

Teacher Education

Prepared by
DR.Said Abubakar Sh.Ahmed
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Definition

- ▶ **Teacher education** refers to the policies and procedures designed to equip prospective teachers with the knowledge, attitudes, behaviors and skills they require to perform their tasks effectively in the classroom, school and wider community.

Teacher education is often divided into these stages:

- ❑ ***initial teacher training / education*** (a pre-service course before entering the classroom as a fully responsible teacher)
- ❑ ***induction*** (the process of providing training and support during the first few years of teaching or the first year in a particular school)
- ❑ ***teacher development or continuing professional development (CPD)*** (an in-service process for practicing teachers).

1. Initial Teacher Education

- ▶ **A.Organization**
- ▶ **Initial Teacher Education in many countries takes place largely or exclusively in institutions of Higher Education. It may be organized according to two basic models.**
- ▶ **In the 'consecutive' model, a teacher first obtains a qualification in one or more subjects (often an undergraduate Bachelor's degree), and then studies for a further period to gain an additional qualification in teaching (this may take the form of a post-baccalaureate credential or Master's degree).**

- ▶ **In the alternative 'concurrent' model, a student simultaneously studies both one or more academic subjects, and the ways of teaching that subject, leading to a combined Bachelor's degree and teaching credential to qualify as a teacher of that subject.**
- ▶ **Other pathways are also available. In some countries, it is possible for a person to receive training as a teacher by working in a school under the responsibility of an accredited experienced practitioner.**

B. Curriculum

- ▶ Teacher Education curricula can be broken down into four major areas:
- ▶ foundational knowledge in education-related aspects of philosophy of education, history of education, educational psychology, and sociology of education.
- ▶ skills in assessing student learning, supporting English Language learners, using technology to improve teaching and learning, and supporting students with special needs.
- ▶ content-area and methods knowledge and skills—often also including ways of teaching and assessing a specific subject,

► **practice at classroom teaching or at some other form of educational practice.**



C. Supervised Field Experiences

- ❑ **field observations**—include observation and limited participation within a classroom under the supervision of the classroom teacher
- ❑ **student teaching**—includes a number of weeks teaching in an assigned classroom under the supervision of the classroom teacher and a supervisor (e.g. from the university)
- ❑ **internship**—teaching candidate is supervised within his or her own classroom

- ❑ **Induction of beginning teachers**
- ❑ **Continuous professional development**
- ❑ **Quality Assurance**



Teacher Education Policy

- ▶ **The process by which teachers are educated is the subject of political discussion in many countries, reflecting both the value attached by societies and cultures to the preparation of young people for life.**