



Abstract

Distance education although not a very new concept this method of imparting and gaining knowledge has gained a lot of popularity in the modern times , especially after the pandemic hit the world like a storm more and more people are adopting this mode of learning , and the market for it is expected to grow more in the coming years. In earlier times people had lot of misconceptions about distance learning and a tendency to avoid it all together was seen to be a trend among many, even after the internet made it a very easily accessible option for students from all over the world. Distance learning courses are considered to be equal to regular course by most people and the quality of the courses are expected to only get better as more time passes. Learning languages and brushing up existing communication skills can be of surmount importance in this anxiety trodden world left by the pandemic. More and more universities institutions and schools are adopting this mode of imparting knowledge as a viable option with universities choosing to offer both regular and distance learning courses to standalone open Universities becoming popular the future holds great possibilities and in this presentation we will discuss some facts about distance education.

Keywords: distance learning, education, internet, university, schools, language

Introduction:

Distance education is a mode of learning for students for whom the traditional route of education may not always be available. The programmes are designed in a way that it can be accessed by students over long distances usually inculcating the online mode of imparting education or through postal services. The online services can be opted by students as per their own convenience.

People who enrol into Distance education:

As time moves on in the 21st century distance education proves to be more and more effective.

Thanks to the development of the internet and other digital medias distance education is becoming more and more effective , whether it be for working professionals or for kids with special needs or elderly people with a re kindled urge to learn , distance education can provide for everybody

The Covid-19 pandemic has stood for a new testament to the power of distance education, whether it is new courses being set up to meet the needs of the market or traditional existing courses taking the online route , Distance education has opened up all kinds of new avenues to learners from all over the world. Not only will this open up all kinds of new opportunities for a better future it will make education available to people from areas such as but not limited to:

i) Students from remote areas- Students from outskirts of cities and towns especially from rural areas don't have access to good quality institutions or none at all, and travelling long distances regularly to attend classes is next to impossible for such students is next to impossible so a lot of them remain undereducated lacking in career prospects and keeps them in a perpetual cycle of illiteracy and poverty, it is as harmful for themselves as it is for the nation and the world at large.

ii) Students with financial constraints- Most traditional institutions are expensive to study in , whereas distance education is considerably a lot cheaper when compared that let's students with financial constraints get a chance to study and build a better future for themselves

iii) Students with special needs- A lot of kids may have special needs they may not fit into the general curriculums provided by the institutions with all the time constraints and other kinds of work and peer pressure ,for them home schooling is a much better option.

iv) Working professionals- Working professionals usually don't have time for regular classes so they usually go for distance education programmes to get educated get better at their job and to serve the society.

v) Students pursuing multiple courses at once- Students nowadays don't focus on one course at a time a lot of students nowadays pursue two courses at once , one full time course and a part time course to add more value to their resume and to get better job prospects.

vi) Elderly people with a rekindled love for learning- Given the new found opportunities that the modern world provides nowadays , everybody wants to utilize it and gain more , this trend can be seen in elderly people enrolling back to institutions for learning more and to get a certificate or a degree .

Pros of distance education- Distance education is for everybody weather it is kids going to school, working professionals or people wishing to learn more or increase their qualifications , some positives going for distance education are-

i) Less time spent on transportation- Time saved from travelling to institutes can be used for pursuing other productive pursuits by the students and for working professionals this can mean the difference between completing or not completing the course.

ii) Cheaper than full time courses- Distance education programmes tend to be cheaper than most full time courses which is great opportunity for under privileged students.

iii) At par with full time courses- Most distance education programmes are considered as equivalent to their full time counterparts.

iv) Flexibility- Distance education courses provide a higher amount of flexibility for everybody, in terms of study time course duration etc.

Cons of distance education- There are a few arguments against distance education some of them are as follows-

i) Lack of regular classes- Lack of regular classes can mean the lessons are not properly understood or doubts not cleared properly, which can be a very big problem.

ii) Lack of networking opportunities- Not being able to interact with class mates can be a very big issues as not only are they a source of inspiration, classmates also introduce each other to new ideas and opportunities.

ii) Lack of regular scrutiny- Regular scrutiny and correction from teacher means that the learning is being done properly, lack of scrutiny could mean that the lessons are not learnt properly.

Some facts about distance education- Distance education is growing fast day by day, some interesting facts about distance learning are-

i) According to the National Centre for Education Statistics data approximately 6.9 million students in America approximately 35% of them are enrolled in some form of distance education in 2019.

ii) Undergraduate participation in distance education courses has grown up to 34.5% as of 2018.

iii) In India there are a total of 13 open universities and more than 140 dual mode universities.

iv) The online education market in India was worth around \$247 million in 2016, the industry is estimated to grow.

v) There is an estimated increase of around 175% in the cost of regular traditional classroom education, distance education therefore becoming a more preferred mode of education as it is more cost effective.

vi) Within the demographic age group of around 15-40 nearly 48% of the population has aspirations for better job prospects for them online education is a very lucrative offering.

History of distance education- The first ever distance education course in the current sense of the word was started by Isaac Pitman in the 1840s, who taught a short hand system by mailing his students texts transcribed into shorthand on postcards and then the students sent back transcripts for correction. The University of London was the 1st University ever to offer distance learning courses in 1828.

Language learning through distance learning- Learning various foreign languages has become much easier with distance education online education platforms with apps like Smart STEM Learning and One Lingo, Services like this provide Tutorial Videos quizzes and support from well-trained educators, quality services like these are a boon for students.

Distance learning on the light of the Covid-19 pandemic- The Covid-19 has brought forth numerous challenges in front of the world from slowing down the economy, shutting down institutions to rising fatality rates everything has been out of balance totally, and the education has been facing surmount challenges in every possible way, most schools and colleges have started taking online classes and exams as the education cannot be hampered at all as after the pandemic gets over the economy would be in a dire need of highly educated professionals to take care of the economy the essential services and the overall infrastructure of the society at

large. Most professionals are opting for certain types of courses to increase their skills and to utilize the time a lot of them are getting owing to closed offices and schools.

Conclusion- Distance education is being adopted by more and more students from all over the world and the numbers are expected to grow more and more after the corona virus pandemic gets over, it's obviously a good option now to get enrolled into a distance learning course now. Increased skills and qualifications will not only land individuals with better future prospects but it will them to build a better society with better infrastructure and to avoid the mistakes that were made this time around.

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