

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF TEACHERS IN TECHNO-UPGRADED TEACHING LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**

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### **Abstract**

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*Teaching is a process of attending pupils need, feelings and expectations so that they learn the particular desired things. It is like a profession in which the teachers mould the behaviour of learners and shape it according to the need of the learners so that they contribute for strong nation building." A teacher can never truly teach unless he is still learning himself. A lamp can never light another lamp unless it continues to burn its own flame.''- By Rabindranath Tagore. In the field of teaching, professional development of teacher is the need of the hour and professionalism helps the teacher teach how to give their best and contribute meaningful teaching. Now a days technology plays a vital role in every sphere of life, it is the mother of civilisation. Technology has revolutionized all the aspects and educational aspect is not an exception. Techno- upgraded teaching learning environment makes teaching learning more enjoyable for both teacher and learners and transfer of knowledge become very easy and convenient for all. Information and communication technology widely used in pedagogical activities and curriculum development in the field of education. In the context of techno-upgraded teaching learning environment the use of multimedia approach helps both teachers and students in their process of learning. It is a new paradigm of learning where virtual experimental learning is given importance.*

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**Key words-** Professional Development, Techno-Upgraded Teaching Learning Environment



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The role and functioning of educational institutions are changing with the advent of new opportunities and situations.; hence the teacher's role also keeps on changing to cater to the massive number of students coming to quench their thirst for knowledge. For effective handling of the demands of diverse students, professional development is a mandate to enhance teachers'

effectiveness. Professionals like Doctors, Engineers, Lawyers, Accountants, and other professional persons participate in professional development to learn and apply new knowledge and skills to become efficient in their respective fields. Similarly, teaching requires expert knowledge, skills, and training for becoming efficient in their teaching profession. In the 21st century, technology plays a vital role in every sphere of life. A country with inferior technology can never survive in the long run. With the introduction of technology, the world has become a global village, and its economic, political, and technological aspects. The impact of technology is felt increasingly in every field, and one such essential field is education.

If we try to define a profession, a profession is specialized training for becoming experts in a relevant field. In education, profession refers to the skills and competencies gained by the teacher through experiences in training. In other words, a profession is a distinctive kind of specific competencies gained by an individual through training in a proper way. A profession is a systematic approach viewed as having unique and potential characteristics, including specific skills, knowledge, and competencies (Saks, 2012).

Teaching is a profession in which the teacher moulds the learners' behaviour and shapes it in the desired way to be an essential human resource and can also contribute to building a strong nation in the future. Teaching is not well-thought-out as a profession having specific conventions and norms; instead, it is a profession of serving others (Dowd, 2018). It is a profession having specific skills and competencies. It has the power to change the lives of children in the desired way and emphasize developing the critical thinking of the learner through which new ideas buds out and empowers the young minds. Therefore, teaching as a profession contains a particular code of ethics that the teacher maintains to enhance the quality of teaching-learning. Professional development is a requisite for all teachers who can enhance their teaching or classroom scenarios more effectively. It is a continuous process, and therefore teachers need to be upgraded with that up-to-date knowledge of changing environment of teaching scenario.

### **Teaching as a vital profession**

In the current competitive scenario, professionalism helps teachers teach how to give their best and contribute meaningful teaching. As education is a never-ending process, the teacher should continue their education for professional development to improve their skills and competencies and become efficient in their respective teaching fields. Professional development is effective when an educator or teacher practice it in their teaching-learning scenario or the context of their daily work (Mizell, 2010). It helps promote better employees in

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teaching and implement their advanced knowledge and skills to bring success in teaching. Furthermore, Professional development is the ultimate way educators can learn or upgrade their knowledge and competencies so that they can perform their best in their profession of teaching and raise student achievements.

Ways of achieving professional development in teaching through training: A professional educator constantly thrusts new learning to enhance their skill and expertise and look for new ideas and strategies in teaching. Educating teachers has also become a focal point in the era of knowledge explosion, and a teacher education program is an initiative for achieving this. Both in-service and pre-service training is required for them to achieve professionalism in the field of teaching. In-service education for teachers is designed with relevant courses and activities in which teachers may upgrade them with up-to-date knowledge, skills, and modern methodology in teaching. In-service education encompasses all aspects of education and training for those teachers who are already in their profession. In order to meet the growing educational needs, in-service teacher education requires to bridge the gap of professional inadequacies of teachers (Osamwonyi, 2016). It is a kind of continuing education designed to retrain and upgrade human resources in the teaching profession. In-service teacher education can also enhance self-confidence, independence and provide technological literacy to the educators. As a result, the need for in-service teacher education is required to become regularly updated and develop continuously to perform better in their profession regarding instructional delivery in the teaching-learning situation.

The pre-service teacher education program is designed for those who want to join teaching as their profession. They should acquire certain levels of skills and competencies along with upgraded knowledge in the field of teaching. Its aim is to prepare teachers equipped with pedagogical knowledge and practices that serve the increasing demand of the teaching profession. The changing role of the teacher needs to be creative, innovative and always thinking of new approaches to adapt in their teaching practices based on their requirement of the learners (Ariff, Mansor, & Yusof, 2017). It is not just the interest factor of the teacher to enter into the teaching profession; instead, they have to carry out the latest skills and competencies to perform their respective duties in the field of teaching. Pre-service teacher education must focus on teacher development more holistically. For that internship, workshops, seminars, and other extracurricular activities are included in that educational training process. Professionalism is a key to quality improvement for the teachers in the new millennium era. Quality refers to the quality of the process and, most notably, the quality of the products. Both

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pre-service and in-service teacher education programs can improve human resources in an integrated manner through training, seminars, discussions, and constant academic discourse. The different approaches can improve the system of education and enhance the quality of education in the future. Effective teachers' qualities depend on the pedagogical competencies, personal competencies, social competencies, and success in teaching. These depend on how these qualities get implemented by the teacher in their classroom environment (Wardoyo, Herdiani, & Sulikah, 2017). Professionalism is the heart of what it means to be a teacher, and it is most significant for both the in-service and pre-service teaching profession. Apart from that, technological up-gradation also creates a significant impact in the field of teaching professionalism.

The era of the 21st century is regarded as an era of technology. It is the mother of civilization, art, and sciences. Technology has revolutionized the aspects of education too. Of course, the importance of technology is greatly felt in schools, colleges, and higher educational institutions. It has become easier for teachers to upgrade their knowledge and impart it to the learners in their teaching-learning process. Technology has made the teaching-learning process more enjoyable. With the advent of technology, the transfer of knowledge becomes very easy and convenient. It also helps develop skills and competencies amongst teachers, which ultimately increases their professional development. The role of technology in education can be understood and explained in several ways, such as from developing curriculum to the evaluation process of teaching-learning.

Technology has revolutionized the whole system of the teaching-learning process. Nowadays, teachers need to be more knowledgeable and unique skills and expertise to succeed in their field. Therefore, both in-service and pre-service teacher education curriculum information and communication technology are incorporated as a part of it so that teachers must enhance the skill of technology and upgrade themselves in the era of knowledge explosion. Technology has a positive impact on learning too. With the benefits of technological up-gradation, learners become more informative and up to date. It provides meaningful learning experiences to the learners and provides hands-on learning experiences to them. Continuous development in technology creates a more significant impact in teaching-learning by incorporating a multimedia approach, making a paradigm shift from traditional teaching. So the teacher must have the competencies and positive attitudes towards technology and for that training is required for becoming efficient in deal with it. Recent developments in technology such as web 2.0 tools such as blogs, wikis, e-learning platforms help the educator to share their information

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all over the globe and vice-versa. Digitalized technology empowers the learners for learning and acts as a motivating tool for them. The joy of learning is possible and innovative ideas emerge from learners' or educators' minds. In other words, information and communication technology act as an assisting tool and also a medium for teaching-learning.

Information and communication technology is widely used in pedagogical activities in education. Educators need to be trained enough to deal with technology effectively, and, therefore, ICT is incorporated as a subject and has become an integrated part of the teacher education curriculum. The educator should be competent enough to use the computer software, do PowerPoint presentations, and use graphical representation of the content to create an interactive classroom environment. Finally, the joy of learning can be achieved. It has a great impact on education in terms of the acquisition of knowledge and innovative skills for both the teachers and learners through active learning. Technological developments ultimately help the teacher help the learners grasp the content by using different means, such as 3D visualization tools and PowerPoint presentations (Wilson, 2014). It motivates the learners to learn and participate more in the classroom, and the teacher can make the class more exciting and interactive. Apart from that, in the arena of inclusive classroom it is of utmost importance for the teacher to use information and communication technology to make the classroom learners friendly and satisfy the individual differences of the learners. Nowadays, most teacher educators use digital technology in their teaching-learning process to effectively use their teaching and grasp the learners' attention and prepare them for their real-life challenges. The advent of modern technology-enhanced the friendly relationship between teacher and taught and promoted collaborative and cooperative learning. Many believe that technology helps learners learn their content at their own pace and facilitate self-learning. When a teacher incorporates multidimensional approach in teaching, then the role of teacher shifts to a facilitator and he threads the path of constructivism. The learners get motivated and feel curious about their learning and construct their knowledge about any content, and teacher support and monitor them when they face any difficulties in their construction of knowledge. The importance of technology undoubtedly positively impacts education because, with its help, the teacher or educator can reach a diversified group of learners and satisfy their curiosity more efficiently. The teacher can incorporate technology, such as artificial intelligence, in her content to enhance creativity and innovations in the classroom. Technology inspires kids to become divergent thinkers, which ultimately excel the learner to take future challenges and become successful in their life.

In the context of the teaching-learning environment, the use of modern technologies or multimedia approaches helps the teachers and learners receive and give content systematically. Educators and learners can get connected by using the internet through various platforms and share and communicate with others all over the globe. Technology can bring interest among learners, and they can get motivation in their learning. It is also beneficial for developing and nurturing the learners' curiosity and excels them in the path of self-learning. With the help of technology, students can supplement their learning by adding different things to their learning content and enlarge their knowledge. Technology has opened up a new paradigm of learning where virtual experiential learning is given more importance. The teacher also creates such an environment for the learners, enhancing their learning rather than rote memorization. To exemplify it teachers should have proper knowledge and skills that can be acquired through training. Professional training helps the teacher for gaining such knowledge and expertise, which ultimately helps them in their teaching-learning and ultimately benefits both the teachers and students.

Conclusively it becomes imperative that professional training of teachers and proper knowledge of using varied types of modern technology helps them become efficient teachers. Using technology in the field of education can grasp the learners' attention and motivate them towards learning. Technological aids are a necessity in today's classroom transactions which are beneficial for both teacher and learners. An inclusive classroom gets significantly benefitted from the incorporation of upgraded modern technology. The teacher can deliver the content effectively with the help of different aids, and students will also find the path of self-learning. In other words, it gives learners freedom of pace for self-learning, which enhances their content knowledge and satisfaction in their learning.

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