



FUTURE OF TEACHER EDUCATION THROUGH DISTANCE EDUCATION

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Abstract

The distance training methodology focusing more on learning than on teaching, on flexibility, autonomy and collaborative work is, on the whole, very much appreciated by teachers to the extent that it favors the development of new pedagogical approaches in the classroom. However, in situational constraints (rigid time-tables, overcrowded classrooms) do not always leave much room for innovation. Still, to those who felt they were intrinsically motivated and professionally committed, the distance education provided an opportunity to reflect on their own classroom practices, to improve some of them as far as possible, and to engage in a life-long learning process of professional development.

Keywords: Distance Education, Teacher Education, learner autonomy.



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Introduction

As a methodology, Distance education (DE) is generally defined as an educational process in which the learner is separated from the instructional base or teacher either in space and/or time for a significant proportion of his learning (ADEA, 2000). Open learning, in turn, is a philosophy of learning based on the principle of flexibility to increase access and equity to education and training. It is an organized educational activity that uses a variety of media and/or teaching materials, in which “constraints on study are minimized in terms either of access, or of time and place, pace, method of study, or any combination of these” (Perraton 2002).

A “more successful” teacher training programme is the one which, more than any other, enables the teacher to move from an axiological (pertaining to values) and methodological (based on procedures) perspective to a praxological (action-oriented) and epistemological (taking into account knowledge studies and their limits) one.

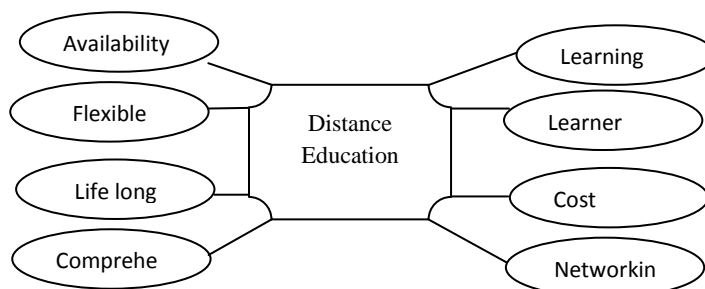
Background

Distance education council in its guidelines for support to state open universities (28th April, 1992) beautifully sums up the features of distance education systems which made its impact in about 70 countries of the world. The council affirms that the distance education system augments opportunities for education; it ensures access to higher education, it is cost effective, it promotes a relevant, flexible and innovative system of education. The major characteristics of the distance education system are its high productivity, greater flexibility

and above all its capacity to respond to varying demands. Analysis of cost incurred by the distance education system shows that it can offer education programs of an acceptable quality at a cost which is somewhere between one-fourth and one-third of the cost incurred by the conventional education system. It is in this context that promotion and coordinated development of distance education system in India assumes significance.

Need And Importance Of The Study

This study focuses on the future of teacher education through distance education. Now a day's many of courses are being taught online or offline as a part of distance education. Distance education is learner centered education that fascinates many of the students.



Objectiives Of The Study

1. To study the advances in future teacher education.
2. To study the need of distance education.
3. To study the role of distance education in future teacher education.

Objectiive Wise Description

- Advances in future teacher education –

Education is one of the most important factors in achieving the developmental goals of the country. It is an investment in the human resources. If the fruits of education have to reach the common man, it must be adequately and properly administered. Thus, teacher has to play an important role in the educational development that impinges directly or indirectly on planning and administration of education. In recent years, there has been a great expansion of the universities and institutes running post-graduate and under-graduate courses through distance education. Students through distance education account for 24 percent of total enrolment in higher education ^[1].

- Need of distance education.

The student population is increasing. Traditional system has neither the capacity nor the resources to meet the need of the growing number of students. Further expansion of formal education systems would not be possible because of mounting economic constraints. The distance education system can meet this need in more realistic way and much lower cost. It also meets the need of the students who had to discontinue studies owing to financial and other constraints.

Besides the distance education system can help in improving the quality of formal education. A recent study by Suneeta Anil Pathak found nineteen factors which limit the communication in formal system document clarity, lime frame, statement of objectives, self-study, textbook, learner autonomy, layout, teacher personality, language, interaction, student peace, teacher accessibility, student individuality, facilities, library and laboratory systems, examination system, question papers, evaluation methods and technique and feed comments. The study

concludes, "To compensate for this distance, one can look towards the Distance Education mechanisms. The face-to-face education has thus a number of lessons to learn from distance education."

- Role of distance education in future teacher education.

Traditional system provides education within the time frame. Scientific and technological changes are occurring at a fast rate. Distance Education System can meet the need through fresh courses specially designed for the purpose.

It seems that the open and distance learning system is in the process of redefining education and repositioning the objectives of educational institutes. It has great potential for transformation of an extensively large man power into manpower skilled with knowledge under completely change the concept of viewing large population as a serious problem under resource crunch to an extremely useful resource with significant and visible contributions for the cause of national development. There cannot be any dispute about the importance of the issue and the national priority that deserves. We encounter this requirement in almost all areas of human development.

Conclusion

1. Distance education plays an importance role in current educational scenario.
2. Distance education through teacher education is a need of the educational system.
3. Distance education through teacher education can provide teaching to large extent of the students those who can afford learning by going to the institutes.
4. Distance education hand in hand with traditional education can be considered at large extent for the management of educational system.

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