

# AWARENESS OF B.ED. TRAINEES ON CURRENT AFFAIRS

*Alphonse Raj M. \**

*Shaiju Francis. \*\**

## INTRODUCTION

The concept of 'Global village' has become a reality. The events that are happening in every nook and corner of the world are reported at the same moment. The progress is the product of information technology. Man being a global citizen he has to be aware of what is happening around the world. Ignorance of the world events makes his education incomplete. Education is not merely acquiring formal bookish knowledge; rather it is a process of searching for knowledge.

The teacher trainees who are going to become teachers must be familiar with world events. The students today are more exposed to mass media and are in close contact with the changes and happenings. The students become smarter and active in the class. There is a need for a competent teacher to solve the problems of the child.

## TEACHER EDUCATION

The most important factor in the growth and development of education in general is significantly and indisputably the teacher factor. Teachers are regarded as builders who determine the destiny of a nation. Teachers can make or mar the society. Hence, no society can afford to neglect the education and training of teachers because the fact that the quality and standard of education primarily depends on the quality of teachers. Since the teacher is an indispensable element in the process of teaching and learning, proper education and training of the teacher is most important. The teacher is the primary intervening professional in a student's life. Moreover, the teacher is the living element in the teaching process who has to deal with human beings having diverse needs. Hence teacher education assumes great importance. Teachers are the catalytic agents of change and the focus in any society should be to provide teacher education of the highest quality.

The National Council of Teacher Education (NCTE) in its report of 1998 stresses that teachers are the torchbearers creating social cohesion and national integration by

revealing and elaborating the secrets of attaining higher values in life. Only enlightened and emancipated teachers can lead communities and nations in their march towards a better and higher quality of life.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

Current affairs are the subject matters concerned with immediate or recent happenings which may be expressed through various means of communications. They include important circumstances as reported through news papers, periodicals, popular magazines, radio, television, interviews or other informative sources. They serve as a medium for relating local, state, national or global occurrences to an understanding of every day life.

## SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Teacher education plays a crucial role in structuring present day systems of the society and shaping the future of the quality of education. The developmental aspects in all sections of a country depend very much upon the quality of teachers. So the educational system around the world is under increasing pressure to use recent information in its all dimensions to teach students the knowledge and skills they need to cope with life's demands in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Developing an awareness on current affairs enables the teacher to shape citizens of today.

The present educational scenario gives a clear picture of the child as having varying abilities. Now they have become the masters in classrooms. The traditional way of teaching has been replaced by modern child centred education. The child is active and bold enough to discuss any topic and to put queries in front of the teachers. Most of the present day teachers fail at this juncture. They are unable to answer the queries, which are made by the students and they often mislead the students.

The investigator focused on the problem of awareness of B.Ed. trainees on current affairs in the present study. B.Ed trainees are the persons who are going

to face students who will be much better informed than the students of today.

## OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS

### Awareness

"Webster's New Dictionary (1990) defines awareness as "cautions of something" (p-50)

It means having knowledge or realization of something that affects the surrounding.

### B.Ed. Trainees

Individuals who are in the process of obtaining a bachelor's degree for qualifying themselves to teach in secondary and higher secondary schools.

### Current Affairs

Immediate or recent happenings which may be expressed through various means of communication.

## OBJECTIVE

To find out the level of awareness of B.Ed. trainees on current affairs relating to its various dimensions and in toto with regard to sex.

## NULL HYPOTHESIS

1. There is no significant difference among aided college, unaided college and university center B.Ed. trainees in their awareness on current affairs relating to its various dimensions and in toto.

2. There is no significant difference among B.Ed. trainees belonging to the optional subjects - mathematics, physical science, social science and languages in their awareness on current affairs relating to its various dimensions and in toto.

3. There is no significant association between fathers' occupation and the awareness of B.Ed. trainees on current affairs relating to its various dimensions and in toto.

## LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

No study is complete in itself. Any piece of research work has its own merits and demerits, limitations and drawbacks. The present study is undertaken with the following limitations:

1. The sample of the study is limited to only 230 B.Ed. trainees.

2. The study is limited to six colleges in the districts of Idukki, Kottayam and Ernakulam of Kerala.

3. The tool consists of 70 items covering only.

## METHOD ADOPTED IN THE PRESENT RESEARCH

The investigator has adopted the present research to find out the awareness of B.Ed. trainees on current affairs. To accomplish this, proper research sample and tool have to be selected.

## POPULATION AND SAMPLE

### Population

The population for the study includes B.Ed. trainees of the Colleges of Education in Kerala. The study was conducted in the districts of Idukki, Kottayam and Ernakulam.

### Sample

The sample selected for the present study consists of 230 B.Ed. trainees from six colleges in Idukki, Kottayam and Ernakulam.

## RESEARCH TOOL

For this study the investigator has developed a tool comprising of two parts. Part A consists of a self-made information schedule and part B a self-made questionnaire consisting of 70 items in 10 dimensions for measuring awareness of B.Ed. trainees on current affairs.

## ADMINISTRATION OF THE TOOL

The investigator administered the tool to 230 B.Ed. trainees for gathering data. The study was conducted in six B.Ed. colleges in the districts of Idukki, Kottayam and Ernakulam and got permission from the principals of these colleges. The tool was administered to the selected B.Ed. trainees. For administering the tool the investigator conducted a supervised test of one hour duration.

## STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES USED

The investigator used the following statistical techniques: Mean, Standard Deviation, 'T' score, 't' test, ANOVA and Chi-Square.

## OBJECTIVES TESTING

1. To find out the level of awareness of B.Ed. trainees on current affairs relating to its various dimensions and in toto with regard to sex.

TABLE 2

## AWARENESS OF B.ED. TRAINEES ON CURRENT AFFAIRS WITH REGARD TO SEX

| Dimensions                | Male |      |      |      |      |      | Female |      |      |      |      |      |
|---------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--------|------|------|------|------|------|
|                           | Low  | %    | Avg. | %    | High | %    | Low    | %    | Avg. | %    | High | %    |
| Science and Technology    | 17   | 18.5 | 59   | 64.1 | 16   | 17.4 | 56     | 40.6 | 69   | 50.0 | 13   | 9.4  |
| Sports and Games          | 6    | 6.5  | 80   | 87.0 | 6    | 6.5  | 30     | 21.7 | 108  | 78.3 | 0    | 0.0  |
| Honours and Awards        | 2    | 2.2  | 64   | 69.6 | 24   | 28.3 | 24     | 17.4 | 96   | 69.6 | 18   | 13.0 |
| Industry and Economics    | 3    | 3.3  | 69   | 75.0 | 20   | 21.7 | 33     | 23.9 | 96   | 69.6 | 9    | 6.5  |
| Politics and Constitution | 11   | 12.9 | 61   | 66.3 | 20   | 21.7 | 36     | 26.1 | 93   | 67.4 | 9    | 6.5  |
| Film and Literature       | 8    | 8.7  | 71   | 77.2 | 13   | 14.1 | 20     | 14.5 | 106  | 76.8 | 12   | 8.7  |
| Famous Personalities      | 8    | 8.7  | 74   | 80.4 | 10   | 10.9 | 39     | 28.3 | 94   | 68.1 | 5    | 3.6  |
| International Events      | 4    | 4.3  | 82   | 89.1 | 6    | 6.5  | 32     | 23.2 | 106  | 76.8 | 0    | 0.0  |
| National Events           | 14   | 15.2 | 46   | 50.0 | 32   | 34.8 | 51     | 37.0 | 70   | 50.7 | 17   | 12.3 |
| State Events              | 9    | 9.8  | 63   | 68.5 | 20   | 21.7 | 38     | 27.5 | 83   | 60.1 | 17   | 12.3 |
| In toto                   | 4    | 4.3  | 69   | 75.0 | 19   | 20.7 | 37     | 26.8 | 94   | 68.1 | 7    | 5.1  |

Among male B.Ed. trainees 4.3% have low level, 75.0% have moderate level and 20.7% have high level of awareness on current affairs in toto. Among female B.Ed. trainees 26.8% have low level, 68.1% have moderate level and 5.1% have high level of awareness on current affairs with regards to its dimensions and in toto.

TABLE 3

## DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GRADUATE AND PG B.ED. TRAINEES IN THEIR AWARENESS ON CURRENT AFFAIRS

| Dimensions                | Graduate N = 94 |      | Post Graduate N = 136 |      | Calculated 't'- Value | Remark at 5% level |
|---------------------------|-----------------|------|-----------------------|------|-----------------------|--------------------|
|                           | Mean            | S.D. | Mean                  | S.D. |                       |                    |
| Science and Technology    | 3.01            | 1.19 | 3.33                  | 1.13 | 2.05                  | S                  |
| Sports and Games          | 4.55            | 1.40 | 4.76                  | 1.23 | 1.18                  | NS                 |
| Honours and Awards        | 3.11            | 1.51 | 3.49                  | 1.46 | 1.90                  | NS                 |
| Industry and Economics    | 2.54            | 1.46 | 3.13                  | 1.39 | 3.07                  | S                  |
| Politics and Constitution | 3.45            | 1.47 | 3.85                  | 1.42 | 2.09                  | S                  |
| Film and Literature       | 2.74            | 1.21 | 3.00                  | 1.29 | 1.53                  | NS                 |
| Famous personalities      | 3.32            | 1.20 | 3.80                  | 1.41 | 2.79                  | S                  |
| International events      | 4.47            | 1.21 | 4.82                  | 1.20 | 2.16                  | S                  |
| National events           | 3.18            | 1.44 | 3.42                  | 1.37 | 1.34                  | NS                 |
| State events              | 2.65            | 1.43 | 3.04                  | 1.68 | 1.88                  | NS                 |
| In toto                   | 33.02           | 8.22 | 36.65                 | 8.05 | 3.32                  | S                  |

From the above table(4, 09), it is clear that the calculated 't' values (1.18, 1.90, 1.53, 1.34, 1.88) for 9(b), 9(c), 9(f), 9(i) and 9(j) are less than the table value (1.96) at 5% level of significance. Hence the null hypotheses 9(b), 9(c), 9(f), 9(i) and 9(j) are accepted.

Since the calculated 't' values (2.05, 3.07, 2.09, 2.79, 2.16 and 3.32) for 9(a), 9(d), 9(e), 9(g), 9(h) and 9(k) are greater than the table value (1.96) at 5% level of significance the null hypotheses 9(a), 9(d), 9(e), 9(g), 9(h) and 9(k) are rejected.

**TABLE 4**  
**'F' VALUE AMONG AIDED COLLEGE, UNAIDED COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY CE**  
**TRAINEES IN THEIR AWARENESS OF CURRENT AFFAIRS**

| Dimensions                   | Source of Variation | Sum of squares | Degrees of Freedom | Variance Estimate | Calculated Value of F |
|------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| a. Science and Technology    | Between             | 13.34          | 2.00               | 6.67              | 5.06                  |
|                              | Within              | 299.46         | 277.00             | 1.32              |                       |
| b. Sports and Games          | Between             | 15.89          | 2.00               | 7.95              | 4.79                  |
|                              | Within              | 376.30         | 277.00             | 1.66              |                       |
| c. Honours and Awards        | Between             | 2.23           | 2.00               | 1.11              | 0.50                  |
|                              | Within              | 508.66         | 277.00             | 2.24              |                       |
| d. Industry and Economics    | Between             | 2.88           | 2.00               | 1.44              | 0.68                  |
|                              | Within              | 479.40         | 227.00             | 2.11              |                       |
| e. Politics and Constitution | Between             | 4.60           | 2.00               | 2.30              | 1.08                  |
|                              | With in             | 480.86         | 227.00             | 2.12              |                       |
| f. Film and Literature       | Between             | 17.98          | 2.00               | 8.99              | 5.81                  |
|                              | Within              | 351.51         | 227.00             | 1.55              |                       |
| g. Famous Personalities      | Between             | 24.98          | 2.00               | 12.49             | 7.23                  |
|                              | Within              | 392.02         | 227.00             | 1.73              |                       |
| h. International Events      | Between             | 17.42          | 2.00               | 8.71              | 6.16                  |
|                              | Within              | 321.13         | 227.00             | 1.41              |                       |
| i. National Events           | Between             | 1.75           | 2.00               | 0.87              | 0.44                  |
|                              | Within              | 449.14         | 227.00             | 1.98              |                       |
| j. State Events              | Between             | 6.98           | 2.00               | 3.49              | 1.37                  |
|                              | Within              | 577.61         | 227.00             | 2.54              |                       |
| k. In toto                   | Between             | 605.91         | 2                  | 302.95            | 4.50                  |
|                              | Within              | 15292.5        | 227.00             | 67.37             |                       |

(Table value of 'F' at 5% level of significance for df 2,227 is 3.03)

From the above table it is clear that the calculated 'F' values 5.06, 4.79, 5.81, 7.23, 6.16 and 4.50 for 10 (f), 10 (g), 10 (h) and 10 (k) are greater than the table value 3.03 at 5% level of significance and degrees of freedom 2, 227. Hence the null hypotheses 10(a), 10 (b), 10 (f), 10 (g), 10(h) and 10 (k) are rejected.

Since the F values 0.50, 0.68, 0.44 and 1.37 for 10 (c), 10(d), 10 (e), 10(f) and 10(j) are less than the table value 3.03 at 5% level of significance and degrees of freedom 2,227, the null hypotheses 10(c), 10(d), 10(e), 10(j) are accepted.

### FINDINGS

1. The awareness of male and female, B.Ed. trainees on current affairs with reference to a science and technology, b.sports and games, c. honours and awards, d.industry and economics, e. politics and constitution, f. film and literature, g.famous personalities, h. international events, i. national events, j.state events and k. in toto are significant.
2. There is significant difference between graduate and postgraduate B.Ed. trainees in their awareness of current affairs with reference to the dimensions a. science and technology, b. industry and economics, c. politics and constitution, d. famous personalities and e. International events.

There is no significant difference among aided college, unaided college and university centre B.Ed. trainees in their awareness of current affairs with reference to the dimensions a. honours and awards, b. industry and economics, c. politics and constitution, d. national events and e. international events.

There is significant difference among aided college, unaided college and university centre B.Ed. trainees in their awareness of current affairs with reference to the dimensions a. science and technology, b. sports and games, film and literature, d. famous personalities and e. national events.

There is significant difference among B.Ed. trainees regarding the optional subjects mathematics, physical science, social science and languages in their awareness of current affairs with reference to the dimensions a. industry and economics and b. state events.

There is no significant association among B.Ed. trainees whose fathers are agriculturists, businessmen and employees in their awareness of current affairs with reference to its various dimensions.

## INTERPRETATIONS

The study reveals that the B.Ed. trainees possess a notable level of awareness of current affairs. This may be due to various factors. Firstly they have to face competitive examinations after the completion of the course in order to get into a government job. Secondly in Kerala students develop reading habits right from the school.

They are exposed to various newspapers and magazines which gives them an awareness regarding the current affairs. Thirdly, there is a network of libraries, recreation clubs and reading rooms even in the rural areas which has helped to develop an interest in the minds of students on current affairs.

## CONCLUSION

Even though there are some limitations in the present study it is evident that the awareness of B.Ed. trainees is quite low. The Kothari Commission says that the destiny of India is being shaped in the classroom. If this is so the government has to prepare teachers of quality who can take upon themselves this great responsibility. It also means that the teachers should be men who should have a high level of awareness of current affairs, i.e. they should be men who

know what is happening around them so that they are able to bring in all these experiences into the classroom to make their teaching more relevant and meaningful. The recommendations given by the investigator may be very helpful in creating more awareness regarding current affairs among the B.Ed. trainees. This study will be more fruitful if the suggestions given by the investigator are taken up and applied for further research.

## References

1. Aggarwal, J.C. (1983), *Teaching of Social Studies*, Vikas Publishing House Pvt. Ltd, New Delhi.
2. Aggarwal, J.C. (1995), *Teachers and Education In a Developing Society*, Vikas Publishing House Pvt, Ltd., New Delhi.
3. Aggarwal, Y.P. (1996), *Educational Research*, Arya Book Depot, New Delhi.
4. Best, W. John and Khar V. James. (1990), *Research in Education*, Prentice Hall of India, Pvt. Ltd, New Delhi.
5. Singh, L.C. "Quality Concerns in teacher Education" *University News* 43 (18) May 02-08, 2005 (p-29).
6. Sungoh, S.M. "Quality Issues in Teacher Education", *University News* 43 (18) May 02-08, 2005 (p-39).
7. Remy Dias, "Quality Teacher Education in the knowledge Era". *University News* 43 (18) May 02-08, 2005.

## A STUDY ON THE EFFECT OF MEDITATION...

Continuation of page 15

### Reference

1. V.G. Soly (2008) "A study on the impact of meditation on achievement and mental health of higher secondary school students of Idukki District". Unpublished Ph.D. thesis, Department of Education, Annamalai University.
2. Best, John W. (1963) "Research in Education", New Delhi, Prentice Hall of India Private Ltd.
3. Kulbir Sing Sindu (2003), "Methodology of Research in Education", New Delhi, Sterling Publishers Private Ltd.,
4. Garrett Hendry E. and R.S. Woodworth (1981) "Statistics in Psychology and Education", Bombay, Vikils Feffer and Simpsons Limited.
5. Krishnamurthi, (1975). *Beginnings of Learning*, London: Victor Gollance Ltd.
6. Stevenson, George, S. (1956) "Mental Health Planning for Social Action". New York: MacGraw Hill Book Company.
7. Sinha A.K. and Bhan, R.N. (1978-1983) "Mental health in university students". *Third Survey of Research in Education*, New Delhi.