A Study on Paradigm of Distance Education

Pallavi Chopade, Tejas Gujar and Sneha Singh

Abstract: Huge number of population is void of education due to weak financial condition and also due to not being able to physically attend the classes. For such class of population a better alternative is provided called distance education. Distance education provides a cost effective education to the students who cannot physically attend the classes. Nowadays universities are also offering more interactive classes using World Wide Web or other network technologies. This paper basically presents a comparative study of different universities (Bharati Vidyapeeth University, Pune University, Symbiosis International University) providing distance education. It states the effectives of respective universities covering role, beneficiaries, strategy, communication, courses provided etc. by them. It also provides all information required for students to learn the ways and means of distance learning.

Keywords: Distance education, cost effective, role, beneficiaries, strategy, communication.

INTRODUCTION

Distance education or distance learning cuts the barriers of physical presence at a school. It's education or learning for the students who can't physically attend the classes. Courses that are conducted partly through distance education and partly on-site are referred to as hybrid or blended education. There are recent developments in distance education such as massive open online courses (MOOCs), offering large-scale interactive participation and open access through the World Wide Web or other network technologies. Different terms (distributed learning, e-learning, online learning, etc.) are used synonymously with distance education.

Distance learning has wider scope for educating to all masses as it is flexible in scheduling; it reduces the effects of many time-constraints imposed by personal responsibilities and commitments. Higher education is costly that's why distance education gives an alternative in order to provide some relief to bigger masses. It is more cost-effective form of learning. These types of learning save a significant amount of money as opposed to traditional education. It promotes best learning experiences and therefore, allows students to obtain higher satisfaction with their online learning.

OBJECTIVES:

a. To trace the paradigms in management distance education offered by different universities.

b. To compare the management distance education programs offered by different universities. (curriculum, class of the students, assessment, career growth)

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LITERATURE REVIEW

Research paper	Details of the publication	Inference
Distance learning in India- A comparative study	Kashyap Mahanta and Guruprasad Khataniar International Multidisciplinary Journal, ISSN: 2277-1697	The paper focuses on various advantages of distance education to the students who cannot access regular education as well as has compared various known universities like SCDL, IGNOU, etc. It has also focused on peer to peer file sharing system while has concluded that internet has played a great role in actually minimizing the distance between the universities and the distant students.
Attitude towards Distance Education among Graduate Students.	International Journal of Scientific and Engineering Research, volume 6, Issue 8, August 2015 ISSN 2229-5518	This paper has focused on the attitude and perception of college students and graduates towards distance education which has got both positive and negative responses. The advantages of Distance education over Formal education in highly populated and diverse country like India has also been discussed in the paper and little light has also been put on the evolution of Distance education
Revisiting Teacher's preparation: Responding to Technology Transience in the Educational Setting	Muilenburg, Lin Y.; Berge, Zane L. Quarterly Review of Distance Education Journal Issue: Volume 16# 2	Setting Teacher Education states that teacher preparation programs should be encouraged to: A primary goal of teacher education is to develop teachers who can work effectively with increasingly diverse learners in technology-enabled settings. Many education institutes prepare programs, which are taking part in reform efforts and updating programs to meet current educational needs. An important aspect of these efforts is to address the increasingly critical role of technology in developing 21st century skills, as well as to improve teachers' use of technology

Distance Training: How Innovative Organizations are using Technology to Maximize Learning and Meet Business Objectives	Schreiber, D. A. and Berge, Z. L. Journal of Educational Technology & Society Vol. 3, No. 2 (April 2000), pp. 110-113	To maintain an educated, high-performance workforce in today's global economy is very tough. Due to increased competition, regulatory bodies, changing technology, and process re-engineering, traditional employee practice and capability relationship is disturbed. The need for training, retraining, and lifelong learning by professionals' demands that continuing education and staff development accommodate diverse learning environments, including the home, office or offsite conference room. To meet such demands, organizations and businesses are relying on communications technology and distance learning to deliver training.
Barriers to Distance Education: a factor- analytic study.	American Journal of Distance Education (volume 15)	This study provides following barriers in distance education: (1) administrative arrangement, (2) organizational change, (3) technical expertise, (4) social interaction and quality, (5) faculty compensation and time, (6) technological threat (7) legal issues (8) assessment/efficiency, (9) right to use (10) student support services.
Barriers to distance education and training: survey results.	The Quarterly Review of Distance Education (volume 3, Issue 4)	For better understanding the barriers to distance training and education, a survey (n= 2504) was conducted. This study provides the evidences of barriers in distance education. Implications include: 1) recognition that it is common for the perceived barriers to be greater in the initial stages of organizational maturity in distance education and training, and 2) it should be expected that the ranking of which obstacles are most important to solve will change as distance training and education within the organization

		becomes mission-critical.
Implementing corporate distance training using change management, strategic planning and project management.	Web-based instructional learning	As businesses expand to become a lot of globally competitive, their wants grow to coach geographically distributed workers in an exceedingly cost-efficient manner. An important role of the coaching and performance specialists in business is to assist management solve complicated issues inside a corporation. Still, distance education is typically not accomplished by one cluster inside a corporation, nor through one method. To change the manner coaching is completed, performance managers should use what's well-known concerning amendment management, strategic coming up with and project management so as to with success implement technology-enhanced learning globally.
Can Interest in distance training be sustained in corporate organizations	International Journal of Instructional Technology & Distance Learning	One of the strategies being employed progressively within the work is distance coaching. Establishment of distance coaching solutions in company organizations has increased on an oversized scale all round the world. This is very true among organizations that have workers and purchasers scattered in varied locations round the globe. The implementation of distance coaching is an efficient tool for reducing coaching value, saving time, and creating a more knowledgeable and productive workforce. Even so, implementation of distance coaching in company organizations is moving at a comparatively slow pace (Lane, nd; Portway & Lane, nd). One theory is that many organizations just do not have the internal expertise to properly plan for the change in learning paradigms. Other organizations notice

Support For Distance Education And Training.	Distance Learning (vol 3)	it troublesome to foster wide scale interest and currently struggle to keep up their distance educational program. Couple these two factors with the substantial increase in Internet bandwidth capacity just within the last several years, and one gets a potential student community ready and able to receive just about any traditional e-learning curriculum and courseware that an institution of higher learning might produce-provided sufficient student support is provided to ensure that the students are free to focus on their" learning experience" and not on the method of delivery. Only a preplanned, fully supported and funded, comprehensive, holistic support plan allows for e-learning students to maximize their educational experience with distance education.

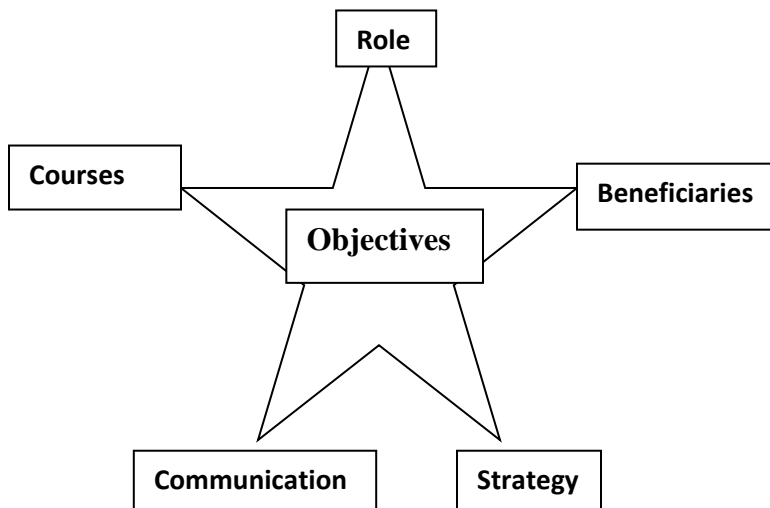## SIGNIFICANCE AND RELEVANCE OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT

Figure1: Paradigm Star

IMPACT OF RESEARCH PROJECT:

This research analyzed the different paradigms in management education which facilitates the guidelines for the students as well as education providers. This study helps the education providers for appropriate changes as per the paradigm of distance education. This study helps the students to learn the ways and means of distance learning.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In-depth literature review has been carried out. For understanding of changing pattern in distance learning, three universities are selected. Their management courses,

role of teaching and administrative staff, various beneficiaries, different communication medium to students and strategies adopted to achieve excellence have been studied. In-depth personal and telephonic interviews have been taken from distance learning students of selected universities. Secondary data is collected from university websites, brochures, newspaper advertisements, digital advertisements, social media reviews, etc. After analyzing primary and secondary data following dots of distance education: paradigm star are presented.

Paradigm star explained by taking examples of following three universities

Paradigm Star	Bharati vidyapeeth University, School of Distance Education distance.bharatividyapeeth.edu/	DPU Institute of distance learning http://www.dpuidl.com/ https://dypatildistancelearning.com/	Symbiosis Centre for Distance Learning www.scdl.net/
Role of university	Bharati vidyapeeth provides a quality distance education to huge number of students across India since 1996. With the promotion of self-learning, Bharati Vidyapeeth plays an important role in removal of barriers like time and place in getting education hence accelerating the principle of continuous and life-long learning.	A well renowned international university has been providing distance education to huge number of students. It aims to remove the constraints of financial resources, time and place, motivates house wives and senior citizens to complete their education and over 50,000 people access the same annually.	Symbiosis Centre for distance education started since 2001, aims to provide practical knowledge to distant students so as to help them facing the competitive workplace. SCDL is in collaboration with number of companies like HDFC bank, IIBM Jet India, Reliance retail, TCS etc. (approached for placements.)

Beneficiaries	Distance education Bharati Vidyapeeth helps people all around the country as well as outsiders who are Employed, professional dropouts, and especially economically weaker students (rural, tribal) medically weaker students, women population etc. to access quality education through the distance education program by the university.	The students accessing distance education are Housewives, Senior citizens, financially weaker people, dropouts, professionally employed etc. A huge set of students are benefited due to Pune university distance education.	SCDL has provided with various opportunities to working people for brushing up their skills such as Diploma in English language teaching (teachers) and then other beneficiaries are professionals like writers, business men, other working employees etc.
Strategies adopted to boost Distance education	The provision of On-line courses and online study material. Organization of One day 'field work induction programme 2018- 2019' for MSW 1st year students. On-line live counseling sessions, access to recorded lectures if missed due to some reasons. Grade/ class improvement (The candidates unsatisfied with their grades are given grade improvement chance only with respect to theory exams.)	Flexible fee payment options Collaboration with leading organizations including indigo Airlines, American Express, Cipla etc. Highly qualified academicians, industry professionals, and various support learners such as study plans, blogs and online lectures.	Blended learning: Students are given access to three forms of learning i.e. published or self-learning, Digital e-learning (faculty interaction or chat sessions), and online classroom facilities. The virtual classroom facility: live interaction with faculties and access to archived or recorded lectures. 'Modular Course System' (short term sessions) with credit banking facility: Students can take any single course and bank and accumulate credits for future transfer to other programs of SCDL.
Communication modes	E-learning support: e-learning material available on the university web portal 'e-learning web portal' (econnect.bvuict.in) Induction and orientation programs. Full time counseling desk: student can contact the office through e-mails or other Medias for solving their queries. Personal Contact Sessions: It is conducted by academic	Efficient web based student support system 24*7 availability of team to address student issues and solve their problems within 24-48 hours. Personal telephonic conversation, live chat options. Assistance by pro-active counselors and can even seek answers to queries by either on-line filing of forms or visit the office.	A dedicated call center's for promptly responding and guiding students' queries. SCDL contains internet portal 'www.scdl.net' wherever varied facilities like on-line assignment submission, on-line exams, message board, message, field e-mail ID with ten GB mailbox, ability to look at admission and

	Study Centre, generally on holidays where distant students get chance to interact with professors for solving their doubts queries etc.		academic status.
Examples : Management Courses provided	Bachelor of Business Administration (B.B.A) Bachelor of Computer Applications (B.C.A) Master of Business Administration (M.B.A) Master of Business Administration in Core HR Master of Business Administration in Executive Master of Computer Applications (M.C.A)	MBA with following specializations; Marketing Management, Human Resource Management, Finance Management, IT Management, Project Management, Operations Management, Hospital Administration and Health Management, International Business Management	PG Diploma in- Business Administration International Business IT Management Banking and Finance Human Resource Management Insurance Management Retail Management customer Relationship Management Supply Chain Management Export and Import Management Technical Writing in Business Management PG Certificate in Digital Marketing

CONCLUSION

Distance education is proved as wonder for population willing to educate but not being able, due to different barriers like cost, distance, time, educational resources etc. It can also be seen that universities (Bharati Vidyapeeth School of Distance Education, Dr. D Y Patil University Institute of Distance Learning, and Symbiosis Centre for Distance Learning) are providing quality education with breath taking facilities such as World Wide Web and many other network technologies. Each university has implemented different methods and strategies and has its own pros and cons. But the one common thing is that they are working day in and out to overcome barriers of education like distance, time, money, educational resources etc. Yet they are not totally successful and still have certain loop holes and departments to work on. But with better planning, research and implementing better facilities, strategies and technologies they can overcome them. There is still a huge scope for betterment and hopefully soon these universities will achieve a better version of distance education.

SUGGESTIONS

- Few suggestions are listed below for universities to think upon for betterment of distance education.
- Students along with theoretic knowledge also require practical knowledge so universities should allow distant students to participate in practical activities if they are willing to participate such as IMED xpressions, Reverb symbiosis etc.
- Distant students willing to take part in sports should also be considered.
- Each university has its pros and cons so they must try to include other universities pros in their university and overcome cons.
- Regular tests should be conducted of distance students and they should also be accordingly awarded for it.
- Each university should try to maintain personal contacts with the distance students and have at least one phone call a couple of weeks.
- Content provided to the distant students should be regularly updated.
- All distant should be brought together so that they won't feel isolated, may be by creating a

WhatsApp group of all distant students. With such a group even they will always be updated about any important information.

- Each university should always try and keep themselves updated about new innovations and technologies developed which may help them in betterment of distance education.

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