

Practice of Online Teaching in Teacher Education

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Abstract

Due to the situation of this deadly pandemic 'Covid 19', the educational processes have shifted to online mode in the whole world. At this juncture, on one hand, the teachers were forced to imbibe the advanced technological skills and on the other hand to find more effective and suitable online teaching learning process. As a result, all the teachers are experimenting with different and advanced innovative methods, techniques and resources. It is true that it is found happening in the teacher education field too. In India, there were a systematic monitoring and transaction of teacher education curriculum at both undergraduate and post graduate level with the guidance of National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE). Universities and higher educational institutes were maintaining the rules and regulations of NCTE. In this particular pandemic situation, this study aims to focus on how the prospective teachers are experiencing the online learning and what are their suggestions to improve the teaching transactions through online mode. This study was conducted among the prospective teachers those currently pursuing their post graduation in Education, under Kannur University, Kerala, India. 13 participants were involved in this discussion along with the teacher educator who is also the author of this current study. This study is an attempt to bring out the current scenario of the process of Online teaching learning, particularly in the field of Teacher education. The study also gives an idea on practical way of conducting online classes and developing the necessary skills among the future teachers.

Keywords: *Teacher Education, Covid 19 pandemic, online teaching learning, Empirical practice.*

Introduction

Teacher Education in India has a wide scope and tremendous effect on preparing the prospective teachers for its future citizens. National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) is the nodal governmental agency to monitor the teacher education programmes in India. It is also the advisory board for the central and state governments

on all matters pertaining to teacher education in India. As per the regulations of the NCTE, many Universities and Higher Educational Institutions are offering various specialized teacher education programmes in India. As per the NCTE regulations of 2014, the undergraduate and post graduate teacher preparation programmes have been discussing various issues and subject papers and giving sufficient practical experience for the prospective teachers. Strict monitoring was also been undergoing from the governmental agencies to evaluate the institute wise and individual wise evaluation process.

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Need and significance of the study

During the present Covid 19 pandemic situation, our educational process was shifted from regular face to face teaching to online mode. Majority of the teachers and students were adapted to the present critical situation. Various state governments and central government were also planning and implementing various practically possible ways to give the best possible learning environments to the students. Starting from school level to higher education level, the teachers are shifted to online, whether it is synchronous or asynchronous mode. As it is a novel situation to all, including administrators, everyone is in need to spend more time on planning and implementing the online teaching process. Though various governmental and private agencies had started teaching from home, still there requires more clarity and speciality in teaching process. There requires a evidence based collection of reflections from various stake holders for the proper and successful education to cater which will be including teachers, students, and administrators to know more about the past six months, how the teachers have taken class and how the students at all levels have learnt. On the basic line of this perspective, the present study was aimed to know more details about the teachers' and student's reflection especially particularly from the teacher education field.

Objectives of the study

- To get reflections regarding the online teaching in the teacher education programme from the post graduate students of teacher education programme under Kannur University, Kerala
- To get the self reflection of the teacher educator regarding the Online teaching in the teacher education programme.

Methodology

The present study was conducted in the School of Pedagogical Sciences, Under Kannur University, Kerala, India. Data was collected from 13 prospective teachers of third semester of the two years Master of Education Programme, enrolled in 2020. Data was collected through both the quantitative and qualitative mode in the form of conducting group discussion, collecting individual feedback administered in person and collected through online google forms. Various questions asked for getting the reflections as part of the purpose of this paper are as follows:

- What kind of teaching strategies will be applicable in online mode?
- Are your teachers giving follow up activities during regular teaching and online teaching? How?
- What are the resources the teachers are providing to you during online classes?
- What are your suggestions to improve the online teaching in teacher education field?
- Which transactional method is appropriate for you during online teaching?
- Which are the reference sources you are utilizing during online classes?
- Give your views and concerns on online teaching in teacher education
- As a teacher how will you engage your students through online teaching?
- What are the Roles and Responsibilities of Online Instructors?
- According to your view, what are Competencies required for Online Instructors?
- How can we encourage teachers and learners participation through online platforms?

As the students were well qualified and well experienced, they are given their sincere reflections regarding the scope of online teaching in the teacher

education field. Certain demographic details were also collected for the triangulation of the present study.

Data analysis and Discussion

The details regarding the Online Teaching Process is as follows:

What kind of teaching strategies will be applicable in online teaching learning process	How your teachers -have been giving follow up activities During regular teaching	How your teachers have been giving follow up activities During online teaching	What are the resources the teachers have been providing to you during online class
Discussion method is most applicable in online teaching	Teachers giving sufficient information during the regular classes through the PPT presentation, and question and answers , discussion	It is almost same as the regular classes, but it is most comfortable and helpful rather than regular classes	PPTs, PDFs, Video lectures
Collaborative learning is helpful for the learning process	Assignments making power point presentation about a topic	Give assignments and making ppt about that topic. watching the youtube video and prepare notes about that video Read the pdf files and prepare notes	Pdf file, youtube link, different learning apps
I think flipped classroom is most suitable strategy for online teaching. Establish a rapport between the learner and teacher. Give open discussion for subject related topic. Try to make the classroom live	Asking questions, note making Sharing opinions etc...	Through question answer system, conducting quiz, note-making, Online quiz, online exams, video making notes, ppt making	topic related PDFs, Power Point Presentation etc

Table (1): Details regarding the online teaching process followed in the teacher preparing programme.

Other details regarding perceptions of prospective teachers

What are your suggestion /s to improve the online teaching in teacher education field	Which transactional method is appropriate for you during online teaching
Given more time to complete students work	Classes through Google classroom

Active participation of all learner so use some different modes of teaching	Interaction oriented classroom.
Use different educational softwares for teaching.	Using Power point presentation about the topic
I think it's better to give learning materials like video and other documents before the class. Then we can easily read the material according to our convenience and also we can clarify our doubts in the class time.	Self learning, online resources
I have no suggestions	Proper interaction with students
Use existing resources, provide interactive activities, set reasonable expectations ,	Collaborative learning
Introduction of new innovative technology, give proper time to complete tasks, keep videos short, record lectures because if there is any problem in network it will be helpful,	Power point presentation
Correct time schedule	Google meet and google slide
Provide more interactive sessions. Give equal opportunity for students. Active engagement both teacher and students. 30 minutes for both lecturing and discussion . Create friendly live classrooms in online	

Table (2): Details on the views of prospective teachers on conduction of online teaching in Teacher education

Views of prospective teachers on online teaching in the teacher education field

Give your views and concerns on online teaching in teacher education	As a teacher how will you engage your students through online teaching?
Most advanced helpful , informative ,	Give them adequate learning material , provide international webinars, encourage them for PPT presentation .
Online teaching is good, to understand different ways of learning. But teaching practice and dissertation work are difficult, some body problems affect it	To give works through classroom, try to participate all students actively through asking question, using games related to topic
Online teaching is good in the field of teacher education. But in the case of online teaching no opportunity to teaching practice in teacher trainees.	To engage through some task like assignment... Ppt presentation.

No opportunity for teaching practice, so it affects our professional development.	Through attractive ppt, home work, seminar presentation, assignment etc
I think the online teaching is not effective. Because the interest of the learning process is gradually decreasing .	Using different learning softwares
In the case of teacher education we can't get training program in online class.	I will provide learning materials like video and other documents first then conduct live session for discussion and clarify the doubts of the learners.
Feels distance teaching, Isolation etc	Collaborative activities
Not much effective like regular class. Because teaching gives more importance to practical classes like teaching practice and dissertation work. But in the case of syllabus completion online class is going well.	Through power point presentation with audio.
Teaching practice Research works are very difficult.	Yes. Give different mode of classes through variety Applications
In this situation there is no way to continue to the course. It is boring, no face to face interaction, not live	Add more contents but present in a simple way like in the form of examples, short videos. Active engagement with learners in the classroom

Table (3) : Views of prospective teachers on online teaching in the teacher education field

Roles and responsibilities of teachers' during online education

Elaborate the needed Roles and Responsibilities of Online Instructors	According to your view, what are the Competencies required for teachers during online teaching?	Briefly Explain each Competency required for teachers	Give Your opinions about online teaching in the teacher education field
Supporter, guide,	Technical Skills, Willingness to learn, --- --- --- ---	Teacher must have some Technological awareness , and also understand the student difficulties during the classes	Given more times to do their work

Guide, Friend, Social engineer, Scaffolder, Mentor, Sensitivity to gender, caste, creed. Care of children, Co learner	Technical Skills, Willingness to learn, Knowledge of “how students learn”, Content Expertise, Assess student’s learning, Course Design, Subject knowledge. Performance skill, Explanatory skill	Subject knowledge :- teachers should have well subject knowledge, Performance skill : - To be needed good performance skill.	Online teaching is good in teacher education field. But in some case net work problem is one of the main issues.
Teacher support the students Ensure the participation of students through various task	Technical Skills, Willingness to learn, Knowledge of “how students learn”, Content Expertise, Assess student learning, Course Design	The teacher have technical skill to manage class in online	In teacher education field, the online teaching is not good for all. Because it is necessary to interact face to face in teacher education field.
Managing correspondent, create and organise all of the written resources, help the learner to master content and complete requirements, to make material manageable and understandable	Technical Skills, Willingness to learn, Knowledge of “how students learn”, Content Expertise, Assess student’s learning, Course Design	Involving students and coordinate their activities, verbal and non verbal presentation skill, course planning and organisation	Satisfactory
Create friendly atmosphere, supporter, organize and introduce resources	Technical Skills, Willingness to learn, Knowledge of “how students learn”, Content Expertise, Assess student learning, Course Design, Expert in subject matter, coordination capacity	Planning and organizing, knowledge in subject, update knowledge, student monitoring	It’s good to attending more webinar classes related to teaching, introduction of new innovative technology

Table (4): Roles and responsibilities of teachers during online education

Benefits and limitations of online teaching in teacher education

How online teaching is helpful for your teaching career? If online teaching is not helpful, suggest measures to improve your teaching career ambition	Provide the benefits of online teaching in your course of study	Provide the limitations of online teaching in your course of study
The online teaching is very helpful for my teaching career because online teachings promote technological awareness to the students and also helpful to know how to use the PPT presentation to the online classes.	Technological awareness, participation for international webinar.	Time limit

Online teaching help to teaching career, because to use technology in classroom and it also help to understand easily.	Helps to do research work, get familiar with variety of platforms	Teaching practice
Give more opportunity related to technology based learning.	Helps to get awareness about new technologies.	No face to face interaction. Network problem
Get an opportunity to practice technological and innovative skills.	Helps to provide opportunity to improve technological and innovative skills	Net work problems.
It provides a new platform for teaching learning process	Helps to Cope with online class Technical advancement Manage time for other works	No face to face interaction Lack of listening the classes
Provide refresher course	Save the time, cost and energy, knowledge of ICT teaching, information sharing	Network issues, lack of interest
Online class helps to improve our technical skills and get more awareness about different online platforms. But it is not helpful for increasing different teaching skills as like in the live class.	Online class helps to improve our technical skills and get more awareness about different online platforms.	Not provide opportunities to learn different teaching skills as like in the live class.
There was already increase in growth and adoption in education technology. Covid19 puts growth of the online classes now. Adaptation is main factor. Teacher can teach any difficult situation.	Now increase the online class because of Covid 19. So this type of teaching is based on our situation.	We cannot understand the situation of the student.
Helpful...Interactive session,acquire the digital information literacy,online resources,diverse and enriching experience	Increased flexibility of time,location etc.,convenience,digital literacy	Little face to face interaction,More work,Too much time spent in front of a computer screen
It helps to attend more informatics webinar programs, new innovative techniques	Documentation, aware of new innovative technology, get more informatics webinar programs	Long duration class makes stress on eyes and brain. Network issues , lack of facial expression, reference books
It is helpful because we don't know what will be happen in future It is helpful in future, our career especially in teaching field	I think we get more time. Know more about online teaching.	Use More time with phones and computers it will lead health problems. Lack of communication skill of students

Table (5): Benefits and limitations of online teaching in teacher education

Reflections from the author

The present teacher education curriculum consists of four papers viz., Contexts and Issues and Teacher Education, Elementary education, Secondary and Senior Secondary Education and Optional subjects according to their specialized subject. The characteristic features of teacher education classes were, there will occur a detailed discussion

regarding the subject including the benefits, issues and real life experiences. It will make the prospective teachers to get ample experience on how to be in their future professional career. During the regular face to face teaching, teacher educators will get enough time for undergoing experiments with the prospective teachers in the fields of demonstrating various teaching methods and

strategies, new assessment techniques, conducting small scale action researches. The active participation from both teachers and students will make the classes lively and both of them will get a real happiness at the end of the day. There will be direct and indirect influence of teachers on students' during the regular face to face teaching. At the higher education level, both the learners and teachers need to be the co-creator of the knowledge, and there is no authoritarian roles to the teachers. Self regulated learning should be highly appreciated or appreciable. That is why the heutagogical approaches of learning will be appropriate at the teacher education level courses. Due to this forced and inevitable situation, teachers were forced to shift to the online mode of classes. There will be certain issues at school level, but when it comes to higher educational level, especially post graduate level, it is highly practical and very influential too. The main reason for this is the number of learners enrolled to the programme. We can give individual attention to the learners. Also, teachers were forced to develop and practice certain novel teaching related skills. In this digital native age, earlier there was some initial trouble for teachers to use and adopt to the technology in the classrooms, but, now they are getting familiar with the technological skills and various innovative technology, they are experimenting in a better way. The author would like to quote the famous words of Charles Darwin, "*As many more individuals of each species are born than can possibly survive; and as, consequently, there is a frequently recurring struggle for existence, it follows that any being, if it*

vary however slightly in any manner profitable to itself, under the complex and sometimes varying conditions of life, will have a better chance of surviving, and thus be naturally selected. From the strong principle of inheritance, any selected variety will tend to propagate its new and modified form".

Conclusion

In order to survive in these kinds of situation teachers need to be well familiar with the innovative teaching learning methods and new pedagogical and technological skills. Instead of the regular lecturing whether be synchronous or asynchronous mode, teachers need to focus on collaborative type of teaching learning process which should allow the self regulated learning for the learners as well. For this, teachers need to be well prepared and be more resourceful. They have to find appropriate and authentic references and share the authentic materials to the learners. For this to happen, teachers can use various open educational resources that are available online and utilize effectively the various learning management systems and various authentic resources like google and Microsoft resources. Google slides, google docs, google forms, google classroom, google meet, Microsoft applications, etc. can effectively be utilized, deciding on the suitability, for which will be beneficial to the learners for now and future as well.

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