

# Is Distance Education Really Beneficial For Our Society – A thorough study

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**Abstract:** Through this paper of ours, we will discuss with the audience, the benefits of distance education. First, we will start with the introduction, then we will continue to the history of distance education and how it is different from e-learning. We will discuss the technologies used in distance education. And the most important thing is criticism for distance education, like, why & what is the reason that an individual having the regular degree is more valued than the individual having the degree from distance education, if it is so what is the need of having the Distance Education in current education system.

**Keywords:** Virtual education, synchronous, proxy, hybrid, blended.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Distance learning/distance education is the way or giving the opportunity to the students who cannot attend the classes on regular basis due to their personal or official commitments. Mostly the courses which are conducted either fully instruction based or have the blend of instruction or online hybrid. Institution like MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses are conducted and give the large number of opportunities in the field of Distance Learning with the help and usage of technologies[1]. It also give the fair participation to the students in interactive studies through Web and other networking technologies which are prevailing in the current distance learning patterns[2]. Now a days there are different terminologies are used for Distance Education that are :Online Portal Learning, E-Learning, Web-Learning, etc)[18].

## II. IDEOLOGY & FOUNDATION

| Year | Scientist Name                | Achievements   |
|------|-------------------------------|--|
| 1728 | Boston Gazette Calab Philipps | Teacher used to mail lessons   |
| 1840 | Isaac Pitman                  | He introduced the system of mailing texts transcribed into shorthand on postcards across England, in the year.                                       |
| 1843 | Isaac Pitman                  | Started Phonographic correspondence society  |
| 1873 | Isaac Pitman                  | Founder of first school of Correspondence in United States and inspiration for encouraging the Studies from Home concept.                            |
| 1827 | Thomas Hosmer Shepherd        | Establishing its External Programme and making the institution the 1st University to offer the Degree in Distance Learning was University of London. |

|      |   |   |
|------|---|---|
| 1890 | William Rainey Harper<br>(First President of the University of Chicago) | Mentor in developing and introducing the courses which can be done externally at the University level by the New Chicago University of Chicago.   |
| 1858 | Charles Dickens<br>Founder of "Peoples University",                     | In 1858 Queen Victoria had Chartered the External Learning Programming in extending the Degree through Distance Learning providing the Higher Education to the students by University of London.                        |
| 1892 | William Rainey Harper   | Played a vital role in introducing and encouraging the courses through correspondence at School level also he was known for conceptualiser of the distance education.   |
| 1976 | Bernard Luskin  | Founder of Coastline Community College, he had introduced the concept of extending the education through tele courses, Televisions and Channels which will be inscripted with computerised assistance and instructions. |

## III. TECHNOLOGIES

In terms of methodology, there are two processes are available in distance learning for understanding :

| Traditional /Synchronous Process   | Progressive /Asynchronous Process  |
|--|--|
| In this process the physical presence and personal involvement is required with a specific pre-fixed timetable for both Teacher as well as the students required.<br>For resemblance, this may be referred Class Room Study however the students will be accessing remotely from different areas and places. Technologies used by Educator / Teacher are access the class through Video Conference, Tele Conferencing, Television Lectures, etc. | Progressive study process gives the students flexibility of time and study can be independent study is also possible.<br>Prerecording messages or references over the web are the key part of the study materials for the students.<br>Technologies used by Educators / Teachers for sharing of their ideas and study material are Voice mail, audio/video recordings, material available on Web, Message Board Forums, e-mail, Hardcopy materials, references, etc. |

### A. Distance Learning an Integral part of e-learning

All the resources used in distance learning both in Traditional & Progressive processes known the sources of e-learning[19]. Since both the methods are having the distance constraints and depending upon the technology, the both Traditional & Progressive methods can be called e-Learning Processes. Although the institutions are conducting classing, but mostly students are depending upon the e-learning[26]. By the usage of e-learning the

distance learning can be converted into the interactive and personal learning. E-Learning methods are as under :

- 1) Pace/Group Learning :-This is generally used in Traditional /Synchronous process, where students do the self study by using the Video Conference, tele conference, Television lecture, which can be in a class room pattern and a senior student or leader can drive all the students to the success through.
- 2) Internet/Web Learning:-This is used under Progressive /Asynchronous process, where learners are depending on the web references, mails, online study materials etc. This gives students flexibility and enhances their ability to explore; this may be called as self-paced process.

#### IV. BENEFITS

Distance Education is blessing in disguise for the students who has the constraints of minimum marks % barrier in their higher studies. This give the students an opportunity to go for higher education without compromising with their earnings, commitments towards family, community/personal responsibilities and with a flexy time facility. Distance learning allows institutions to uplift and upgrade the technological knowledge of their educators since they have the opportunity to interact students from remote areas, institutions can also evolve new concept of Web/Video Conferencing to interact with students face to face. Of course, last but no least the cost effectiveness make the distance learning more popular in our country since the higher education is getting more costlier and the distance education is becoming the best alternative for the students who has the money constraints for their higher studies[24].

#### V. CRITICISM

Distance Education is has its own limitations & restrictions like:

- 1) Distractions due to domestic and social responsibilities.
- 2) Less direct interaction with faculty & teachers and no proper guidance creates ruckus in students.
- 3) Loss of interest, since the time duration for completing the courses are long, it creates the loss of interest, learning students tended to drop out more often.
- 4) Use of traditional concepts and study skills.
- 5) Recognition of Degree obtained from Distance Education is always is secondary in compare to the Regular Degrees.
- 6) Unreliable technology, sometimes students refer the sources of education material which are not reliable.

#### VI. CONCLUSION

Distance education has no upper size limit. Any number of programs can be offered through distance education. Any number of students can be enrolled in these courses. In fact the usage of technology is in these courses has also

been improved. A person can enroll in two or more courses at the same time. It provides the facility to learn at home, to upgrade the knowledge, and to get a good growth.

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