

The Integrated Teacher Education Program (ITEP): Shaping the Future of Education

Dr. S. Abdul Jabbar & Dr. Mohd Gufran Barkati

The Integrated Teacher Education Program (ITEP): Shaping the Future of Education

Dr. S. Abdul Jabbar

Assistant Professor, Department of Education and Training, Maulana Azad

National Urdu University, Hyderabad, India

jabbaragatti@gmail.com

Dr. Mohd Gufran Barkati

Assistant Professor, Department of Education and Training, Maulana Azad

National Urdu University, Hyderabad, India

gufranbarkatialig@gmail.com

Received in 1st August 2024

Accepted in 15th

September 2024

Abstract: The Integrated Teacher Education Program (ITEP) signifies a transformational approach to teacher training in India as per the National Education Policy, 2020. A Bachelor of Arts/Science/Commerce joined with a Bachelor of Education as an inclusive four-year course, ITEP targets to produce teachers who are subject experts capable of pedagogical skills. This paper discovers the scope and vision of ITEP, emphasizing its role in equipping teachers with modern teaching methods, practical training, and the ability to navigate the progressing educational scenarios. The interdisciplinary nature of the program unlocks opportunities for participation in policymaking, curriculum development, and academic research. In general, the ITEP course is deliberated to encounter the current and future education requirements, generating highly qualified and adaptable teachers. (National Education Policy, 2020).

Keyword: ITEP, NEP 2020, Pedagogical Skills.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.29009/ijres.7.4.10>

Introduction:

The evolving landscape of education requires a dynamic and well-prepared teaching workforce. In response to this prerequisite, the Integrated Teacher Education Program introduced under the National Education Policy, 2020 has materialized as a ground-breaking model within India's education framework. A consolidated four-year course. This innovative approach aims to develop teachers with deep subject knowledge and advanced pedagogical skills. The comprehensive structure of the program addresses the critical need for teachers who are not only academically skilled but also skilled in modern teaching methods and adaptable to various educational contexts. (Ministry of Education, 2020).

The education system is undergoing rapid changes and the need for competent and nimble teachers has never been greater. The Integrated Teacher Education Program has surfaced as an innovative way to promote teacher education, by providing a structural framework for a stringent academic course of study n integrated with professional training program. It embraces the horizons and vision of ITEP which help to shape the education system. Through the National Education Policy 2020 in India, the ITEP is a four-year integrated course of Bachelor of Arts/science/commerce and Bachelor of Education out of which Educator's Teaching Preparation is a credit bearing course. ITEP is premised on the fundamental need of highly capable, subject- specific educators who have a thoroughly understanding of pedagogy. ITEP blends academics and training from the beginning of the experience and will give rise to educators who will be considered experts in their domain of study and experts in teaching. (Fatima, Zai, Zai, Akhter, & Chibb, 2023). The horizons of ITEP are big. The coursework contained within ITEP not only will provide your future educators with advanced pedagogical skills, but they will also learn advanced ethical

<http://dx.doi.org/10.29009/ijres.7.4.10>

practice, inclusion and critical thinking. There is a substantial practice based training layer in ITEP through the practice-based training (internships), simulation-based (micro-teaching) and practice, exposure-based and immersive (classroom exposure) from view of the students.

As a result, graduates of ITEP will be prepared to advance into a teaching experience right away, and to acclimatize to the educational environment of the 21st century. (National Curriculum Framework 2023). In today's world we are realizing that we are moving towards tech-based instruction in classrooms and a more personalized learning experience for students, and at the other end is the intellectual for a blast of educational ideas, and thus ITEP teachers will be a valuable asset who will help to foster an educational experience that is inclusive in nature and allows for the combination of technology and conventional classroom material while allowing students the opportunity to explore and be creative.

Moreover, conversations on the ITEP do not just focus only on teaching practices in education but might consider education policy, curriculum development and research. In fact, that interdisciplinary nature of the ITEP Support educators with the opportunity to branch out and work in many areas of Education such as, curriculum design, educational technology and policy research.

Distinctive Traits of the ITEP Curriculum:

- **Bridging the gap:** It augments the pupil's skills and helps in integrating academic knowledge with pedagogical skills. It gives an amalgamative exploration course that combines a Bachelor of Arts/Science/Commerce with a Bachelor of Education to create a consistent educational experience. It deliberates the assistances of

merging academic subject mastery with professional teaching skills and how this incorporation addresses the requirement for well-rounded instructors.

- **Enhancing teaching capability:** It is through practical training skill of the pupil gets elevated and can help improve teaching competency in tune with new trends and innovations. The practical components of ITEP of course include internships, micro-teaching sessions, and real-world classroom exposure. It highlights how these practical experiences prepare future teachers to handle diverse educational environments and effectively implement modern teaching methods.
- **Adapting to the Digital Age:** Technology and personalized learning are the pertinent targets that ITEP is primarily focussed on. This four-year integrated ITEP course prepares teachers to incorporate digital tools and personalized learning approaches into their teaching. It examines the program's emphasis on technology integration and its role in meeting the requirements of today's tech-savvy students.
- **Fostering inclusiveness:** inclusiveness and critical thinking in education indeed are intertwined comprehensively. It is quite an apparent concept that ITEP's commitment to promoting inclusiveness, moral values, and critical thinking. It illustrates how the program prepares teachers to create supportive learning environments that encourage inquiry, creativity, and respect for diversity.
- **Expanding career horizons:** the concept of thinking beyond the classroom and making them employed in the future is given some sort of obligatory in the ITEP course. It explores the inclusivity and diversity of broader career prospects available to ITEP graduates,

<http://dx.doi.org/10.29009/ijres.7.4.10>

including roles in education policy, curriculum development, and educational research. It highlights the interdisciplinary nature of the program and its potential impact on numerous educational sectors.

- **Meeting Future Challenges:** The role of ITEP in shaping education is understood in its curriculum and syllabus constructions. It forwards and looks at the perception of how ITEP addresses the evolving demands of the education sector. It deliberates the program's role in preparing educators for future encounters and its connotation in driving educational reform and improvement. Each subtitle delivers a focused examination of diverse facets of ITEP, expounding on its connotation in determining the future of education. (Khan, 2021).

Innovative Strategies for Future-Ready Educators:

The Integrated Teacher Education Program in India, or, ITEP, seeks to respond to challenges that arise in education in the future through multiple innovative practice and approaches. Here are some examples of this responsiveness to future issues. The Integrated Teacher Education Program's objective in India is to respond to future education challenges through various innovative methodologies and approaches. To illustrate this goal, look at this the following overviews.

- **Competency-based framework:** ITEP's curriculum focuses on instilling new competencies such as; critical thinking, problem-solving, and digital literacy, which are necessary to address educational needs in the future.
- **Integrated learning:** ITEP combines general education with pedagogical education and preparedness so that teacher candidates acquire and succeed in both subject-specific scholarship and

<http://dx.doi.org/10.29009/ijres.7.4.10>

educational strategies. This creates a well-rounded educator that is broadly prepared to engage with complexities in the learning environments.

- **Adaptability to change:** The program is infused with flexible yet robust design features responding to development (or change) in educational practice, so future learnt educators can engage confidently with new educational phenomena arising.
- **Leadership skills:** The program underscores the importance of in increasing pupil's additional leadership and management skills as future teachers want to lead not just from the classroom but as advocates in policy and educational administration.
- **Student-centric pedagogy:** ITEP is committed to pedagogy that promotes active learning, pupil engagement and is quality assured in educational experiences through personalized learning and assessment. Therefore, ITEP teachers can foster an adaptive and personalised best fit learning environment to maximize understanding and skill depth for all students.
- **Use of technology:** The program will attempt to advance digital tool use and assessments, so teachers learn to respond through using technology and emerging curricular issues related to technology.
- **Cultural competency:** The program includes training for future teachers' cultural responsiveness working and interacting daily with a nuanced and multicultural society of pupils and educators.
- **Continuous learning:** ITEP supports continuous professional knowledge and learning for teachers through monthly workshops,

<http://dx.doi.org/10.29009/ijres.7.4.10>

professional learning sessions, and collegial support opportunities to keep educators learning at the forefront of educational practices.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, an integrated teacher education program represents a proactive approach to the development of capable, flexible, and caring educators. ITEP equally prioritizes academic rigor and pedagogical rigor in shaping an education future that both addresses the needs of today's learners, and prepares them for the future. The Integrated Teacher Education Program (ITEP) is an important advancement in teacher preparation that combines academic examiner ship with educational practice to cultivate a new generation of educators. ITEP, through the cultivation of depth of content and depth of practice, helps teachers navigate the challenges and complexities of the educational landscape today through increased internship experiences and micro-teaching opportunities. Through an emphasis on inclusive practices, educational technology, and critical thinking, ITEP prepares graduates to address the varied learning needs of students and contribute to globally-focused educational environments beyond the classroom. As education continues to change, the Integrated Teacher Education Program (ITEP) is a proactive broad-based approach, preparing well-prepared educators for today's student needs and tomorrow's educational opportunities.

References

- Fatima, N., Zai, A. F., Zai, A. F., Akhter, S., & Chibb, M. (2023). Reshaping teacher education system in India through NEP-2020.
- Khan, S. A. (2021). Futuristic trends of ITEP (Integrated Teacher Education Program) in India under the light of NEP-2020, a boon or bane: Exploring the strategies, challenges, and trends of integrated teacher education program in India. *Journal of Advances and Scholarly Researches in Allied Education*, 18(7), 451–456. Ignited Minds Journals.
- National Council of Educational Research and Training. (2023). National Curriculum Framework 2023. Government of India.
https://dsel.education.gov.in/sites/default/files/guidelines/ncf_2023.pdf.
- National Education Policy. (2020). National Education Policy 2020. Ministry of Education, Government of India.