

**Dr. Ranjana Arora**

**M.Sc.(Chemistry), M.Ed., Ph. D. (Education)**

**Professor and Head**

**Areas of Interest:** Curriculum development and research in school and teacher education and Teacher Professional Development

Ranjana Arora works as a Professor (in Education) in the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), New Delhi, India. She is currently Head of RMSA Project Cell in NCERT.

During her work in the NCERT, she gained experience in varied aspects of school education as well as teacher education. In the Council, she started her work from Regional Institute of Education (RIE), NCERT in 1997 with teaching teacher education courses at RIE, Ajmer and began to understand the process involved in the making of a teacher. She sought to provide her student-teachers a perspective of education that included inputs regarding the nature of the learner, the school curriculum and its transaction through classroom processes and practice-teaching. A lot of informal interactions took place outside the classroom which helped her as well as student to grow more on various dimensions of personality. She also helped in preparing teacher educators by interacting with them and guiding them for dissertations on issues related to curricula for the elementary stage. Apart from this, she has dealt with areas such as art education, work experience, health education and different aspects of evaluation for the primary stage of schooling working very closely with the Demonstration Multipurpose School set up in the premise of RIE, Ajmer and also Department of Education in Measurement and Evaluation at the National Institute of Education (NIE), NCERT, New Delhi.

In 2003, she was posted in Department of Teacher Education and Extension (DTEE) at the NIE (NCERT), New Delhi, after her selection as Reader. There she received experience in development of policies for teacher education as well research in teacher education.

Teaching-learning processes and their connectivity with educational policies generated in her immense interest in exploring curriculum development in school education. In the year 2004, she got the opportunity of closely associating with the ongoing process of curricular reforms at the NIE (NCERT), New Delhi, when she was transferred to Curriculum Group. She gained experience in setting up structures, dealing with associated members of relevant committees and recording discussions and deliberations; evolving ideas out of these discussions for further action, inviting and incorporating suggestions from all corners of the

country and drafting the curriculum framework document; disseminating it, working with states/UTs for curricular reforms and researching different dimensions of the school curriculum. In this Group, she also contributed in the development of report of the working group on secondary education set up for Eleventh Five Year Plan. This experience was invaluable because it served as a window to a range of issues on which the Council is mandated to work: educational research, development, training and extension.

In the year 2010, she was posted in the Department of Secondary Education, where she gained experience of closely dealing with the quality dimensions of secondary education working for the effective implementation of the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme launched by the Govt. of India in 2009. She contributed in the development of 'Vision and Multi-layer guidelines for helping states/UTs in improving quality of secondary education' under RMSA and developed Continuous In-service Teacher Professional Development Package for Science Teachers at the secondary stage. Further, as member of the sub-group on secondary education set up by the MHRD for twelfth five year plan, she actively contributed in the making of report of the sub-group on quality dimensions at the secondary stage. Further in the very year of 2010, she got the opportunity to head the Script Division in CIET for a short duration (5th May to 4th October) and gained another dimension in her experience i.e. skill of leadership and administration and that too in the area of Educational Technology which made her more vigilant towards the connectivity that exists in various aspects of school education and teacher education.

In 2012, she was posted as In-charge of RMSA Project Cell in the Cell at NIE, New Delhi, where she worked closely with the RMSA, MHRD on quality aspects of RMSA, viz., curriculum reform in states/UTs at the secondary stage and also in-service teacher professional development in coordination with all the constituent units of the NCERT. She still is continuing this work adding to it some more quality dimensions.

During her academic career spanning over more than one and half decades, she has contributed more than 15 research papers/articles to various journals, developed audio-video programmes, and also contributed her writings for curriculum framework, syllabi, books and training packages published by the NCERT and other state agencies.