



Impact of Covid 19 on Internship Programme of B.Ed Students

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Abstract

School/colleges closures due to COVID-19 have brought significant disruptions to education across the world. Schools/ colleges help in developing social skills and awareness of students which is interrupted because of lockdown due to COVID-19. Not only studies are affected but it has also affected the training of the students. Students must have good communication skills, social values, teamwork and many more qualities which are affected due to pandemic which can't be learned through online classes. Students have to face many challenges when they enter into professional life. They have to adjust themselves according to the professional environment by implementing their conceptual knowledge in the new world of work. These internship programs not only improve student's personal skills but also polish their professional growth and experience. It is one of the most important activities of teaching for development of any country. Therefore the present paper highlighted the views of trainee teachers of teacher Education Institutions regarding the problems faced by them due to the unavailability of Internship programme.

Keywords: Internship Program, Teacher Education Institution, Teacher Trainees etc

Introduction

Destiny of a Nation is shaped in its Classroom. Well stated by **Kothari commission** that the Classrooms are the first learning space outside the house. It is here the foundation for educational achievements is laid. It is the classrooms which are factories of potential engineers, doctors, architects who shape physical infrastructure and quality of life in a nation

The quality of coming generation depends on the qualities of teachers. Therefore they need rigorous training in quality teacher education program and that quality teacher education program should include extended duration of teachers field based training. The concept of Internship introduced in the two year B.Ed. course throughout the country is quite challenging one for all the teacher education institutions. The aim of internship program is to incorporate teaching skills among the student teachers. Internship program is an effective way to give training to the student-teachers about real world of work. It give them an opportunity to integrate theory and practice, plan and deliver lessons properly, critically analyse their own

and peers teaching styles and improve them in the light of feedback given by supervisors. Through this program they understand the role and responsibilities of professional teachers. Internship program also give them opportunity to understand different aspects of school program and improve their skills and abilities in teaching profession. An effective and improved internship program is required in developing student-teachers personalities as true professionals in field of education. In the new Curriculum for the B.Ed., There are 20 weeks for the Assignments and School Internship in the field which are spread in the duration of two year B.Ed. programme

The teachers in the new teacher training program (NCFTE, 2010) requires to undergo a six month internship program that exposes them to wide range of professional experiences prior to becoming a full-fledged teacher. Internship in teaching includes practice – teaching and wide variety of field experiences under the guidance of a competent or expert supervisor. National Curriculum Framework (NCF,2005) and National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education (NCFTE,2009)also emphasized on professionalization of Teacher Education through training.

Schools/ colleges help in developing social skills and awareness of students which is interrupted because of lockdown due to COVID-19. Not only studies are affected but it has also affected the practical training of the students. Students must have good communication skills, social values, teamwork and many more qualities .which are affected due to pandemic which can't be learned through online classes. Many of the students were not able to attend online classes because of the poor network in their region, loss of focus and interest, some time does not get much space in their home for online studies due to more members in the family, sometimes they don't have a system to excess online classes. Internships of students were affected as their internship programmes were either reduced or cancelled due to this pandemic.

Therefore the present research paper is mainly focused on the importance of internship programme for trainee teachers and their views regarding cancelled School Internship Training (SIT) this academic year due to Covid -19 impact. This study is based on primary data as well as on secondary data. The secondary data includes various internet sources, journals articles, and some news articles. The primary data is collected based on questionnaire to collect the views of 100 trainee teachers from two B.Ed colleges of paschim burdwan district of west Bengal.

Review of related literature:

In 1966-64, the Education Commission recommended professionalization of Teacher Education, Comprehensive Colleges of Internship and focused on the development of integrated programmes. The National Policy on Education (NPE,1986) recommended centrally sponsored scheme of Teacher Education by which District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs), Institute of Advanced Studies in Education (IASEs) and Colleges of Teacher Education (CTEs) were established.

Rajendra Chavan (2017) conducted study on internship programme is helpful to gain feedback about the classroom behavior of student teacher educators and 'got chance to observe new teaching techniques, strategies, ideas & resources. Dr. Kirit Matliwala (2010) opined that internship programme is very important in teacher education, so we should make it more fruitful by our serious efforts.

Walia (1992), Mishra (1992), Dana (1998), Beggs, Ross and Goodwin (2008), all have suggested about the need and importance of Internship program for effective teaching. Salha (2012), founds that student-teachers view internship program as a real opportunity to refine and improve their teaching skills in actual school setting. Internships have also been key elements of the educational programs set up in the small public high schools pioneered by the “Big Picture” founders Dennis Littky and Elliott Washor (Hendrie, 2004). Beggs, Ross and Goodwing (2008), internship courses provide learning opportunities for undergraduates to experience professional practice and activities associated with knowledge application. Saleha (2012) founds that student-teachers view internship program as a real opportunity to refine and improve their teaching skills in actual school setting. Voluntary apprenticeships for youth originated in Europe in the early nineteenth century and remain a central component of many European training systems (Olson, 1993; Snell, 1996).

Purpose and objectives of the study

The main purpose of this study is to determine how much internship programs are beneficial for the student’s teachers for their future career development, professional and personal growth. This study also aims to study the impact of COVID 19 on internship programs on the improvement of the professional and personal skills of student’s teachers of teacher education institutions of west Bengal. The following objectives are set by the study in order to reach and achieve the purpose of the study

- To study the importance of internship programme for students trainees of B.Ed .
- To determine the impact of COVID 19 on internship programs internship programs on professional as well as personal growth and skills of the students trainees (B.Ed)

Methodology:

The descriptive survey method was adopted to study the opinion of trainee teachers about importance of internship program.

Sample and sampling technique: For the present study the researcher followed purposive sampling technique. All the 100 B.Ed trainee teachers from two B.Ed colleges of paschim burdwan district of west Bengal were involved actively in collecting opinion and feedback.

Tool: The researcher has used self prepared questionnaire and the same was forwarded through Google form and collected the data successfully.

Importance of the Internship programme

The education commission (1964-66) has remarked: “A sound programme of professional education of teachers is essentials for the qualitative improvement of education”. There is need therefore for quality teacher education for enabling teacher to discharges their duties and responsibility successfully.

Internship is a new innovation in the field of education .It plays a very important role in improving the competency and effectiveness of teacher. It modifies the pupil teacher’s behaviour and if a teacher is trained he/she can impart the knowledge to the students in a better way. The role of the teachers has been changed from the transmitter of knowledge/ information to facilitator of learning. Teacher also has responsibility in community development, social change and reformation and national development. The success of schooling mainly depends on competency, skills and effectiveness of teacher. Pre-service

professional teacher education is a process of transformation of a layperson into a competent and committed professional practitioner. Internship in teaching is an opportunity where the student teacher identifies himself with the school to which he/she is assigned. While practice teaching is an important component of the programme, the student-teacher participates in every activity of the school in the total school life. During this period, right attitudes, interests and abilities are developed shaping the student teacher as a teacher of tomorrow. Internship provides excellent opportunity for the prospective teacher to learn to teach, acquire all the necessary understandings, skills, attitudes and appreciations in a real school situation. During internship, he learns the art of communication, the ability to solve problems, the tact to handle situations however delicate and acquires the capacity to think and organize educative and useful programmes for the benefit of his students.

In teacher training programmes, internship provides the opportunity where the student-teacher can find for himself the extent to which the methods and techniques of teaching he has learnt during the course, are useful in a real classroom situation. Internship is the period during which the student stays in the school for a certain extended period, mingles with the school community, gets the first hand knowledge of the school situation and the associated problems, participate in the programmes of the school, organizes new and productive programmes for the benefit of the school, develops in himself the right skills, attitudes, interests and appreciations and makes best use of the expertise and resources in the school to blossom himself as a good teacher who could be an asset to any school providing him vocation in future.

Findings & Conclusion

Based on the survey which was conducted on student's teachers, to know the impact of COVID-19 on them and how it affects them in various ways we found the results which are as follows:

According to survey data, 97% of trainee teachers agreed that their Internship programmes are badly affected due to this pandemic, because of which their learning and skill development activities are severely affected. Moreover, nearly 97 % of students agreed on the fact that that an internship is important as it links classroom concepts with real work environment, and it will affect all the students related to the teaching skills which is a very important aspect of teacher education programme. Students are not feeling competent and understanding of role and responsibilities of professional teachers without practical training. Almost all student teachers opined that teacher Training institutions, colleges are focusing to encourage them to gain different teaching skills through online classes and conducted online viva voce in order to evaluate their pedagogical knowledge and skills. Some students also viewed that due to the onset of online classes only selected assignments are given to the students by the training institutes/colleges with not much encouraging environment to ask what students want and proper feedback is not provided to them.

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