ABSTRACT
Teachers are the back-bone of the society. Their role in the broader context of teaching and learning is debated the world over. In order to understand what kind of education we need, we must first think about what kind of society we wish to see in the future. All efforts on education are based on the idea that education should contribute to developing democratic culture on our continent. For this we need to provide knowledge and understanding of human rights, democratic participation and the development of competences for engaging in a meaningful and open-minded intercultural dialogue for a sustainable democratic society. Teachers have a very important role to play in creating a democratic culture. They should spend time with the younger generations in school. Every teacher needs to have the transversal knowledge, skills and attitudes that enable them to become a “facilitator” or a “guide” who can steer the learning process of their students. Their role of becomes a very demanding one, and it is clear that teachers cannot be educated once and for all during the few years of pre-service education they have. They need continuous in-service training throughout their working life. Educational institutions must continue to perpetuate the capacity building of the teachers in the ever-changing society instead of sticking on to the stereotyped social norms.

KEYWORDS: Democratic; Civil Society; Capacity Building; Curricula; In-Service and Pre-Service Teacher Education Program