

Teacher Connect Programme
A Component of the Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Programme
Concept Note

Introduction

The Teacher Connect programme is being proposed as a component of the larger Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Programme, initiated by the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education. This programme aims to enhance the professional capabilities of a diverse group of newly inducted and experienced faculty members across India's educational spectrum – spanning school education, higher education and skill development institutions. It is aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which envisions teachers and faculty as the bedrock of the educational process.

In response to the growing need for quality educators, this initiative provides a comprehensive platform to build networks, promote continuous professional development, and sensitize faculty to emerging challenges in education, such as pedagogy, research, innovation, and student wellness. Teachers across various educational levels are facing increasing challenges such as adapting to digital learning, student mental health issues, and the integration of new technologies. This programme addresses these challenges by equipping teachers with the necessary tools, knowledge and collaborative networks to navigate them efficiently.

The Need for the Teacher Connect Programme

The National Education Policy 2020 underscores that a well-trained, motivated, and engaged teaching workforce is crucial for transforming India's educational landscape. The policy stresses that teachers are central to student learning, making their recruitment, professional growth, and working environment critical to the success of the education system. The Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Programme builds upon this vision, offering structured opportunities for teachers to enhance their skills and knowledge in line with contemporary pedagogical developments.

Over the last few years, the number of teachers and faculty across various educational sectors – especially in higher education and schools – has steadily increased. This growth necessitates a concerted effort to ensure these educators are well-prepared for the diverse challenges they will face. A significant part of this preparation involves introducing them to the key principles of NEP 2020, which promotes a holistic approach to education, integrating pedagogy, assessment, curriculum design, and mental health. Additionally, many teachers continue to face isolation in their roles, making opportunities for professional collaboration and knowledge sharing even more essential.

The Teacher Connect Programme seeks to foster collaboration and engagement among teachers, addressing the need for ongoing professional development and breaking through the isolation that many educators face. By involving both newly recruited and experienced teachers, the programme facilitates the exchange of knowledge, insights, and experiences to enrich the overall teaching landscape.

Objectives of the Teacher Connect Programme

The Teacher Connect Programme is designed to achieve several core objectives:

1. Equip teachers with advanced knowledge and skills related to teaching-learning methodologies, curriculum design, assessment strategies, and the integration of technology in education.
2. Facilitate dialogue and collaboration between educators from diverse sectors (school education, higher education and skill development) to foster knowledge sharing and mutual learning.
3. Create a platform for teachers to connect with peers from across regions, enabling them to build a strong professional network that can support their continuous development.
4. Address contemporary challenges in education, such as student wellbeing, multidisciplinary, artificial intelligence, etc.
5. Promote understanding of the teachers' role in shaping a sustainable future and the role of education in advancing sustainable development goals.
6. Encourage interdisciplinary learning by connecting teachers across educational sectors to ensure a seamless teaching-learning experience between school, higher and skill education.

Programme Design and Structure

The Teacher Connect Programme will be delivered in a series of two-day workshops organised across different geographical zones of India. Each workshop will bring together approximately 200 newly recruited teachers and faculty members from various institutions – higher education, schools, and skilling centers.

The programme will feature a mix of lectures, interactive sessions, hands-on workshops, and group discussions. These sessions will cover the following thematic areas:

- **Pedagogical Advancements:** Introducing innovative teaching methods, including the integration of digital tools and student-centered learning approaches.
- **Curriculum Design and Assessment:** Providing teachers with the skills to design and implement inclusive and effective curricula that cater to diverse student needs, along with updated assessment practices.
- **Research and Innovation in Education:** Encouraging a research oriented approach to teaching and learning that fosters academic inquiry and innovation.
- **Holistic Development:** Emphasizing the importance of developing students' cognitive, emotional, social, and physical skills to ensure well-rounded education.
- **Indian Knowledge Systems:** Introducing Indian Knowledge Systems and how they can be integrated into contemporary teaching and learning.

Each session will be facilitated by experienced educators, researchers, and policymakers, who will guide participants through practical exercises and discussions tailored to address the unique challenges faced by teachers in different educational contexts.

Financial Norms

Type of Programme	No. of Programmes per Year	Mode	No. of Beneficiaries per Programme	Programme wise Cost (in Rupees)	Total Cost of Programme per Year

Teacher Connect Programme	12 (or as decided by PAB Chair)	Residential	200	25,00,000	3,00,00,000
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Coordinating and Host Institutions

The National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA) will be the coordinating institution for the Teacher Connect programme. The programme will be held at different higher education institutions (HEIs) on a rotational basis. Initially, the Central University of Punjab and Indian Institution of Technology, Guwahati have been identified to conduct the programme. Additional HEIs will be brought on board as the programme scales up.

Benefits of the Teacher Connect Programme

The Teacher Connect Programme offers numerous benefits designed to foster growth and development for educators. One of its primary advantages is the opportunity for professional development. Teachers participating in the programme will acquire new skills, insights, and strategies that will enhance their teaching practices, enabling them to engage their students more effectively and ultimately improve educational outcomes.

Another key benefit is the building of networks. The programme proposes to connect teachers from diverse educational backgrounds, offering them the chance to establish lasting professional relationships. These connections promote collaboration, resource sharing, and mutual support, helping educators learn from one another and grow together.

The programme will also encourage cross-sectoral knowledge sharing and interdisciplinary learning by facilitating the exchanging of ideas between teachers in higher education, school education, and skill development institutions. This ensures that best practices are shared across various sectors, enriching the teaching experience. By promoting teacher collaboration and addressing isolation, the programme will create a lasting support system that continues beyond the duration of the programme itself.

Moreover, by helping educators align their work across various levels of education, the programme will foster seamless transitions between school, higher education and skill development, ensuring that the teaching and learning process is holistic and integrated.

Conclusion

The Teacher Connect Programme is an essential initiative to support the professional development of teachers at various levels. By focusing on capacity building, network creation, and sensitisation to the principles of NEP 2020, this programme will be a crucial step towards strengthening the country's educational system. By fostering collaboration across different educational sectors, the programme will ensure that teachers are well-prepared to meet the evolving needs of students and contribute to the country's educational and sustainable development goals.