

PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES IN DISTANCE EDUCATION

I have tried to mention the common problems that arises in distance education. These may be either due to any means , but they are the real problem in this form of education over the classroom program.

1. Nature of Study Material:

This problem is common with newer distance students. Study materials must take into account the significant proportion of students who enroll with little or no experience of distance study. The background of the learner is important in the preparation of the learning materials. It is difficult to prepare lessons according to the individual differences of the learners. Moreover we are providing similar material to rural and urban students having different needs, experiences and learning environment. If a student is more technical then he won't retain in distance education.

2. Lack of Multi-Media Instruction:

There is more stress on sending of printed materials. But there is a dearth of facilities of multi-media instruction. The variety in the learning materials also improves the quality of learning. The lessons written for the students usually are written by the teachers belonging to the traditional system and therefore these materials normally lack in itself instructions methodology.

3. Insecurities about learning:

More so than traditional students, distance learners are more likely to have insecurities about learning. These insecurities are found in personal and school related issues such as financial costs of study, disruption of family life, perceived irrelevance of their studies and lack of support from employers. These pressures often result in higher dropout rates than among traditional students.

4. Lack of feedback or contact with the teacher:

Because there is no daily or weekly face to face contact with teachers, students may have trouble in self-evaluation and consequently, such students would be more likely to drop out.

5. Lack of support and services:

Talking of this with the real life example. You all know about “university of Berkeley” and also u can easily find its open courseware but still only 20% of its book are online. So, student services such as library services, admissions and financial aid is a critical aspect of any distance learning program. The isolation that results from the distance learning process can complicate the learning process for adult students.

6. Lack of Social Interaction:

Students involved in distance education are not social and cannot tell the answer of the social evnt or thing. I have heard a real example once and in that the speaker asked the boy of distance education “What do you know about taxes” ,and teacher became shocked by his answer. His answer is “raising taxes is bad”

7. Lack of the presence of a teacher:

One may say in this matter that teacher will reply for the e-mail of the students ,but if we think of it then how the teacher could reply the 1000 of students who post their query through e-mail.

8. Low Status of Distance Education Institutes:

Lots and lots of institutes have been opened for distance education today. For a new person its being very hard to know which student is better ,if it provide the better education, what the recruiter think about that institute.

9. Misconception about the Role of Distance Education departments:

University authorities and facilities of regular departments think that the main function of distance education departments is to mobilize resources for meeting the deficit of the University. This is fallacious and wrong impression. Distance education can provide services at less cost but cannot be like coaching academies.

10. Discrimination with the Product of the Distance Education Departments:

Inspite of great success of distance education still the recruiters in the developing and undeveloped countries think that students doing distance education course are weak that doing the tradational students.

11. Lack of support by the faculty:

It can easily be thought that faculty won't reply the several number of students and some students can also miss in reply ,also the single instructor can reply for only a limited number of students.