

4 YEAR INTEGRATED COURSE IN TEACHER EDUCATION: FUTURE OF B.ED. COLLEGES

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Abstract

The National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) is planning to convert the current two-year B.Ed. programs into four-year integrated ones in a phased manner. With this aim, NCTE decided not to give permission for new B.Ed. colleges for the next two academic years. In order to regulate the growth of teacher education at all levels, on the basis of recommendations received from the State governments and UT administration regarding requirement of teacher education courses, the NCTE has decided not to invite or accept any application for recognition of new teacher training institutions or programs, including additional course and increase of intake in existing recognized institutions or programs, the academic session 2019-20, informed the Council's member secretary Sanjay Awasthi. This would also give the council time to properly roll out BA B.Ed. and B.Sc.B.Ed. integrated (with specialization).programmes. NCTE has announced that permission will not be given for new B.Ed. colleges and additional courses in existing colleges during 2018-19 academic year. Now, the council has decided to implement the same for the 2019-20 academic year."

Keyword: Teacher Education, 4 year Integrated Courses, Future of B.Ed. Colleges

Teacher education refers to the policies, procedures, and provision designed to equip (prospective) teachers with the knowledge, attitudes, behaviors, and skills they require to perform their tasks effectively in the classroom, school, and wider community. The professionals who engage in this activity are called teacher educators. The process by which teachers are educated is the subject of political discussion in many countries, reflecting both the value attached by societies and cultures to the preparation of young people for life, and the fact that education systems consume significant financial resources.

However, the degree of political control over Teacher Education varies. Where Teacher Education is entirely in the hands of universities, the state may have no direct control whatever over what or how new teachers are taught; this can lead to anomalies, such as teachers being taught using teaching methods that would be deemed inappropriate if they used the same methods in schools, or teachers being taught by persons with little or no hands-on experience of teaching in real classrooms. To

improve the quality and training of teacher the 2 year course for Bachelor of Education might soon be dropped in favor of a 4 year integrated teacher training programme. The government had changed the 1 year B.Ed. course for a 2 year alternative only three years ago.

The change to revamp 2 year B.Ed. to 4 year integrated course in B.Ed. is being done to ensure that only serious students opt for the teacher's training programme by making it similar to engineering and medical programmes. So, now the students after passing Class 12th board exams have the option to join four-year integrated BA-B Ed or BSc-B Ed courses. The NCTE sources said that the revamped syllabus will be more practical-oriented and will be beneficial for the students. NCTE is likely to submit the draft proposal by March, 2018 and ministry will also soon finalize the rules and regulations for the courses before the commencement of the 2018-19 academic session so that universities can opt for it and announce the admission schedule. Arun Jaitley had already made announcements to this effect for an integrated

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B.Ed.programme in his Budget 2018 speech on February 1.

Why is the government making this change?

As per the report, NCTE sources said that this move was being carried out to ensure that only serious students opt for the teacher's training programme by making it similar to B.Tech and MBBS programmes.

Who will be eligible for the four-year integrated teacher training programme?

Students will be able to take admission to the four-year training programme right after finishing class 12.

From one-year B.Ed. to two-year B.Ed. to four-year B.Ed.

In 2014, to ensure quality teacher training, the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) made some sweeping changes by increasing the duration of the Bachelor of Education programme from one year to two years with major change in the curriculum. With this, aspirants had to study for five years to become a teacher (3 years of graduation+2 years for B.Ed.).

The new models introduced at the time included the 4-year integrated course after class 12. However, the number of takers for the 2-year course after graduation were always much higher than the number opting for the integrated course. According to experts, this change from one-year duration to a two-year model was done to give a professional edge to the aspirants like any other professional courses like BE (four years), MBBS (five-and-a-half years), CA (five- years) etc. The same reason is being cited now for scrapping the option for the 2-year B.Ed. course.

Is the change coming too soon?

Popular opinion on this probable change as seen on public platforms and social media says that such a major overhaul in the B.Ed. programme might be coming too soon since the last time in 2014, especially since no proper study has been done to check whether the last change made any difference in teacher training and in the quality of teachers

produced. Proper feedback needs to be taken from trainee teachers to understand the effects each change in the B.Ed. pattern produces on the quality of teachers.

At present, India has 18,600 institutes that offer B.Ed. course, of which, about 1000 institutes are run privately. And all of these institutes have gone unmonitored so far. So the government has asked them to submit affidavits w.e.f facilities & achievements. In response to this, the HRD Ministry has received about 8,700 affidavits. The remaining have been issued show-cause notices. This move will hopefully streamline and better the quality of B. Ed education in India in keeping with the new 4-year B. Ed guidelines.

Conclusion:-The HRD Ministry has passed a bill to start a four-year integrated teacher training course that will replace the current two-year B.Ed. course. HRD is taking the step to ensure that only serious and willing candidates apply for the specialized B.Ed. course. The HRD Ministry is in the process of formulating the National Education Policy and the National Council for Teacher Education (Amendment) Bill, 2017, will amend the National Council for Teacher Education Act, 1993. According to this Act, the government will give retrospective recognition to certain teacher education institutions. It will also sanction retrospective permission to start new courses/training in teacher education. The change in the teacher training course have come about some discrepancies in the teacher education system. Without the implementation of 4 year integrated B.Ed. course we cannot say about the future of B.Ed. colleges.

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