

**FUTURE OF TEACHER EDUCATION BY DISTANCE MODE****Vinod B. Bhalerao¹ & Ashok k. Hoke²****Department of Mathematics Swa. Sawarkar Mahavidyalaya Beed. -431 122 (M.S.)****Department of Commerce Shri. Siddheshwar Mahavidyalaya Majalgaon-431 131 (M.S.)***Abstract**

No nation develops beyond the quality of its education system, which is highly dependent on the quality of its teachers. The education of teachers should concentrate on the learning, development and education of children, young people and adults. The rapid development of technologies makes the diverse educational mode come true. Teacher education programmes are marked by high academic and professional quality. An increasing number of universities have opened up distance education in many countries at present. At the same time, hundreds of millions of people will benefit from the emergence of brand-new educational mode. From this perspective, We stand on the side of the view that the positive development from distance learning outweighs its negative effect.

Key Words: Teacher development, Open and Distance Learning (ODL).



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INTRODUCTION:

The concept of open learning and distance education system focuses on open access to education and training to make the learners free from the constraints of time and place, and offering flexible learning opportunities to individuals and groups of learners. Open and distance learning (ODL) is one of the most rapidly growing fields of education now a days and it has substantial impact on all education delivery systems. The new ODL system is growing fast because of the development of Internet-based information technologies, and in particular the World Wide Web. Teaching as a subject has, for years, attracted the attention of researchers on education at whatever level- primary, secondary or even tertiary-, and using whatever delivery method, whether face-to-face teaching, distance education or mixed mode approaches. It is generally considered that the way teachers are trained to acquire knowledge and skills is bound to influence how learning will be imparted to the pupils and how learning outcomes will be affected.

MEANING & NATURE OF TEACHER EDUCATION

It is well known that the quality and extent of learner achievement are determined primarily by teacher competence, sensitivity and teacher motivation. Teacher education is a programme that is related to the development of teacher proficiency and competence that would enable and empower the teacher to meet the requirements of the profession and face the challenges therein. The National Council for Teacher Education has defined teacher education as – A programme of education, research and training of persons to teach from pre-primary to higher education level.. Teacher education encompasses teaching skills, sound pedagogical theory and professional skills. It is a system that involves an interdependence of its Inputs, Processes and Outputs.

MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS OF OPEN AND DISTANCE LEARNING

Teacher education is an important area where distance education has been used extensively to provide pre-service teacher preparation, upgrading of academic qualifications, and in-service continuing professional development in particular subjects, content areas and instructional methods. The use of

open and distance learning for teacher education is therefore a crucial strategy when expansion or quality improvement is needed in the public education system. The distance learning initiatives in countries to prepare new teachers or upgrade skills of the existing teaching force. Distance education may play an increasingly important role during this decade in helping address the growing shortage of teachers, educational administrators and other educational professionals experienced in both developing and developed countries. Internet serves as the principal or supplementary means of providing both pre-service and in-service teacher education. There is a growing number of high quality Web-based professional development resources available for educators globally. The Web also provides opportunities for online mentoring and support of novice teachers during their first year of teaching and to develop online communities of practice. Virtual Web based environments for teachers now enable them to seek help from other teachers, locally, nationally, or globally in solving classroom problems, sharing lesson plans and materials, interacting with experts in particular fields, and in planning collaborative curriculum development projects.

ADVANTAGES OF DISTANCE LEARNING

Flexibility of choice

With distance learning courses, students can complete their course work from just about anywhere, provided there's a computer and internet connection. This allows students to work when and where it is more convenient for them without having to squeeze in scheduled classes to an already busy life. If you are a part of the traditional learning system, you need to follow the set schedule of a given course or curriculum. But with the availability of distance education, you can come back to the learning process even after being cut off from the regular learning scheme.

Saves time & money

Prices for online courses are generally cheaper than their on-campus counterparts and you won't have to worry about commuting, moving or getting meal plans on campus, some additional benefits to learning from home. You need not travel across to a new region or country for availing of the benefits of a course. You can have it accessed by means of online method of distance learning. This not only saves time but also cuts down on financial expense. Moreover, most courses offered as part of distance learning method are cheaper than their regular counterpart spells of separation. Taking a course online can be one way to cut down on costly gas or public transportation. Since students can often work from home to complete their class assignments, both time and money are saved.

Numerous choices for schools.

Even if you live in a community with few or no colleges distance learning allows you to choose from a wide variety of schools to complete your education. You may find online schools that specialize in your particular field or one that can provide a great general education. Either way, your options for education will be greatly expanded.

Learn while working.

As distance learning can usually be completed on your own schedule, it is much easier to complete distance learning courses while working than more traditional educational programs. Keeping your job gives you more income, experience and stability while completing your degree giving you less to worry about and more time to focus on your studies.

Freedom & adaptability

Irrespective of the medium or channels used in delivery, one of the greatest benefits of distance education centers on its individualized approach. Whether you are accessing the inputs of knowledge by means of post or online process; the connection is developed between you and the course material. This accessibility gives you better freedom to deal with your study material. You can choose and have the learning process thrashed out according to your convenience, as most distance learning methods are flexible involving little or no involvement of fixed schedule.

Self-motivation

Due to the imposing absence of a traditional teacher, as a student you learn to motivate yourself, when the learning environment comes under your control. The development of the streak of self motivation is also an important aspect of your growth. The self directed aspect of distance learning method in turn helps cultivate this streak.

Better accessibility

you are separated from mainstream education because of distance, time and other relevant reasons. You can fall back upon distance education on merit of its accessibility. If you go for the online learning method, you only need to have a computer with an internet connection. Similarly if you choose for a correspondence course as one of tools of distance education, you need to ensure connection by means of postal delivery. This aspect of accessibility helps you to continue education despite being professionally employed.

Earn as well as learn

For those employed and in need for professional advancement, distance education is particularly beneficial. For the advancement of qualification, you need not give up your job. The adaptability of distance education will help accommodate both learning & earning.

DISADVANTAGES DISTANCE LEARNING :

Lack of social interaction.

You'll likely get some interaction on chat rooms, discussion boards and through email, but the experience will be quite different than traditional courses. If the classroom environment is what you love most about learning you may want to take a step back and reconsider distance learning.

Format isn't ideal for all learners.

Not everyone is an ideal candidate for online learning. If you know you have problems with motivation, procrastination and needs lots of individual attention from an instructor you may want to think long and hard before enrolling in an online learning program.

Some employers don't accept online degrees.

While a majority of employers will, there are some who still see a stigma attached to distance learning. Realize that your online degree may not be the ideal tool for some job fields or for future learning.

Requires adaptability to new technologies.

If you've never been one to love working with technology you will probably get a lot less out of an online course than your more tech-savvy counterparts. Make sure you feel comfortable working with computers and with online programs before you sign up for a class.

Practical base courses may not be offered online.

It makes sense that more practical majors like nursing aren't offered entirely online, after all, part of the degree is learning to work directly with patients.

Absence of a teacher/instructor

Freedom involved in distance learning may prove to be beneficial for some, but harmful for many. In the absence of a teacher or a guide, you may find yourself left between devil and the deep sea while handling the course material. You will need to rely solely on your grasping power. So for students lacking in respect of independent study, distance education is not a preferable idea.

Absence of a proper learning environment

Ambience or feel of the campus helps improve learning standard. It also has a role or two to play in respect of adding to the learner's strength. In this regard, it is worth mentioning the distinctive drawback of distance learning method because neither can it generate the campus spirit nor can it cultivate a proper class room situation.

Lack of motivation

If you are one of those needing constant cheer and jeer, it is better not to opt for distance education because you will awfully miss the source providing the same. Having embarked upon a distance learning course, there will be none to coax and cajole you into realizing your target. You will have to motivate yourself.

Cannot generate as an alternate learning method

Distance education is often dependent on the use and development of high class skills and technology. So for learners lacking in the knowledge of them, it can't provide an alternate solution. Moreover, neither can it evolve as a permanent learning method for learners of all age and kinds. Student dependant on the same needs maturity, acumen and self learning temperament.

CONCLUSION:

The unsolvable question that Can distance education meet the quantitative and qualitative demand for teachers? Despite its advantages and the potential to increase the quantity of trained teachers, distance teacher education continues to face a number of challenges. Generally, the cost of distance education programs varies with the choice of media or technology and the type of learner support provided.

Teachers should be given the most appropriate tools during and after their training, including content knowledge and skills as well as teaching methodology to be able to do their work professionally. The globalization concept, if taken into account, would require that teachers and teaching should be recognized like all other professions and should require stringent training and acquisition of knowledge and skills and professional registration under a global council of unified teacher registration body to allow for easy mobility of teachers across national boundaries.

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