



## E-learning in distance education: A contemporary pedagogical technique for learning

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### Abstract

In recent era, online distance education become more fascinating technique for learning and eventually in the last few decades there is a speedy increase and development in information technology had wheezing the gaps between different countries. ODE (Online Distance Education) is a new and improvised version of distance learning. The term ODE is ambiguous those outside the online learning industry and even its diverse disciple, it has different meanings to the different people this article explores how people shows interest towards new technologies and skills, in a consistent and effectual manner and these advancements of computer and networking technologies provides a various means to support learning in more customized, handy, and on-demand manner. These radical changes in learning leads that, Technology is fuel for modern leaning era of the internet commonly referred as online distance education learning. This article deals with the current state of online distance education and its opportunities. And it focuses the new dimensions in ODE and explains how it is useful for the students and professional community.

**Keywords:** ODE, technology, network, computer

### 1. Introduction

Distance education is defined as a technique of teaching where the student and teacher are physically separated. It can operate a permutation of technologies, including correspondence, audio, video, computer, and the Internet. Today's version of distance education is E-learning education, which uses computers and the Internet as the delivery mechanism with at least 80% of the course content delivered online. E-Learning in distance education is a ricochet across the globe. In countries like India also E-Learning market will showing fast and significant growth. Government and corporations see it as an essence of business strategy, and the students have gone mad for the courseware and the flexibility of the system. With the introduction of internet technologies in 1995 (India), the information can be readily communicated to any part of the country, overcoming the geographical limitations. This has led to better integration of systems employed in government organizations, corporations and other business institutes. The exchange of ideas, expertise and collaboration can take place almost anytime and anywhere.

E-Learning may be taken as the latest form of distance learning intervened by state-of-art technologies like Internet and World-Wide-Web. In present days, many of the universities and educational institutions worldwide offers online services such as for admissions, virtual (online) learning portals in order to assist the ultimate learning and to make this well-suited with other educational management activities. Contemporary e-learning investigation brings together pedagogical, technological and organizational apprehensions within a wider set of socio-cultural factors. Understanding issues & challenges in respect of e-learning is of significant importance to the research communities involved in e-learning and will have a significant role in forming future practices.

### 2. Historical background of Indian distance education

In India, Distance Education for higher education was instigated in the form of Correspondence Courses in the year 1962, in comeback to the high-end demand for higher education which could not be met by the conventional system. The Delhi University launched a School of Correspondence Courses and Continuing Education in 1962. With the same pace the Education Commission (1964-66) suggested the expansion of correspondence education for various purposes. As a result, the University Grants Commission (UGC) formulated guidelines for introducing correspondence courses in Indian Universities. Three more Institutes of Correspondence Studies were started in the late sixties. Because of the same intensity in seventies Twenty one plus universities introduced correspondence programs. In the early eighties seven more universities started institutes of correspondences studies. At present there are 55 universities including four deemed universities offering correspondence programs in the country.

Distance education has two major components, distance teaching and distance learning. Distance teaching is the efforts of the educational institution to design develop and deliver instructional experiences to the distant student so that learning may occur. Education and distance education is comprised of teaching and learning. This task force concentrated on distance teaching.

#### 2.1 E-Learning in Distance education

E-learning: E-Learning is a new expression that refers to an extensive range of electronically distributed education and training materials. It most universally refers to anytime, anywhere electronic or computer-supported learning and is often associated with online courses. It also includes the power point presentations, short video films, questionnaire based materials and graphical representations to teach all the stuff. Defines the term E-learning as, the use of Internet technologies

to deliver a broad array of solutions that enhance knowledge and performance”.

In present era, E-Learning is the latest variety of distance learning supported by state-of-art technologies like Internet and World-Wide-Web. They must remember that E-Learning is much more than online training or Computer-Based Training (CBT), encompassing knowledge management and electronic performance support, Computer –conferencing enabling group communication, enabled by Internet and WWW is one the key characteristics of e-learning which makes it qualitatively much superior to the conventional distance learning.

### 2.2 Growth of distance education

Across the globe the popularity of Distance Education is incredible. There are number of online portals and Ed-Tech Startups providing course materials for every individual. By this way distance learning gaining attraction and growing like anything compare with conventional education. Now, everyone gets to be a student, everybody gets to learn and everybody gets to move towards their future.

Distance education has become a useful mode of obtaining degrees for a large number of students who are staying in far off and remote areas and for whom accessing universities on regular basis is still a dream. The following table shows the growth of Distance education compare with regular mode education.

**Table 1:** Gender wise Distance learning enrollment 2015-16

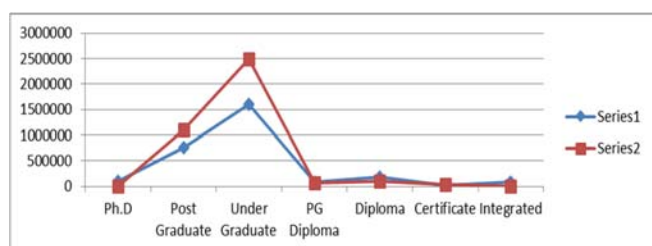
Level	Distance enrollment		
	Male	Female	Total
Ph.D	87	49	136
Post Graduate	510526	597836	1108362
Under Graduate	1421708	1077682	2499390
PG Diploma	41383	27252	68635
Diploma	64175	40053	104228
Certificate	17374	26775	44149
Integrated	1	0	1
Total	2055254	176947	3824901

Source: All India Survey on Higher Education 2015-16

**Table 2:** Comparison between Regular Enrollments and Distance learning Enrollment 2015-16

Level	Regular	Distance
Ph.D	109416	136
Post Graduate	768640	1108362
Under Graduate	1599953	2499390
PG Diploma	90769	68635
Diploma	183717	104228
Certificate	15083	44149
Integrated	92823	1
Total	2885279	3824901

Source: All India Survey on Higher Education 2015-16



**Fig 1**

### 3. Witness for growth of distance learning

- a. **Economical learning:** Distance education (online or otherwise) may offers more affordable fee structure than the fee of a regular on-campus education. This platform allows the Students who are looking for economically viable options.
- b. **Rhythm of learning:** It is the prime advantage of distance learning. This program offers the Earners (employees) to learn, so it is the encouraging sign to get the recognition between the peer group and firm. As long as the distance learning program is accredited, you need not be worried. Private sector employers also value a distance education degree now, and even encourage employees to pursue higher education along with their job so that employees can develop skills and expertise in their field of work.
- c. **Flexible Learning:** It is another prime advantage of distance learning. It holds true for those who are working professional and want to study side by side. It also has an advantage that you can fund your own studies by working. This advantage is also valid as in case of E-learning. It provides us with the advantage of learning and earning which goes hand in hand making it easier for weaker sections of the society to learn things.
- d. **Effective Learning:** Distance learning is always effective when you endow your time and efforts into the course which you are selected. Apparently, if the student is very lethargic might not get the fruitful outcome which he/she were looking for and those who are preoccupied with a job or a family might not be able to throw enough time to their course.
- e. **Learning with own pace:** Everyone has their own unique pace of learning. In the traditional learning certain restrictions, fear and boundaries may influence the student to show his/her pace. One of the biggest advantages of distance learning is that you can study at a pace that is comfortable for you. This benefit holds true for the E-learning as well, you can use as much time as you want to on a certain subject without having a fear of being left out or not understanding. This creates a much more effective learning for student. The same topic can be revised over and over again.

### 4. Challenges of distance learning

- a. **Technological revisions**  
The Distance e-learning elevates significant challenges in the technological research area. For growth of e-learning resources that meet the users requirement need to be addressed. The technological challenges of e-learning can be considered as a two key technological research areas.
- b. **New Forms of Learning**  
In E-learning environments interaction, cooperation and community play an important role to support learning. The developments in the area of E-learning environments provide new forms of interaction for learning experience. It generates new relationships between learner and computer and also forms a new learning community. Key issues include:
  - New forms of multimodal interface to support learning.
  - New techniques to understand and support learning communities.
  - The development of systems to support mobile communities of learners.

- Personalization techniques that meet user personal needs and current activity.
- Techniques to promote and support interaction.
- Discovery of new learning communities.
- Support for time to time assessment services.

### c. Developing New Knowledge Facilities for e-learning

E-Learning environment needs to support the rapid increase in the size and variety of data by appropriate semantic services. The semantic services generate a surrounding semantic context for learning support. Research that needs to work on:

- Development of learning and reasoning theories for uncertain and incomplete knowledge.
- Support for the development of large-scale learning facilities.
- Support for a dynamic learning process.
- Support for information sharing across different learning facilities.
- Developments of lightweight knowledge capture technique for promotion of lifelong learning

### 5. Conclusion

E-Learning in Distance education is rapidly becoming a trendy mode of study among students worldwide. This tendency is also noticeable in universities, with the appearance of several higher education distance learning institutions using online learning to support its learning activities. Through this paper, we trying to focus on various issues and challenges in implementing E-learning system. E-learning is a very broad area of research in terms of education system. By offering this kind of E-Learning approach, education organization could play much better for student centric operation towards positive enhancement of his/her performance.

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