**Distance Education as a Vehicle of Non Formal Education**

Non formal mode is in between the traditional or formal school system and “informal learning” with no particularly clear or sharp edges. Example: schooling of adults who have never been exceedingly limited also tends to be labeled “non formal”. In many countries government have established non formal mode of education for adults and allowed different departments to give no formal education in educational activities such as agriculture, health and rural development. Often the main purpose non formal education is to educate school learners or dropouts. NFE also has clearly defined educational objectives. This characteristic is the same as the formal education.

Non formal education shares these characteristics with formal education and this helps to distinguish it from informal education. Back to the ground end of the curriculum, more recent distinguish non formal from formal education by contrasting their characteristics. Non formal education occupies the middle ground between the traditional school system and informal learning practices with no particularly clear or sharp edges at the boundaries. For instance, forms of schooling for children that happen not to take place within classrooms walls yet which teach the formal curriculum in sometimes more flexible fashion and which potentially feed into the formal examination and credentialing system are often lumped in with the informal system.

Three main points regarding this are helpful here

* Non formal education is organized
* NFE serves identifiable clientele

Distance education is a planned education that occurs in a different location from teaching. Non formal education is organized, it is planned designed structured and managed but it does not happen casually. In other words non formal education has clearly defined educational objectives. Non formal education offer opportunities for learning to clearly identified target audience. If teachers control the educational program, then it is formal, but if learners control the educational program then it is become the non formal program. NFE program include people with disabilities and consider their needs during program planning. Distance learning degree often cost less than a full degree course. Online education allows for one to be flexible. You can work and study at the same time. Non formal education is flexible and students can learn and earn together. In non formal education you are able to studies in urban area, without having to attend classes. Non formal are open curriculum and problem centered education. Non formal education programs that use these media enhance their impact and effectiveness by using them in a study or learning group context.

Schooling for adults who have never been to school or whose schooling has been exceedingly limited also tends to be labeled “non formal”. In many countries, during the last two decades, governments have established departments of non formal education as part of their ministries of education and have given these departments responsibility for all adult and out-of-school education, with a vague responsibility for co-coordinating adult education activities carried out by other ministries, such as agriculture, health, and rural development. Main focus of Non formal education is adult literacy and continuing education, parallel to the formal system, for school Leavers and dropouts. This falls into a category that Non Formal education (NFE) most of which is adult basic education (ABE). ABE and NFE are overlapping descriptors. ABE activities do fall within the non formal sector, although in exemplary cases they may also lead, to credentials which enable participants to continue their education within the formal system.

Non formal initiatives often appear to be so informal compared with the rigors of the formal system that they tend to merge with the informal sector. Three main points are helpful here, in terms of setting NFE off from the informal sector. First, non formal education is organized. That is, it is planned; designed, structured and managed it does not happen casually. Second, non formal education serves identifiable clients. In other words, non formal education offers opportunities for learning to clearly identified target audiences. And third, non formal education also has clearly defined educational objectives. Although it is outside the formal system, Non formal education shares these characteristics with formal education, and this helps to distinguish it from informal education.

Distance Education requires;

* Structured planning
* Well designed courses
* Special instructional techniques
* Methods of communication by electronic and other technologies

Distance Education is a process of teaching in which a system of instruction is developed to teach pupils without having physical contact between instructor and learners. It is one of the most popular systems t educate people now a days. Many of institutions in the world are using this system to deliver education to especially deprived groups and working class in different areas.

In developing and developed countries, it has been deployed as an in-service vehicle to fulfill a mandate to upgrade the knowledge, skills, and qualifications of an existing teaching force. Distance education, mainly in the form of Web-based education, serves as a vehicle for continuing education, offering enrichment, enhancement, and additional certifications for teachers who have attained at least a minimum level of certification for their content and grade level. Distance learning, also called no formal education/ distance education, e-learning, and online learning, form of education in which the main elements include physical separation of teachers and students during instruction and the use of various technologies to facilitate student-teacher and communication. Distance learning traditionally has focused on nontraditional students, such as full-time workers, military personnel, and nonresidents or individuals in remote regions who are unable to attend classroom lectures. However, distance learning has become an established part of the educational world, with trends pointing to ongoing growth.

Non formal education, then, occupies the middle ground between the traditional school system and informal learning practices, with no particularly clear or sharp edges at the boundaries. For instance, forms of schooling for children that happen not to take place within classroom walls, yet which teach the formal curriculum in somewhat more flexible fashion and which potentially feed into the formal examinations and credentialing system, are often lumped in with the informal system. However, these, are perhaps more usefully termed “alternative” schools within the formal system.

Distance education as a vehicle of non formal education has benefits;

* adaptability & freedom
* self inspirations

Distance education as a vehicle of non formal education has more value than regular courses. It also depends on various other situations. If you have experience and you are pursuing higher education in same line to enhance your degree, then it does count. For higher education people are mostly doing through distance education. It involves obtaining knowledge without regular classroom attendance at a find location, “the mode of learning fulfills the education opportunities needed by anyone, anywhere, and any time”.

NFL includes various structured learning situations which do not either have the level of curriculum, syllabus, accreditation and certification associated with formal learning, but have more structure than that associated with “informal learning”, which typically take place naturally and spontaneously as part of other activities. These form the three styles of learning recognized and supported by OECD. Examples of non formal learning include swimming sessions for toddlers. Community based sports programs and programs developed by organizations such as the boy scouts and girl guides, community or non credit adult education courses, sports or fitness programs, professional conference style seminars, and continuing professional development. The learner’s objectives maybe to increase skills and knowledge, as well as to experience the emotional rewards associated with increased love for a subject or increase passion for learning.

D.E is planned learning that occurs in a different place from teaching. It requires special course design and instruction techniques, communication through various technologies and special organizational. So we said D.E same like a non formal education and it is a vehicle of non formal education.