

TEACHER EDUCATION THROUGH DISTANCE MODE

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INTRODUCTION

UNESCO stated Distance Education as “an Education process and system in which all or a significant proportion of the teaching is carried out by someone or something removed in space and time from the learner”. It is a learning process which separates learners and teacher in different time and place using various media for learning.

OBJECTIVES

Teacher Education is a programme which aims at development of Teaching proficiency and competency of the Teacher to meet the requirement of the teaching profession and face challenges therein.

Teacher Education encompasses teaching skills, content knowledge sound pedagogical theory and professional skills.

Teacher have an important role to play in making education relevant to the needs of the emerging modern society .Only competent enlightened and emancipated teachers can meet the aspirations of society by providing quality education to the students and this can only be possible if the teacher are well trained through effective teacher education programme. The standard of Teacher Education Programme determines the quality of training provided to the teacher by different teacher Education Institutions. But now maintenance of standard and quality in teacher education programme is becoming more challenging due to demand of training from a large number of teachers,. But this huge demand of Teacher Education Programme could not be fulfilled by formal Teacher Training Institution with compared to huge population aspiring quality Teacher Education. But this demand could be fulfilled through Distance Education Institutions. But there are some problems which are becoming hindrance in meeting the challenges of quality Teacher Education like Faculty Strength, lack of quality course materials, lack of proper supervision, lack of appropriate evolution system, lack of practice teaching and practical components of the programme.

Distance Education aims at building high quality teaching and learning within a distance based system. Recently along with advances of Information and Communication Technology, Online trainings are available to serve teachers with specialised instructional needs.

Distance Education for Teacher Training focuses on the following areas:

(a) Modes of distance education – types of distance based delivery systems and their strengths and weakness from print to digital gaming to online learning to mobile technologies.

(b) Models of Distance education for Teachers Training Programme

Actual examples of various programs from each continent.

© **Methods or best practices necessary** to develop a highquality distance education program

There are several advantages and disadvantages of Teacher Education through Distance mode.

Advantages:

There are some advantages of Distance mode :

- (a) Learn from anywhere and at anytime
- (b) Eligibility of Time
- (c) No community
- (d) Plethora of School and colleges to choose
- (e) Lower cost
- (f) Learn while working

Disadvantages :

There are some shortcoming of distance Education

- (a) No interaction with Teachers and Professors
- (b) Lack of seriousness, competition and learning environment.
- (c) Job market do not accept online degree
- (d) Internet availability and affordability
- (e) Scope of practical work and p
- (f) Format of courses not suitable for everyone.

ODL is supposed to partition works and make it easy (division of labour), to be cost effective and to produce in large quantities (Mass production). A good teacher must also possess some personal attributers, such as wellness, resiliency , time

management moral and professional commitment. Trainee teacher need to possess these types of teacher-knowledge and develop sound personal and professional attributes regardless of the training which they undergo.

TEACHER EDUCATION : INTRODUCTION

No educational programmes can be successful without the proper education of teachers. A teacher is the most important aspect in any system of education. Teacher is the most important pillar on which the total education system is standing. So effective teacher learning and professional development is important for student achievement.

Thus we can define teacher education as such institutionalised educational procedures that are aimed at the purposeful organised preparation of teachers who are engaged directly or indirectly in educational activities. It does not exclude members of other professions who are preparing themselves for teaching activities.

There is an extreme global need for teacher education in the 21st century. According to UNESCO half of the world's 195 countries will have to expand their stock of teachers if the goal of universal primary education as articulated in the Dakar Framework for Action in 2000 is to be met by 2015.

But socio-economic inequities, political instability demographic changes. Lack of opportunities, lack of teachers training colleges and crises such as the HIV/AIDS epidemic have endangered huge short falls in teachers supply and low teachers quality in many developing countries.

Distance Education has been used as pre-service teacher preparation method and an in service teachers' vehicle to upgrade the knowledge, skill and qualification of the existing teaching force.

After Independence there has been a phenomenal growth in all levels of education. In the ratio of that, elementary and secondary teacher education institutions have been small in number to take care of manpower requirements of the schools. The inadequacy of Institutions of the pre-service and in-service education of teachers gave rise to the distance mode teacher education.

Moreover the present Teachers Training colleges are not sufficient enough to meet out this crisis of trained teachers. So there is an urgent need to expand teacher education to meet out the current and projected short falls in teacher supply and low teacher quality are to be properly addressed.

Now both research and practice are showing that there is a tremendous opportunities in large scale

education provision offered by Open and Distance Learning (ODL) and Distance Education System(DES).

Then what is distance Education ?

UNESCO defines Distance Education as "An educational process and system in which all or a significant proportion of the teaching is carried out by someone or something removed in space and time from the learner".

Now Distance Education is an innovative dimension to the facilities of education. The Distance Education Programmes offered by open universities provide an alternative cost effective non formal mode of education with student support service and wide spread network of all regional and study centres with facilities such as tutoring, audio and video facilities. Library facilities, interaction through Tele and video conferencing. Some of the finest example of open universities include IGNOU, NSOU, KSOU, ODL programme of State Government, Kota and Nasik Open University which offers teacher Education programmes (In-service and pre-service) through Distance mode.

Distance Education is also called **Correspondence Education**: It has some essential features which make it different and unique from other modes of education.

- It is self-learning method. The student has to depend on his own initiative and motivation for learning
- Instruction is imparted through distance mode or off campus. There is no class room teaching.
- Distance Education is flexible. Here study materials are sent through post.
- Distance Education is psychologically as well as sociologically sound and effective.
- It is democratic in nature because all the people of the country are able to avail this education.
- Equality of Education is maintained as every people could access this education.
- The contact courses and study centres provide the distance education. They are the medium between the students and the teacher. They help the students if they face any difficulty.
- Students are given certificates on the successful completion of their course.

In the context of Teacher Education, Distance Learning has more than one aim and objective

Objectives of Teacher Education through Distance Education

- To provide an effective alternative path in

completing Teachers Training for wider opportunities in Higher Education.

- To provide an efficient, effective and less expensive education.
- To provide educational facilities to all qualified, able and willing person who wants to become a teacher and who are unable to join regular Universities and other courses due to various reasons.
- To provide opportunities of academic pursuits to educated citizen who are willing to improve their knowledge.

Requirements of Distance Education

- The structured planning
- Well Designed Courses
- Special Instructional Techniques
- Methods of communication by electronic and other technologies

Phases of Teacher Education

The model of Teacher Education through Distance Mode consist of four phases.

1.Planning which must systematic, well planned and must be done on the basis of social demand, educational demand resources and teacher's profile.

2.Preparation of the programme where training objectives are prepared before implementing the programme by assessing training needs of the teacher and suitable curriculum is designed to fulfil objectives.

3.Process of course design include curriculum transaction by developing course materials and delivering mechanism.

4.Evolution of the course trainees, trainers, curriculum, materials must be done from time to time.

These four phases interlinked sequentially for bringing effectiveness in teaching.

The distance education mode has been effectively used in short term in-service programmes to meet the training needs of different categories of teachers, ranging from primary to senior secondary. Here latest technology is used keeping in view of the target group and nature of learning. This facilitate in learning and it becomes easier to reach more information at a very short period of time.

The main medium of training through Distance Mode are:

1. Radio and Television.
2. Tele conference
3. Multi Media Learning Packages
4. Print Material

Radio and Television:

Radio and Television have been used widely as educational tool since the 1920 and 1950 respectively. At present, radio is the only medium which covers almost the entire population of India and has an easy access and is the most cost effective technology for In-service training.

Television as a medium was used for the first time for teachers training in 1975 as a part of satellite instructional television experiment. This led to establishment of Centre of Education Technology (CET) and State Institute of Educational Technology (SIET) and Educational Technology (ET) cells in the State Councils of Educational Research & Training. The States Developed and produced television programmes through SIETs and transmitted through regional channels. DD GyanDarshan channel the finest example which is used for broadcasting video programmes for the benefit of children, parents and teachers.

There are three general approaches to the use of Radio and TV broadcasting in education:

- (a) Direct class teaching, where broadcast programming substitutes for teachers on a temporary basis.
- (b) School broadcasting where broadcast programming provides complementary teaching and learning resources.
- (c) General Educational programming over community. National and International stations which provide general and informal educational opportunities.

Multimedia Learning Packages (MLP)

Multimedia is an interactive instructional method that uses a computer to present material track learning and direct the user or students need. It can also be used to describe Internet based instruction through the use of Web Pages, Web Bulletin Boards, Letters and Newsgroups, Video and Real Audio, Graphics and Hands of Applications.

Multimedia packages provides varieties of audio and video presentation and make the learning interesting and self-paced. Multimedia learning uses a combination of text, graphics, sound and video in the learning process.

Learning packages are also being developed by the agencies like NCERT, SCERT and SIETs and distribute to training centres for the use of trainers

in training teachers at block and district level. Different states under DPEP . District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) has developed training packages consisting of print and audios, videos inputs for distribution to the training centres. One of the finest example is IGNOU, which has developed multimedia packages as a part of instructional materials. Thus Multimedia is very helpful in teacher education.

Tele Conferencing :

Tele conferencing means meeting through a Telecommunication medium.

It is used to train large number of school personnel such as teachers, teacher educators, parents, supervisor staff etc.

There are mainly four types of teleconferencing- audio, audio graphic, computer and video conferencing.

Audio Teleconference uses voice only. It is also known as conference calling. It is one of the most effective and cost effective method of Distance Learning .

Audio Graphics Teleconference uses narrow band telecommunication channels to transmit visual information such as graphic, alpha numeric. Documents and video pictures as an adjunct to voice communication. Here distance learning could be possible through devices like computers, Laptop, Fax, Projectors, Scanners and voice terminals.

Computer Teleconference uses telephone lines to connect to or more computers and modems. Anything that can be done on a computer can be send over the lines for example using electronic mail, memos, reports updates, newsletters can be sent to any one on Local Area Network (LAN) . Computer teleconferencing is an emerging area of distance education. Students receive text and work shop via mail. Through common files assigned to a class which each student can assess. Teachers upload syllabus, lectures, grades, remarks etc.

Video conferencing combine Audio and Video to provide voice communication and video images. It can be a one way or two way communication. It can display anything that can be capture by a TV camera. It is a common application which creates a social presence that resembles face to face communication. It is an effective way to use one teacher who teaches to a number of sites. Thus Teleconferencing is a cost effective medium

through which institutions are able to serve all students equitably.

Print Materials

The print based correspondence courses are the oldest existing form of Distance Education.; Print material refers to the study assignments, written text book, packet of pictures, directed reading, using the resources of libraries, self-assessment problems, exercises and question etc.

The major focus of print based distance education has been the upgrading of in-service teacher's basic content and pedagogical skills. Since text is still the dominant form of information in distance environment, print based instruction continues to play a crucial role in distance learning it is cost effective because both its production and distribution cost are low relative to other forms of distance learning.

CONCLUSION :

Distance Education broadens the access to teacher education in a way that traditional delivery modes cannot. The emergence of distance education will take the society towards globalisation.

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