| **TISS Evaluation of the CSSTE, August-September 2017** | | **Tool 6** | **Interview of faculty of DIET** |
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| **Instructions:** Please select and interview at least two faculty member from the institution. One must be a senior lecturer and one must be a junior lecturer involved with PSTE in the DIET | | | |
| State | Puducherry | District/Place | Puducherry |
| Name of institution | DIET |  |  |
| Researcher name | Ramjee Swaminathan, Nishevita Jayendran | Date of visit | 28th August 2017 |
| **Respondent name** | **Mr. Thirunarayanan** | **Designation** | Teacher Trainer |

**Overall comments: The faculty have experience in independent research, as they have been reading, writing and publishing works. They are also voluntarily updating their subject knowledge and skills. Extremely humble, they did not speak much of their achievements. We had to probe further before they came forth with their work (it’s also possible that they were initially not sure what information we wanted). Once they started talking about their work, though, they displayed artefacts they had developed.**

**A huge work undertaken on a voluntary basis by these faculty was the translation of the Tamilnadu textbooks, which were in Tamil, into English for their students. This remains an in-house effort and publication, circulated internally. We have brought back a sample set of these, the English versions of which are currently in the CLIx office.**

***This faculty was also present during our interview with the Principal, where he offered his opinions as well. Hence we did not repeat some of the questions with him, since he had already answered them in other contexts.***

**SELF**

1. When did you join this DIET? What were you doing before this? What posting are you likely to get after this?

I have been here for 6 yrs. I have been a school teacher since 1997. First, I taught primary, then High School. Then came to this DIET in 2010. 3 years later, I worked in Mahe. After that I was deputed as a teacher trainer to the DIET.

1. What are your qualifications?

M.Sc., M.Phil (Chem)., M.Ed., M.Phil (Edn)., LLB., D.Co-op

Currently pursuing PhD, nearing completion

1. Have you taught in schools? What grades and what subjects?

He has taught at primary and high school levels. Principally a Chemistry teacher.

At the DIET, he is teaching Education Technology. He’s been appointed and posted.

His observations and comments on the ICT labs: very minimal, with limited internet. 10 machines in the DIET but just 6 machines have internet connections. 4 machines work but do not have internet connection.

1. (based on whether the state has undertaken encadrement, modify/adapt the question). Do you think encadrement is desirable and has/can produce improvement of academic quality?

He says the DIET needs cadres. Being on deputation is different from school. If you are deputed, there is no interest or stability. You can’t go deeper into the subject. With a cadre, at least there is some stability.

Tangential observations based on difference in teaching practices at schools and DIETs: In schools, you teach contents in the DIET, you teach the students the methodology to teach the content.

1. Which wing do you belong to? What were three of the key activities that you conducted as a member of this wing last year?

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1. What are your own responsibilities in the DIET? What are the key activities you have been doing in the last three months?

Mainly admission work, academic work. Students are given tests by the faculty and they are evaluated. It’s internal. The final exam at the end of the year is Tamilnadu syllabus. Common exam. This year the papers came to this DIET for evaluation. They marked nearly 10000 papers.

1. What kind of faculty development programmes did you attend in the last year?

Nothing in the last one year. Previously, attended a program in Kannur on Planning and RTI.

1. Have you been provided with a computer? Can you use a computer? For what? (have you used a computer in teaching or in a workshop with teachers?) Have you received any computer/ICT training?

There are computers in the ICT lab that can be used. Sometimes can use the computer in the Principal room. Nothing solely their own.

1. Have you gone on any exposure visits to other institutions etc.?
2. Were you a resource person for the state? What kind of work did you do? How many days were you away from this DIET for this purpose?

I have visited DIETs in Vadallur, Thiruvannamalai. They maintain and monitor schools. But a lot more work has to happen. In those places, there are groups that do different things. Here, in this DIET, we have to do everything.

Sometimes I get called as a resource person, but only within the state. We don’t get called much because we are on deputation and will be shifted somewhere else.

1. What are the three main activities you did last year which in your view are not actually meant to be activities of the DIET, and you wish you did not have to do them? ---
2. What are the three main activities you did which contributed to the role of the DIET?

[repeated same as above]

1. Do you visit schools on a regular basis? Since when? What is the purpose of these visits? What follows after you hve made a school visit? When did you last visit a school and what did you do during this visit? Do you receive TA/DA reimbursements for these visits?

Visited schools during students internship period. Recently, I was asked to monitor teachers also. The TA/DA is sometimes slow in coming.

**Institutional functioning**

1. How often do all the faculty of the DIET meet? When did you meet last and what did you discuss at this meeting?

At least once a month, more frequently if needed. In the last meeting, discussed and contributed to the AWP.

1. How many members are there in your unit/wing/department?
2. How often do the faculty of your wing meet? When did you meet last and what did you discuss at that meeting?

NA

1. How stable has the faculty of the DIET been in the last year?

The same group has been present. The Principal came in 6 months back, though.

1. When was the annual work plan prepared for last year? What were the key elements of the plan? What was your contribution to the plan?

[We were given a hard copy of the AWP and other documents] He was part of the discussions in preparing it. [*Didn’t go into details*]

1. Was the structure of the DIET changed in the 12th plan? Do you think there is need for any improvemetnsin the structure? What are these changes that are needed?
2. Do you think you have autonomy in academic matters?

No. We follow the Tamilnadu syllabus that has not changed for some time.

[*He had pointed out during our discussion with the Principal that the Tamil Thaivazhthu, which is sung by people by Tamilnadu, is also printed in their textbooks and is not relevant to Puducherry at all. They still follow it though. Academic autonomy is, however, happening through the faculties’ initiatives who develop course materials that go beyond the textbook for the students*]

1. Do you think you have autonomy in financial matters?

No. They have to await funds to proceed with their work. Sometimes these funds don’t come on time, and are most often less than what was asked for.

**Academic functioning**

1. Were you involved with any inservice teacher training? Which one? And what was your contribution? Was this under SSA or RMSA or CSSTE or other programmes?

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1. Do you use a training management system?

We ask SSA and sit with them over this. They allot what has to be done by us. We try to avoid the same training though. ICT training we give by ourselves.

1. Do you have adequate non-academic staff to coordinate trainings?

[*List of academic and non-academic posts given*] He says that’s what we have, it’s enough.

1. Have you conducted any research in the last year? What was the research you conducted?

Working towards his PhD. Due for completion and submission this year. Sometimes he writes newspaper articles. One article written was accepted for presentation at a seminar in Mizoram. Organised by NUEPA. Couldn’t go, though, because they have no funds and they are not eligible for air travel. Going by road and rail will take a long time and they don’t have leave.

1. Have you written any article last year? What are the details?
2. Have you carried out any innovation or developed materials or resources? Can you share an example of what you have done? (please note details)

They keep developing contents and TLMs for their classrooms. It goes beyond the fold of the Tamilnadu state textbooks, but none of these has been published.

One major innovation, in-house, that has happened is the DIET’s translation of all the textbooks into English. It’s available for the students and is not widely circulated. All the faculty members worked on this translation, as something over and above their regular duties.

1. Have you had any interactions or visits to BRCs and CRCs?

Called as a resource person fro BRCs.

1. Have you had any interactions or visits to IASEs or CTEs?
2. Have you had any interactions with NGOs in the district?
3. Are any NGOs involved or collaborating with you at the DIET?

**Preservice teacher education**

1. What are the key challenges of teacher education in the District/State?

Multiple challenges. Moving from Tamil to English medium is one big challenge. Moving from the Tamilnadu board to the CBSE board is the next big challenge.

1. Is there adequate supply of trained teachers/elementary teachers? ---
2. What are the numbers of private, aided and government institutions working in the district and what is the rough estimate of their intake?

Plenty of private institutions for teacher training. This is one of the few government institutions in the district. Not sure of numbers.

Intake depends on institutions. Here we take 100. Have only DEd.

1. Does the DIET/CTE/IASE/BITE have any formal role vis a vis these institutions? If so what? How much of your time was spent in such monitoring work?

No formal arrangement. We only monitor schools.

1. Who are the students who apply to you for admission? Has the demand for teacher training changed in the last few years?

Students voluntarily come here. But we take only 100. We get the most motivated students who are very well qualified. Sometimes we also get BA, BSc, BTech, they come to do BEd for a government job. Stability.

1. Has your curriculum been reformed in the light of NCFTE? Have there been changes in the length of the programme or internship in the last few years? Have these changes impacted on the student intake or admission process in any way? Have these changes impacted on the students coming to your institution?

Curriculum follows Tamilnadu board, so hasn’t changed. Remains much the same. They are teaching these students extra based on the NCFTE. The intake has not changed or suffered. They get the best most motivated students.

1. What is the admission process followed? What type of screening is adopted to select students?

Their 12th board exam marks. We shortlist based on cut-offs. No additional tests or entrance exams happen.

1. Which are the papers you teach in the PSTE?

Educational technology

1. What books do you use to teach these papers?

The Tamilnadu board books. We use own materials to supplement this.

1. How do you find the examinations?

[This is discussed elsewhere by the other teachers as well] It’s a well balanced format of unit tests, class tests, assignments, projects, field visit reports and a single annual exam. All of these are graded proportionally.

1. Have there been any changes after NCFTE? Are these changes good/bad/useful/useless?

Not aware. They only follow the TN texts

1. What subjects do students find most difficult and which ones do they enjoy the most?

They find English medium difficult to adapt to. From subject perspectives, the students are quite motivated. They come to the institute voluntarily and enjoy their lessons. Discipline is not a problem. They work hard at all subjects.

1. Have you had orientation and training to teach the new curriculum?

Not new so NA

1. Does your district have a BITE? Where has it been established?
2. What is the role of the BITE?
3. Do you think it is serving its purpose?

NA

**Knowledge of recent education policy matters**

1. What is the RTE 2009?

Right to Education; children up to 14 years must get free and compulsory education.

1. What is the no-detention policy?

You cannot fail/detain children in early classes. Bad policy. There should be a check at the 5th and the 8th standards at least.

1. What is constructivism?

learning by doing. We use that in our class.

1. What is NCF 2005?

National Curriculum Framework. We adopt some of the principles while we teach our students.

1. What is NCFTE 2009?

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1. What are the main government programmes running in schools of your state?

There are not many government schools….