

How to Be a Teacher in India: Qualifications, Roles, and Career Path

“A good teacher is like a candle—it consumes itself to light the way for others.”

Teaching is one of the most noble and impactful professions. In India, becoming a teacher is not just about acquiring a degree—it's about nurturing minds, spreading knowledge, and shaping the nation's future.

If you aspire to be a teacher in India, this blog will guide you through the necessary **educational qualifications**, different **types of teachers**, and the **steps to become one**.

Educational Qualifications Required to Become a Teacher in India

The qualifications vary based on the level you wish to teach. Here's a breakdown:

1. Pre-Primary Teacher (Nursery/KG)

- **Minimum Qualification:** 10+2 (any stream)
- **Training:** Nursery Teacher Training (NTT) / Diploma in Early Childhood Education (D.E.C.Ed)
- **Duration:** 1–2 years

2. Primary School Teacher (Classes 1–5)

- **Minimum Qualification:** 10+2 and a Diploma in Elementary Education (D.El.Ed)
- **Alternative Route:** Bachelor's degree + D.El.Ed or B.El.Ed (Bachelor of Elementary Education – 4 years)
- **Eligibility Test:** CTET Paper I or State TET

3. Upper Primary Teacher (Classes 6–8)

- **Qualification:** Graduation in any subject + 2-year Diploma in Elementary Education (D.El.Ed) **OR** B.Ed (Bachelor of Education)
- **Eligibility Test:** CTET Paper II or State TET

4. Secondary School Teacher (Classes 9–10)

- **Qualification:** Graduation + B.Ed in a relevant subject
- **Eligibility Test:** CTET / State TET
- **Note:** Subject-specific teaching specialization is preferred (e.g., B.Sc. + B.Ed for science teaching)

5. Senior Secondary Teacher (Classes 11–12)

- **Qualification:** Postgraduate degree (in the subject) + B.Ed
- **Optional:** M.Ed (Master of Education) for advanced teaching and academic roles

6. College/University Lecturer

- **Qualification:** Postgraduate degree + NET (National Eligibility Test) conducted by UGC
- **Optional:** Ph.D. in subject area for permanent positions or higher academic ranks

Different Types of Teachers in India

Here are the various teaching roles based on levels and specialization:

1. Pre-Primary Teachers

- Teach children aged 3 to 6.
- Focus on foundational learning, basic literacy, numeracy, and social development.

2. Primary Teachers

- Teach all basic subjects (Math, English, EVS, etc.) to children in Classes 1–5.
- Need strong communication and child development understanding.

3. TGTs (Trained Graduate Teachers)

- Teach students from Classes 6 to 10.
- Specialize in a subject (e.g., English, Hindi, Math, and Science).
- Require a graduation degree + B.Ed.

4. PGTs (Post Graduate Teachers)

- Teach Classes 11 and 12.
- Must have a postgraduate degree in the subject + B.Ed.

5. Special Educators

- Work with children with special needs.
- Require a diploma or degree in special education recognized by RCI (Rehabilitation Council of India).

6. Subject-Specific Experts (Music, Art, Physical Education)

- Require a degree/diploma in their specific field + teacher training.

7. Online Teachers / EdTech Instructors

- Teach through digital platforms like Unacademy, or YouTube.
- May not require formal teaching degrees but must demonstrate subject expertise and communication skills.

Steps to Become a Teacher in India

1. **Choose your preferred level of teaching** (Pre-primary, Primary, Secondary, etc.)
2. **Pursue relevant qualifications** (D.El.Ed, B.Ed, M.Ed, etc.)
3. **Pass required eligibility exams** (CTET, UPTET, KVS, DSSSB, etc.)
4. **Apply to schools, government posts, or private institutions**
5. **Continue professional development** through workshops, online certifications, and advanced degrees