers, they can use gadgets in their teaching process.

5. Collaborative skills

One of the important aspects of techno-pedagogy is collaboration as technology rules out the question of time and space. Such collaborative skills must be taught to prospective teachers.

Association of Techno-pedagogy and Employability Skills in Teacher Education

Nowadays, schools have started to practice teaching and learning with the use of technology. Smart boards and mobile technology are extensively used in schools. Hence today's teacher job market needs ICT oriented skills of prospective teachers. In this way prospective teacher trained in techno-pedagogy will have seek and find more opportunities in teaching field. In today's world, knowledge is the most important dimension in the human

existence. With the knowledge of techno-pedagogy, teacher trainees will have more ideas and practical ways to retrieve and apply knowledge appropriately. In contrast, those trainees who are not exposed to techno-pedagogy will move with conventional ways of job seeking and land in less paid and traditional school system.

In the era of technological and knowledge revolution, teacher trainees must be epode to techno-pedagogy, so that their employability is high increased. For instance, a teacher trainee exposed to techno-pedagogy can find job abroad, or in online teaching learning platform like BIJUS, KHAN academy. Thus, it is evident that techno-pedagogy is need of the hour and the teacher trainees trained in techno-pedagogy oriented teacher education curriculum will have high and wide range of employability opportunities.

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