

Web conference series on
Addressing Ways of implementation of B.Ed. Curriculum in the Covid-19
Pandemic Scenario

Report of Phase 1 Focus Group Web Conference 17.06.2020

The first phase of the web conference series on '**Addressing Ways of Implementation of B.Ed. Curriculum in the covid-19 Pandemic Scenario**' organised by **Sree Narayana Training College, Nedunganda in collaboration with Board of Studies (Pass) in Education, University of Kerala and Kerala University English Teacher Educators Forum (KUETEF)** was conducted on 17. 06 .2020 from 10:00 a.m. to 1.00 pm on Google meet.

The first phase of the conference was Focus Group video conference attended by the members of Board of Studies (Pass)in Education, University Of Kerala and Principals of Training colleges and Teacher Education Centres affiliated to the University of Kerala. The program started with the prayer. **Dr .Sheeba P,** Principal Sree Narayana Training College, Varkala delivered the Welcome speech. **Dr. Geetha Janet Vitus,** Chairman Board of Studies (PASS) in Education, University of Kerala delivered the Presidential address. She stressed the immediate need for resolving the problems faced by the teacher educators in the present pandemic scenario. The Chairman also focused on the conditions of technological competency of Teacher Educators and the prospective teachers with special reference to the curriculum transaction in the scenario.

The presidential address was followed by Inauguration of the Web-Conference Series by the Chief Guest, Dr. Rajan Varghese, Member Secretary, Kerala State Higher Education Council. The Honorable Chief guest addressed the situation in a multifaceted level. Along with the economic challenges going to be faced by the country in the present condition, he also stressed on various challenges to be faced at the institutional and individual level in the higher education system. He also pointed out the deficiencies in the infrastructural facilities including the extent of internet penetration in the country. He emphasized the necessity for smart classrooms, smart teachers and the need for developing training sessions for faculty of higher education. He also mentioned that the Higher Education Council is planning to develop a platform for e-content development. With special reference to the teacher education system, he emphasized the need for enhancing the quality of prospective teachers in the present pandemic situation. He concluded the inaugural address by focusing on the suggestions of University Grant Commission (UGC) which emphasize the interest of students to be kept in mind during the situation.

The Inaugural session was followed by the Keynote by **Dr. Bindu R.L.,** HOD and Dean, Faculty of Education, University of Kerala. She focused on the need for addressing the practical

aspects of the B.Ed. curriculum in the situation. She suggested certain possible solutions that can be adopted to deal with the situation including script writing for online classes, learning experiences, evaluation techniques, modification in the curriculum and internship and need for training teacher educators in the present scenario. She wished that the webinar series may come out with fruitful suggestions for the smooth implementation of the B.Ed. course in the challenging situation. The keynote address was followed by a presentation of an overview of the B. Ed. curriculum with special reference to semester III which need immediate attention in the present challenging situation. Dr. Sheeba P., Principal SN Training College Nedunganda had presented the overview. The presentation also covered semesters I, II and IV with particular emphasis to practical works and examination. The presentation was followed by special remarks of Dr. Giby Gevarughese, Former Chairman, BOS (PASS) in Education, University of Kerala and Faculty Mar Theophilus Training College, Nalanchira followed. She stressed that while compromising the curriculum, the students should not suffer and the curriculum adaptation should consider the interest of the students. She also stressed on the challenges faced by the teacher educators, student teachers, parents and the institution in the present pandemic condition.

Suggestions made in the Open Forum

The next session discussed the measures to be adopted in the curriculum in order to deal with the pandemic situation. The following suggestions were derived from the deliberations made by veteran academicians.

- The number of lessons for practice teaching can be minimised to 20 or 30 and student teachers to be trained through online teaching. Practice Teaching can be made after the Onam holidays. Duration of The Practice teaching session can be minimised. Out of the 40 lessons, 10 lessons can be converted into link lessons, 20 lessons can be given for direct practice teaching period and the remaining 10 lessons can be integrated with that of semester IV.
- Practical Examination of semester III to be shifted to semester IV.
- EDU 11 in the Semester III in terms of the content should be minimised.
- Curriculum localisation can be adopted.
- Review of classes on Vickers channel can be assigned to student teachers.
- Yoga and Health Education can be practiced during the period and can be uploaded by the student teachers in their blog.
- The academic calendar should be modified and restructured. The disparity in the attendance and working days in the semester III should be reconsidered.

- Class work and project work can be given on online platform.
- The duration of community living camp can be limited to three days and if possible it can be organised in the month of December.
- Viva voce can be conducted on online mode.
- To avoid mass failure in the online examination, the questions can be selected from the bank prepared by the University.
- Practical Examination at two phases can be integrated during the pandemic condition.
- Online mode should be considered as a temporary arrangement. Community survey can be organized instead of field trips. Virtual tour can be adopted. Measures should be adopted for avoiding course lag.
- Lack of infrastructure and internet facilities of students should be taken into account.
- Semester III examinations can be postponed by taking into consideration the transportation difficulties of students from other districts including Hotspots. More sub-centres can be allotted.

After considering the suggestions by the Principals from various Teacher Education Institutions, the Chairman of Board of Studies in Education, University of Kerala concluded Phase 1 by giving the following remarks:

- The student teachers must write 40 practice teaching lessons to get theoretical practice out of which, 10 lessons can be tried out on online mode.
- There are practical difficulties in the curriculum localization.
- Practical examinations of Semester III can be shifted to Semester IV .
- Difficulties in Semester II examination may be brought to the attention of the concerned authorities.

The Chairman concluded the Web Series (Phase I) by inviting Subject Conveners' suggestions for the next phase of the web conference. The Phase I came to an end by Vote of thanks by one of the coordinators, Dr. Velayudhan Nair T., Member, KUETEF & Assistant Professor, Peet Memorial Training College, Mavelikara. Dr. Reetha Ravi H., Assistant Professor, Sree Narayana Training College & member, KUETEF and Sri. E. K. Jijan, Secretary, KUETEF & Assistant Professor Mount Tabor Training College were the other two Coordinators of the Web conference who were actively involved in the web meeting.