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Topic: - Educational Supervision
(Meaning, Scope, Nature)

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Educational Supervision

Meaning, Scope, Nature

“Supervision is a creative and dynamic process giving friendly guidance and direction to teachers and pupils for improving themselves and the teaching-learning situation for the accomplishment of the desired goals of education.” –R.P.

Bhatnagar & I.B. Verma.

Educational Supervision means an all out effort of the school officials directed towards providing leadership to teachers and other educational workers for the improvement of institution. It involves both human and material elements. The human elements are the pupils, parents, teachers and other employees, the community and other officials of the state. On the material side money, building, equipment, playgrounds etc. are included. Besides these, the curriculum, methods and techniques of teaching also come under the scope of supervision.

Teaching is a creative act. A teacher has to coordinate his thought with action. So the basic psychological problems underlying supervision is to see that the teaching is improved through supervisory techniques and supervisor is able to secure integration between teaching practices and sound principles of education on which the practices are based.

As commonly used, the term 'Supervision' means to guide and to stimulate the activities of others with a view to their improvement. It attempts to develop instructional programmes according to the needs of the youth of modern democratic society and also to provide materials and methods of teaching for enabling the children to learn more easily and effectively. There are various definitions of supervision in educational literature.

Some of the few definitions of supervision are given below:

1. A.S. Barr:

“Supervision is an expert technical service primarily concerned with studying and improving the conditions that surround learning and pupil growth.”

2. Chester T. Mc Nerney:

“Supervision is the procedure of giving direction to, and providing critical evaluations of the instructional process. The end result of all supervision should be to provide students at all levels with better educational services. ”

3. T.H. Briggs & Joseph Justman:

‘In general Supervision means to coordinate, stimulate and direct the growth of the teachers in the power to stimulate and direct the growth of every individual pupil through the exercise

of his talents towards the richest and the most intelligent participation in the civilization in which he lives. ”

4. John A. Bartky:

“Good supervision is always concerned with the development of the teachers, the growth of the pupil and the improvement of the teaching-learning process.”

5. H.R. Douglass & others:

“Supervision is the effort to stimulate, coordinate and guide the continued growth of teachers, both individually and collectively, in better understanding and more effective performance of all the functions of instruction, so that they will be better able to stimulate and direct each student’s continued growth towards a rich and intelligent participation in society. ”

6. Glen G Eye & A.L. Netzer:

“Supervision is that phase of school administration which deals primarily with the achievement of the appropriate selected instructional expectations of educational service.”

From the above definitions, some focal points may be drawn which would give a complete idea of supervision.

(a) Supervision is a creative and dynamic expert technical service.

(b) It provides leadership with expert knowledge and superior skills.

(c) It gives coordination, direction and guidance to teacher's activities.

(d) It stimulates the continuous growth of teachers and development of pupils.

(e) It improves instruction and the teaching-learning process.

Nature of Supervision:

As regards its nature, modern supervision is a cooperative enterprise, experimental in its approach. The scope of modern supervision extends to the improvement of the whole teaching-learning situation. So it is concerned with the pupils, teachers, curriculum and the socio-physical environment and their improvement.

However, from the meaning and definition, we can derive certain natures of supervision which are as follows:

1. Supervision is a creative and dynamic expert technical service.

2. It provides leadership with expert knowledge & superior skills.

3. It promotes cooperative educational effort in a friendly atmosphere.
4. It gives coordination, direction and guidance to teachers' activities.
5. It stimulates the continuous growth of teachers and development of pupils.
6. It improves instruction and the teaching learning process.
7. It helps achievement of appropriate educational aims and objectives.
8. It helps to decide and order execution and assists in improving instruction.
9. It represents a portion of the whole enterprise of school management.
10. It saves us from the victimization of soul killing administration.

Scope of Supervision:

The scope of educational supervision extends to all the areas of educational activity with the larger purpose of improving the product of education through the upgrading of the quality of instruction and other school practices. "Education is now

conceived as a powerful social force for the development of personality and the values of the democratic social order.

Democratic philosophy extends the scope of supervision to the ultimate goals and values of education determined democratically through the participation of all the people concerned with the educative process. Democracy requires supervision should be made more and more participatory and cooperative. ”

In India we believe, in democratic philosophy. So our conduct, behaviour and activities should be governed by the democratic philosophy of life. This is true of education and also educational supervision. One important source of the true of education and also educational supervision is therefore the democratic philosophy of life and living.

Hence supervision should be a cooperative enterprise in which everyone has the right to contribute. Democratic supervision provides full opportunity to discussion, free expression of views and opinions, enlists participation of all persons and welcomes and utilizes their contribution for the improvement of the teaching-learning situation and process.

So supervision is planned cooperatively by all educational workers. Its programmes are flexible and related to the situation, and include analysis and improvement of the

situation, of the final product of education and of its own effectiveness.

Supervision employs various techniques such as observation, demonstration, visitation, workshops, seminars, conferences, teacher's guides, handbooks of suggestions, professional journals and in-service education.

Supervision continuously makes its best effort to evaluate and improve the work environment of the pupils and teachers with their help and community's assistance and cooperation. It also continuously maintains an atmosphere of mutual trust, integrity, loyalty, freedom, goodwill, responsibility and self-direction.

Thank You