

Connecting Theory and Practice in Teacher Education

It is pleasant Sunday morning. The clock has struck 9.30. Trainees have assembled at Open and Distance Learning Centre at SCERT Assam for their contact classes. Mrs. Aparupa Sharma, the Resource Person (the teacher educator), enters into the class with her heavy bag, carrying books, Teaching Learning Materials and a bottle full of drinking water. She teaches and facilitates learning in Teaching of English. She is aware that for a teacher education program to be deemed adequate for the purpose of training and preparing effective teachers, several factors must be in place.

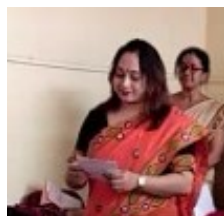


Mrs. Aparupa Sharma

She combines three areas instruction, curriculum, and professionalism during classroom transaction and interaction with trainees. She comes with a prepared lesson plan, adequate home work to deliberate coursework in teaching methods, balance theory and practice, and instil in trainees the importance of professional conduct.

She says, "A teacher's ability to touch the future is metaphorically woven through the very fabric of his or her being. Through modelling and direct instruction, teachers provide children the cognitive, social, emotional, and behavioural tools that enable them to become competent, caring, and contributing members of society. The lives that a teacher touches over the course of his or her career are many and the influence a teacher can have on his or her students is profound. Just as children are dependent upon those who teach them, teachers are dependent upon those who train them. Based on this knowledge and understanding of the important function of educators, the preparation of teachers is of utmost importance to our society as a whole"

"Aparupa Ma'm brings skills of classroom management, motivation and engagement, diverse learners, our growth and development, and assessment that work jointly to create a teacher who can connect with and be empathetic toward students," mentions a trainee teacher. To develop teacher instructional capability Aparupa involves each and every trainee that can be viewed as one of the most important roles of the centre in the preparation of teachers.



Aparupa in her class

Aparupa's approach is centripetal to Classroom Management, Providing instruction in classroom management skills that contribute to an academic atmosphere and assists in successful teaching learning experiences for trainees. This is a critical component in teacher education programs. "Classroom management is one of the key factors that will assist teachers in creating a learning environment that will lead to higher order thinking and learning," utters Aparupa

Motivation Engagement and humour are essential component of her class. It is not the methodology but rather Aparupa who creates an engaging and appropriate learning environment that translates into trainees learning. As part of their training, trainees are exposed to a variety of motivational activities. theories. She makes various approaches and tactics to motivate the trainees. This includes motivational songs, indoor activities, stories and rotational team leaders. This provides a set of learning opportunities that offer access to crucial concepts and skills for the trainees. This happens because of meaningful instruction that is engaging.



Aparupa with trainees demonstrating transaction before UNICEF India Education Chief

Today there is revolution in technology, world is loaded with information and smart phones are in every trainees hand and Aparupa emphasise the role of technology in permitting great communication as well as opening portals of access to information and resources that are helpful to enhance instruction. This has an edge over textbooks in her class.

“Curriculum is an area of contention among teacher education program critics. There are many arguments that the coursework is heavy in theory and light on practical application yet there is a positive connection between trainees preparation in their subject and their performance and impact in the classroom. By design ODL mode trainees have thoroughgoing opportunity of practical facilitated by the RP by assigning appropriate project connects theory and practice,” says Aparupa.

One of the trainees highlighted that ODL is a model teacher education program which allows trainees to learn about teaching through practice by providing opportunities to participate in settings that create strong connections between theory and practice with the help of teacher like Aparupa.

The collaborative effort of trainees and RP, Ms. Aparupa Sharma has established a strong bondage between them where social distance has no place to occupy and learning goes on.

Keep it up Aparupa and succeed in your motto!

- Ravindra Kumar Mishra
State Consultant (Teacher Education)
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