

TEACHING PROFESSION IN 21ST CENTURY: CHALLENGES, PERSPECTIVES AND PROSPECTS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO NORTH EAST INDIA
A Book of Research Papers



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CHALLENGES OF TEACHER IN THE TWENTY FIRST CENTURY: A RANDOM THOUGHT

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THE CONTEXT

The success of education depends to a considerable extent on performance of the teacher. It is the teacher who holds the key to the effective translation of educational policies into concrete actions in the classroom. A prospective teacher is required to acquire competence to perceive changes that are imminent and inevitable, and develop a mental make up to utilize appropriately the available conditions, situations, resources and the society. Understanding socio-political and cultural issues like globalization, free-market and information technology revolution requires in-depth study and understanding by teachers of the 21st Century.

A professional teacher must have desired theoretical knowledge, skill orientation, linguistic ability, pedagogical skills, management skills, accountability and impressive personality. The student teaching, practical activities, community experiences, and work education all require a high level of professional activity. Hence, the quality of the teacher is an important component of the success of the programme. The Report of the National Commission of Education 1964-66 states "The destiny of India is now being shaped in her classrooms. This, we believe is no mere rhetoric." The key player in the process is the teacher. Mahatma Gandhi said "I have always felt that the true text book of the pupil is the teacher." A true teacher is the role model who triggers the thought process of his students to

