

TEACHER EDUCATION IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

Ajay Kumar Attri
Renuka Chandel

This paper is a survey of teacher education programme of the State of Himachal Pradesh. It analyses problems and suggests a few measures for improvement.

INTRODUCTION

Himachal Pradesh also known as *Divya Bhoomi* or the land of gods, spread over 55,673 square kilometres and with a population of 60,77,90 (2001 census), is situated at south of Jammu and Kashmir, north-east of Punjab, north-west of Haryana and Uttar Pradesh and west of Tibet. It is a mountainous region, known for the natural beauty of its forests, rivers, valleys, hills and dales, which are as rich in material resources as in cultural and human values. Being located on the international border with Tibet, it is of high strategic importance. The most prominent landmark of the state is the permanent white snowline on various peaks. There are wide variations in areas and population of the districts. The district-wise density varies from 2 persons per sq. kilometre in Lahaul and Spiti to 369 persons in Hamirpur district. Himachal Pradesh has the highest percentage of rural population among all the States of the country. According to 2001 census, the overall literacy percentage of Himachal Pradesh was 76.5% (85.30% for males and 67.40% for females). Comparatively, it is much higher than the all-India literacy rate, which is 65.38%. Himachal Pradesh is characterised by a very strong correlation between sex ratio and literacy. Districts with higher density of female population as compared to male population have high literacy rates.

PRIMARY TEACHER EDUCATION

The primary education in the State is being looked after by the Directorate of Elementary Education through a Deputy Director of Education (DDE) at the district level. The DDE (P) is supported by Block Primary Education Officers at the block level. The primary school teachers comprise the JBT trained teachers (with 2 years pre-service training), Contract teachers (TGTs with B.Ed. qualification and C&V teachers (Shastris, Drawing teachers etc.), Volunteer teachers (Matriculates, now absorbed as regular teachers after putting in more than 5 years service and completed condensed in-service training at the DIETs) and Vidya Upasaks (Para teachers on fixed honorarium basis). The appointment of Gram Vidya Upasaks and part time water carriers in primary schools is done by *Gram Panchayats* also. Initial teacher training for primary schools is imparted by 12 District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs) and 15 self-financing Colleges. The seats for JBT course in DIETs are decided on the basis of the population of the district. Out of total JBT seats, 15% seats are for SC, 7.5% for ST and 7.5% for OBC candidates. In 15 self-financing colleges, 50 % seats are subsidised and 50% are non-subsidised seats. The H.P Board of school Education Dharamshala makes the admissions to these 12 District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs) and 15 self-financed colleges. Admission is made on the basis of Joint Entrance Test. Amount of fees to be paid in DIET is Rs. 5,950/- from boys and Rs. 5,698/- from girls for two year. In case of private colleges, fee for a subsidised seat is approx. Rs. 25,000/- and for a non-subsidised seat approx. Rs. 35,000/- .

JBT Course

Foundation Courses consist of: 1. Principles and Problems of Elementary Education in Emerging India (50 Marks); 2. Educational Psychology and Child Study (50 Marks), and 3. Teacher Education (50 Marks). Methodology courses consist of: Teaching of English (25 Marks), Teaching of Hindi (25 Marks), Teaching of Mathematics (50 Marks), Teaching of

Environmental: Science (25 Marks), Social studies (25 Marks), Health and Physical Education (35 Marks), Art Education (50 Marks), Work Education (50 Marks). Additional Specialisation include: Multigrade Teaching (Internal 15 Marks), Non-Formal Education (Internal 15 Marks), Girls' Education (25 Marks), Special Education for Disabled (Internal 15 Marks). Practical of Teaching Practice carries 250 Marks.

SECONDARY TEACHER EDUCATION

All the Colleges of Education within the territorial jurisdiction of Himachal Pradesh are affiliated to Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla. The University Department of Education has 100 seats in B.Ed., out of which 50 seats are in Non-Medical stream, 30 in Medical stream, 15 in Arts stream and 5 in Commerce stream. The State of Himachal Pradesh has only one Government College of Teacher Education. It is located at Dharamshala. It has also been getting funds from the Government of India as College of Teacher Education. The college has a total 235 seats (Non-Medical Stream = 160, and arts and Commerce Stream = 75) in B.Ed. In addition to this, the college has 10 seats reserved for in-service teacher candidates. They are required to apply through proper channel to the Principal of the college as and when a notice is published in this regard. Teacher educators working in Govt. College of teacher education, Dharamshala are the deputed teachers from senior secondary schools of Himachal Pradesh. Out of total 18 teacher educators, only six (33%) teacher educators have M. Ed. Degree. One teacher educator is a Ph. D. in Education. There are 72 private B.Ed. colleges. Some of the colleges function in private buildings. Fee structure of the B.Ed. course in private colleges under self-financing schemes is : Tuition fee for subsidised seats: Rs. 21,450 /-; Non-subsidised seats: Rs. 35,750 /-; Annual Charges: Rs. 3,640 /-, Monthly charges: Rs. 220/-, Library Security Charges (Refundable) Rs. 1,000/- The levi charges @ 10% on tuition fee is charged by H. P. University, Shimla at the time of counselling. The applicant for B.Ed. course is required to have at least 45% marks (40% in case of SC, ST, and Ex-serviceman categories). Age limit is 26 years for General category boy candidates, 28 years for General category, girl candidates, and 29 years for SC and ST candidates both boys and girls. In case of ex-servicemen, the seats are only available in Government College of Teacher Education, Dharamshala. All seats in the Department of Education, H. P. University, Shimla and in the Govt. College of Teacher Education, Dharamshala are subsidised and roster of reservation is applicable on all seats available in the respective institutions. All the seats available in each college under self-financing scheme, 50% are subsidised and 50% are non-subsidised. 10% of the seats of non-subsidized category have been reserved as 'Management Quota'. Hence, the university fills up 95% of the seats in each college under self-financing scheme and 5% seats are filled up by the college management strictly in accordance with the eligibility conditions for B.Ed.

International Centre for Distance Education and Open Learning (ICDEOL) of HP University offers B. Ed. course through distance mode. The course is open to in-service teachers working on regular basis in government / recognised / affiliated schools within the State of Himachal Pradesh. The duration is two years. The Centre admits 450 seats (Non-Medical: 25, Medical: 25 and Arts: 400). The programme provides printed lecture scripts. There is provision for personal contact programmes. Duration of personal contact programmes for the B.Ed. course is 25 days per year. The medium of instruction is English and Hindi. Each student is required to submit written responses to each assignment. The admission is made on the basis of merit of marks obtained in the Entrance Test. Course fee for the 1st year is Rs. 8,500/- for those who are already registered with the University The fees given here include the tuition fee, examination fee, PCP fee and mailing charges etc. If a student is not already registered with Himachal Pradesh University Rs. 30/- as registration and Rs. 15/- as sports fee is charged.

B.Ed. Course

B.Ed. course theory papers include: 1. Education in Emerging Indian Society (100 Marks); 2. Development of Learner and Teaching Learning Process (100 Marks); 3. Development of Education System in India (100 Marks); 4. Essential of Education Technology (100 Marks); 5. Education for Values (100 Marks); 6. Environment and Human Rights (100 Marks); and 7. School Management (100 Marks). Each candidate offers two teaching method courses (100 Marks each) out of Physical science, Life science, Mathematics, Social sciences, English, Hindi, Sanskrit, and Commerce. Other courses are: Work Education and Work Experience (100 Marks) and Skill in Teaching (100 Marks in each teaching subject). Each theory paper of 100 marks consists of theory 80 marks and internal assessment 20 marks (except Work Education and Work Experience course).

State Council of Educational Research & Training (SCERT), Solan

The College of School Education established at Solan in 1954, was converted into State Institute of Education (SIE) in 1970. In 1984, the SIE was converted as SCERT. In 1997, the SCERT became a society, with a provision of grant-in-aid from the Government. The objectives of SCERT are: 1. To improve the quality of education in the State by imparting in-service training to teachers, teacher-educators, administrators and other educational personnel; 2. To provide academic leadership within the State and act as the hub of academic research, innovation and motivation by organizing workshops and seminars on various issues; 3. To be a symbol of quality and to provide valuable insights by conducting studies on issues related to quality education in the State. The Council is headed by a College Cadre Principal. Existing faculty comprises 8 lecturers of college cadre, 6 lecturers of school cadre and 2 TGTs (Arts and Science).

CONCLUSION

In short, Himachal Pradesh is producing large number of primary and secondary teachers every year. Even if trained teachers are available, the State Government employs para teachers, *vidya upashaks* and PTA teachers. Teacher training programmes face inadequate facilities for teacher educators and teacher trainees.