B.ED COLLEGE LIBRARIES AS LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE (LRC) IN WEST BENGAL

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ABSTRACT

No nation can rise above the level of its teachers. Teachers should be given the most appropriate tools during and after their training, including content knowledge and skills as well as teaching methodology to be able to do their work professionally. The success of Library Automation and Networking depends mainly upon the proper planning and appropriate decisions taken by the authority from time to time. At the same time the motivation, zeal and lot of efforts of library and information professionals and well-trained data entry operators also results in quick and early implementation of computerisation of library activities. On the other hand, the right selection of hardware and software, manpower training of exiting library professionals and data entry operators, proper planning, step-by-step implementation of the computerisation programme leads to the path of success

Keywords: *Teacher Education, Library, Learning Resources, B.Ed.*

Introduction:

A teacher is a person, who delivers an educational program, assesses student involvement in educational settings, and provides leadership to an educational program. The objectives of teacher education are: to observe and engage with children, to develop capacities for self directed learning, to develop the ability of self analysis, self evaluation, flexibility, creativity etc.

A library has a crucial role to play in this aspect. Library is a part and parcel of any institution. It is soul of any learning institution. Library is associated with all academic or technical institution, which is pivot of teaching learning process. Now the modes of teaching-learning process have been shifting from classroom to library oriented. Students are using library for their day to day preparation, for examination, home assignments, competitive examinations, recreation and other information. Therefore the importance of college library for providing the right information at the right time to the right user is increasing day by day.

Learning Resource Centre (LRC):

The term Learning Resource Centre (LRC) was first used in United Kingdom (UK). This means a type of library which exists within educational settings such as Schools, Colleges or Universities. A Library Resource Centre which is similar to Hybrid Library.

Learning resources are texts, videos, software, and other materials that teachers use to assist students to meet the expectations for learning defined by provincial or local curricula. Before a learning resource is used in a classroom, it must be evaluated and approved at either the provincial or local level. Evaluation criteria may include curriculum fit, social considerations, and age or developmental appropriateness.

Learning Resource Centres (LRC) exist in most schools and college of education. Their purpose is to make readily available inspection, evaluation and use, of the reading materials of the highest quality produced for use. One traditional role of LRC is to act as warehouse for materials that can be used by pre-service teachers to encourage the development of resource based teaching. This role is seen as especially important with the current emphasis on accountability in education. As curriculum standards and testing continually change, both pre-service and experienced teachers must select resources to supplement new ways of teaching and as well as new content.

Learning Resources can simply be defined as –anything that can be used in the learning, teaching situation that may include published materials like-books, journals, atlases, charts, encyclopedias etc. written materials like worksheets, booklets,

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Teacher Education in West Bengal:
Teacher education refers to the process and procedures to design and to equip teachers with the knowledge, behavior, skills, attitudes they require to perform their tasks effectively in classroom and in the school. Government of India has been focusing its attention on quality and excellence in higher education and teacher education to achieve the outcomes of enhanced quality at all levels of education. Most educational programs for teachers focus upon these points. Teaching is a profession and teacher education is process of professional preparation of teachers. The knowledge base of teacher education is built by professionals through systematic observation, study, reflection, practical experience, experimentation and the content modes. The processes of teacher education are shaped by reflective practice. Teacher Education is concerned with four aspects Who (teacher Educator), whom (Student Teacher), what (content) and how (teaching Strategy).

• **Government of India Organisation Bodies in Teacher Education**
Department of Elementary Education & Literacy of the Ministry of Human Resource Development of the Government of India is the apex body that looks after policy for teacher education. Its agencies include:
o National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE)
o National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)
o National University for Educational Planning & Administration (NUEPA).
University Grants Commission (UGC) is also involved with Departments of Teacher Education or Departments of Education in the Universities and Institutions Deemed to be Universities and Colleges of Teacher Education. At the State level, the apex body that looks after teacher education is the Government Department of Education. In certain States, it is looked after by the Department of School Education. A few States have independent Directorates for Teacher education. In a few others, the Directorate and SCERT function under one Director. The West Bengal University of Teachers' Training, Education, Planning and Administration (WBUTTEPA) was established in west Bengal in 2015 is an Umbrella University for all the institutions of West Bengal imparting education and research in Teachers' Training.

In West Bengal there are more than 636 Teachers' Training Institutions, (According to NCTE list, February 2018) which includes both Governments, Government aided/Sponsored Colleges together with Self Financed B.Ed Colleges. But according to the list of WBUTTEPA the number is 413, so 413 colleges have been included under an umbrella till now.

NCTE norms and standards for B.Ed College Library:
NCTE has been preparing and updating norms and standards for teacher education in India. For colleges offering B.Ed. course, the latest NCTE guidelines state that, "There shall be a library-cum-reading room with seating capacity for at least fifty percent students equipped with minimum 1000 (one thousand) titles and 3000 (three thousand) books including text and reference books relevant to the course of study, educational encyclopedias, yearbooks, electronic publications (CD-ROMs) and minimum five journals of education and subscription to five others in related disciplines. The library holdings shall be augmented with addition of two hundred titles related disciplines annually including books and journals published and recommended by NCTE. The library shall have photocopying facility and computer with internet facility for the use of faculty and student- teachers. Except in the case of textbooks and reference books there shall not [be] more than three multiple copies of each titles." (NCTE 2009, 38).
Although there is some clarity in regard to infrastructure, but the norms are very ambiguous in regard to staff requirements. Librarians are placed with the technical support staff, and to be Librarian, he/she requires B.LIS (Bachelor Degree in Library and Information Science) degree with 55% marks.

Role of B.Ed College Libraries and Librarians in today's LRC
The traditional method of managing the library is no longer efficient as the use of computers and other technologies is conventionally adopted to enhance services provided by the library. Library automation enhances the speed, productivity, adequacy and efficiency of the library staff. Time and the manpower that could be expanded in performing some technical and readers services routine and clerical tasks such as filing, sorting, duplicating are conserved when the library is automated.
Today information has become a major economic commodity. Since Library Information System (LIS) professionals handle scientific information

for effective use of academic community, they are responsible for locating, acquiring, disseminating and tracking information resources available in several formats. Thus, the LIS professionals need to change themselves according to the developments taking place in the profession. Librarians have traditionally been concerned with certain functions and activities while handling information in print, whereas with the increasing amounts of information available directly to users through Internet, the most of the functions or activities are running redundantly in parallel in this era also. Today's librarians are playing different significant role in their organization in the following manner.

➢ Provider of intellectual access to information in any format
➢ Preserver of Information
➢ Evaluator of Information Source
➢ Knowledge navigator
➢ Knowledge Manager
➢ Instructor/Trainer
➢ Search Assistant

Conclusion:
It is seen that library services in teacher training institutions have generally been neglected. The use of the library in the education of teachers has never received the attention. Today's digital environment demonstrates that the development of automation is no longer an option for libraries, but an obligation to capitalize on the technology to make collections and information more accessible to others.
It is true that the in West Bengal library still does not play a central role in the education of most future teachers. The problem is that there has been too little discussion of what library service in teacher training institutions could and should be why it should be thus, and how it could be put into effect. The problem may be that no education library extant today or imaginable in the foreseeable future. Particularly troublesome for education librarians are questions concerning collection development, user education, reference and information services.

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