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A Study on Awareness of the Teacher-Students Educator in Rajasthan about National Curriculum Framework

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Abstract

The National Curriculum Framework (NCF) 2023 is a comprehensive and pivotal document that lays down the foundational principles, objectives, and guidelines for the educational landscape in India. This framework delineates the educational aims, curriculum domains, and developmental stages across various school levels. The NCF-SE's comprehensive nature ensures that it covers all stages of schooling. It sets clear learning standards and competencies, enabling teachers to foster critical thinking, creativity, and genuine understanding. NCF requires a teacher to be a facilitator of children's learning in a manner that helps children to construct knowledge and meaning. The teacher in this process is a co-constructor of knowledge. School is an institution where the talent of learners is nurtured. And curriculum is inseparable part of School. Therefore it become very important to continuously revise and reform the curriculum and introduces the changes in real practices. National Curriculum Framework document which solely focuses upon the curriculum load on Children and provides us with the various systemic reforms which needs to be done in our Educational system. For quality Education and effective teaching, teacher must have fair knowledge about NCF. The present study was undertaken to assess the awareness of NCF among the secondary school teachers of Ludhiana District. The results of the present study may help the stake holders to organize more effective awareness programs of in-service teachers. The study was carried out by a descriptive survey of 50 Secondary school teachers of Sriganganagar district and Hanumangargh district in Rajasthan, using a specifically designed questionnaire. The respondents were selected at random and were given questionnaire containing the questions regarding to Aims, Objectives, vision and highlights of NCF. The results obtained by the researcher after analysis was shocking and disappointing as many of the teachers are unaware about the National Curriculum Framework.

Keywords: National curriculum framework (2005), awareness, constructivism etc.

Introduction

The NCF is the foundation for curricular development. It informs the enhancement and development of syllabus materials, teacher guides, textbooks, learning materials, and wider teaching resources (including technical and scientific resources). NCF is one of the key components of the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which enables and energizes this transformation, informed by the aims, principles, and approach of NEP 2020. The NCF has undergone four revisions in the past-in 1975, 1988, 2000, and 2005. The NCF aims at restructuring various aspects of classroom learning and redesigning school education for the better. This NCF's main goal is to assist schools in adopting the envisioned guidelines set by the NEP 2020 through appropriate adjustments in the curriculum and pedagogy.

NCF (2023) is the first ever integrated Curriculum Framework for children between ages 3-18 in India. It is a direct outcome of the 5+3+3+4 'curricular and pedagogical' structure that NEP 2020 has come out with for School Education. To ensure appropriate focus and fillip to the Foundational Stage (ages 3-8), the detailed National Curriculum Framework for Foundational Stage (NCF-FS) was

released on 20 October 2022 by the Hon'ble Minister of Education, which is integrated within the NCF-SE (NCF-2023) The National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) called for a complete transformation of India's schooling system to make it of the highest quality for all students equitably, and to serve the needs and aspirations of the country and its people, today and for the future. The purpose of this National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE, in short NCF) is to help to bring about such changes by effecting corresponding positive transformations in India's school curricula (NCF for school education) Because it is the Teacher who must be the torchbearer for these changes, this NCF aims to see and present matters from the perspective of a Teacher's reality. For that reason, this NCF contains the kinds of details, suggestions, and illustrations that would clarify its approach and principles at the level of practice of a Teacher and the school. The Teachers and schools are not bound by these illustrations, but the level of detail provided would hopefully make this NCF the NCF is the foundation for curricular development. It informs the enhancement and development of syllabus materials, teacher guides, textbooks, learning materials, and wider teaching resources (including

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teaching learning process depends upon the awareness of teachers with the upcoming issues and their solutions in teaching learning process. That's why they are expected to be aware about and study well the NCF, only then they can provide quality education that is hidden in the National Curriculum Framework-2023. This inspired the research to undertake the study to find out the degree of awareness out teachers has about the NCF-2023.

Objective of the Study

The research has been under taken to discover about the awareness of the teacher educator of National Curriculum Framework-2023

Hypothesis of the Study

H1: There is no significant difference about the awareness of NCF-2023 between male teacher educators and female teacher educators.

H2: There is no significant difference about the awareness of NCF-2023 between trained and non-trained teachers.

Sampling, Research Design and Methodology

For the purpose of the present study the researcher has select 100 teacher educators and teacher of secondary and higher secondary school on random basis in the district of Sriganganagar and Hanumangarh in Rajasthan of India.

The study is descriptive in nature have the Awareness of NCF-2023 as an independent variable and gender of the teachers and trained and untrained have taken as dependent variable as study purpose.

A questionnaire as a tool of study for collecting data was prepared comprising of 25 questions carrying two marks for each question regarding NCF concept, Objective and aims, rationale of the framework and effectiveness of the previous NCFs seeking answers having options: Agree, Disagree and neutral.

Due permission was taken from the authority for collecting the data and the purpose of the study was duly discussed and proper instructions were beforehand was given regarding answering the questionnaire. Over all the survey was conducted in a very conducive environment without any interruption.

After accomplishing the procedure of collecting data the researcher analyzed them with the help of computer application SPSS for calculation and reaching the conclusions. On basis of the responses obtained from the respondent and raw data the research have classified in three levels of awareness as Unaware, A Little Aware And Well Aware. These have been shown in the table 01.

Table 1: Classifieds Levels of Awareness

S. No.	Range of Scores	Degree of Awareness
1.	1-15	Unaware
2.	15-30	A little aware
3.	30-50	Well aware

The findings of the study have been shown in the TABLE02 as below:

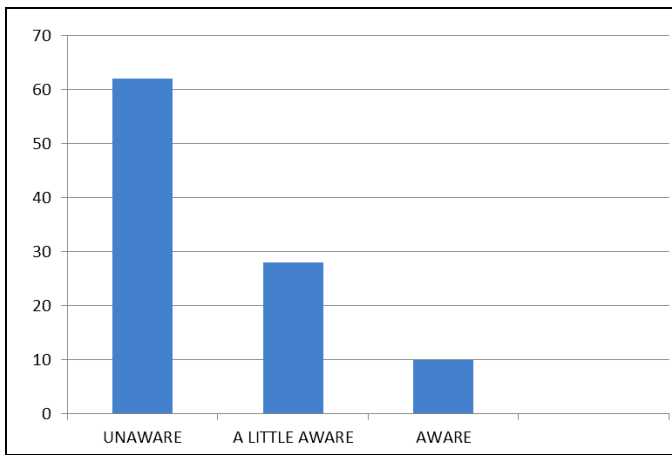


Fig 1: Degree of awareness in form of percentage

This is cleared from the above Table 02 and Figure 01 that majority of the respondents are not aware about NCF-2023. 62% of teachers scored between 1-15 ranges depicting their no awareness or less awareness about National curriculum Framework-2023. 28% teachers scored between 15-30 showing that they have a little or some knowledge about NCF-2023 and only 10% teachers are aware about NCF 2023 as their scores lies in the range of 30-50. The overall picture depicts that majority of teachers are not aware about the curriculum reforms and basic provision of NCF2023 which is highly disappointing in the present era of competitive world where education is considered most effective tool for the development of any country. The graphical representation of the data is evident from Figure 1 given above. Thus hypothesis H1 stands true that there is no significant difference in awareness of NCF 2005 between male and female teachers.

Implications and Suggestions of the Study

The teachers are considered the nation builders in the lap of them both construction and destruction are brought up and it make essential that they should be aware about the various curriculum reforms for the quality education can be improved for better future of the country. Findings of the study reveals that training has a significant effect on the awareness of NCF2023 among both male and female is not up to point. However it is found that trained teachers are more aware to some extent than the untrained teaches. Success of various curriculum reforms made in NCF 2023 depends upon its awareness in the stake holders especially among teachers which are in direct contact with the learners. The results found in the presents study are very disappointing and shocking as only 10% teachers are aware about NCF-2023 which reveals that overall percentage awareness of NCF-2023 is very low and dissatisfactory. To achieve the target of aware teachers about the document various orientation programs, workshops should be organized. Booklets containing highlights of NCF-2023 should be distributed among school teachers. Subject wise guidance programs should be organized within schools so that the teachers of same subject from different schools could have healthy discussions. Moreover teachers should be made aware about other curricular areas as peace Education, Value Education, Health Education etc. In the nutshell, to ensure the fruitful implementation of NCF-2023 great efforts are needed as very less number of teachers are aware about the curriculum reforms in NCF 2023. At the instituted or school level also it should be ensured the teacher and teacher educators had the

proper knowledge of the NCF-2023 and they should be inspired at government level or education ministry level. Time to time brochures and magazines and workshop should be organized to make the teachers aware about the National Curriculum Framework.

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