



Sailing through the odds to fulfil the social responsibility Hon. Education Ministers release IITE's research report about the impact of Online Education in the state on convocation day

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It was a celebration time at Indian Institute of Teacher Education (IITE) when all the grant-in-aid and Government B.Ed. Colleges of Gujarat got affiliated with the University. I still remember our Hon. Vice-Chancellor Dr Harshad Patel's words, when he had addressed IITE staff members' gathering at the celebration.

He had said, "Now the responsibility of IITE has expanded, and we are answerable and accountable to the whole state. We should feel concerned about guiding the whole education system of the state and the nation in this pandemic era of Corona." He had added, "When people are feeling concerned more about saving the life of people, who would save 'education life' of our children? It is the time when IITE should take the lead in this regard."

These words of care and concern were manifested on the 10th Foundation Day when Dr Patel announced five initiatives to boost

Education and Teacher Education's spirit by various means and ways. One of those initiatives was, undertaking a research study on tracking the trend of 'Online Education', which has been the new normal in the post-Covid19 world. No university in the state had undertaken such study to check its impact on the teaching-learning process, especially from the education perspective. So, IITE took the lead to research, which might be a 'path enlightening' to the school education system of Gujarat, which was struggling in the pandemic era, as none of the stakeholders was ready for the Online Education in terms of physical resources and well-trained human resources and pedagogy of online education.

Two faculty members of IITE Dr Sudhir Tandel, Associate Professor, and Dr Nishant Joshi, Assistant Professor, were entrusted with the responsibility to carry out the research. The main challenge in the research work was the situation of Lockdown in the

state. However, under the Vice-Chancellor sir's guidance, the research team decided to take the challenge and roped in 15 professors and teachers across Gujarat. This was perhaps the biggest inclusive survey on Online Education in the state. We have recorded views, opinions and suggestions of 300 stakeholders of school education in Gujarat on various aspects of Online Education such as curriculum, pedagogy, physical resources, teacher training, assessment and evaluation, time table and issues related to students, parents, teachers, principals and school management. It encompassed the data from 60 renowned educationists, 60 principals, 60 parents, 60 teachers and 60 management authorities across all the Gujarat. We have covered government, grant-in-aid and private educational institutions situated in rural, urban and municipal corporation areas. Because of such comprehensiveness, it has become a unique survey concluding the findings and suggestions for all the six crore people of Gujarat. The sample has represented almost every stakeholder, each and every district and each school type.

It is a matter of honour and privilege that the research report of the survey on Online Education was released by Honourable Education Minister Shree Bhupendrasinh Chudasama and Hon. Minister of State for Education Smt. Vibhavariben Dave on the 3rd Convocation Day Ceremony of IITE on 24th December 2020. This extraordinary effort has been appreciated a lot by these honourable



ministers and other higher education and school education fraternity since it will be an authentic source for deciding the future guidelines to be prepared by the education department of Government of Gujarat, GCERT, GSEB and other private educational institutions of the state and even of the nation as well.

This valuable document can lead the state and the national government to a completely separate policy document on Online Education in the School Education that is the dire need of the time since the pandemic is still troubling the world in general and the world of education specifically. The research report throws light on existing challenges in online education and the suggested ways to cope with them.

The research initiative proves that the Vice-Chancellor Dr Harshad Patel and his team at IITE responding to any averse situation by turning it into an opportunity.

At IITE, we are ready to take the responsibility, and be a guiding force in the teacher education system, to identify the challenges faced by all the stakeholders.