

ATTITUDE OF STUDENT TOWARDS PERSONAL CONTACT PROGRAMME IN DISTANCE LEARNING

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ABSTRACT

PCP provides an academic platform and learning milieu where the difficult concepts enmeshed in the course contents are explained by the role in DE. Which is to solve distance learning problems of learner. Since in the distance education system personal contact or face-to-face encounter between the learners and teachers is very minimal. PCP is organizing for the counselling and guidance of learners. This paper refers to attitude of student towards personal contact programme in distance learning. To what extent PCP are matchable, perfectable and beneficent according to their attitudes with gender difference. This paper focuses on attitude of student towards PCP in distance learning.

Keywords : ATTITUDE OF STUDENT, PCP, DISTANCE LEARNING

INTRODUCTION:

Distance education is an umbrella term which describes all the teaching learning arrangements in which the learners and the teachers are separated by space and time. This is a continuous process of teaching-learning where students reap the advantages of the direct teaching. With a view to removing of difficulties or satisfying the academic need of the distance learners, the personal contact programme is planned and organized to provide the distance learners a face-to-face teaching-learning experiences. In distance education most learning is self-directed. Learners are by their own choosing their courses. PCP provides guidance facilities to the learner. It is a short-term period of instruction. This programme is conducted in the regional study centres. This will help the learners by conducting programme. As the duration of the programme is very limited, it is practically impossible to have a sentence by sentence discussion.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PCP:

The following are the objectives of PCP at the study centre:

- To impart the knowledge of the course in a capsular and concise form highlighting its main points.
- To orient the learners about the importance of acquiring the knowledge.
- To develop an understanding of the basic and difficult concept.
- To prepare the students for responses.
- To create positive attitude in their subjects.
- To certify the learners for assignments responses.
- To build confidence amount the learners.
- To remove the feeling of loneliness.
- To restore faith upon the distance learning.

STUDENTS' ATTITUDE:

Improving students' attitude towards PCP is a major goal in distance education. Attitude is a predisposition or a tendency to respond positively or negatively towards a certain idea, object, person or situation. Attitude influences an individual's choice of action, and responses to challenges, incentives and reward. Thurstone said "An attitude denotes the sum total of man's inclinations and feelings, prejudice or bias, preconceived notions, ideas, fears, threats and other any6 specific topic".

According to Damodar Bedanta, Retired Headmaster who suggests that attitude influence on the behavior of person. He also gives his valuable opinion from his service period that an attitude is a summary of a person's past experience this, an attitude is grounded in direct experience predicts future behavior more accurately, which indicates the sum total of man's inclinations and feelings.

Therefore, the researcher of this study defines attitude is a predisposition to response towards PCP in distance education. Attitude will be measured by the learner in this study various factors determine the level of attitudes towards PCP in distance education like interest, usefulness, impact and acceptance.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE STUDY:

Attitude can be described as a tendency to react positively6 or negatively towards PCP in distance education. Every distant learner can get education through PCP within the short period in India. The students who are belongs to admitted in distance education programme. They have faced many problem to achieve the success. Awareness of people and a healthy attitude can ensure. The equity access and quality of learning through ODL system. The following characteristics of attitude are given in below :

1. Attitudes are the complex combination of thing we tend to call personality, beliefs, values, behaviors and motivations.
2. It can fall anywhere along a continuum from very favorable to unfavorable.
3. It exists in every person's mind. Which helps to define our identity, guide our actions and influence how we judge people.
4. It helps us define how we see situations as well as define how we behave toward the situation or object.
5. It causes us to behave in a particular way toward an object or person.
6. It refers to one's readiness for doing work.
7. Facility of the PCP should be provided to learners above to be effective in learning for the learners.
8. PCP should be organized in the study centres

ADVANTAGE OF PCP:

- An effective support system to clarify their doubts concerning the course.
- Enhancing personal relationship with the peer counterpart.
- Maximizes face-to-face contact during the programme.,
- Learners have the chance to know about the programme in details.
- Investment of low cost more benefits.
- Provides a learning environment to the learners.

CONCLUSION:

During the PCP, The attitude of students do not turn up the distance from place of the learners to the study centre is more than 200Kms. Further, attending the programme does not entail financial support. As the study centre is unable to provide boarding a lot of learners to come to attend the programme. The distance learners find it difficult to avail leave from their authorities for attending the PCP. Most of the authorities are reluctant to grant leave. The duration of the PCP is not sufficient for the learners. Inadequate academic input is highly essential for pursuing courses. The researcher observed that PCP is organized in a number of study centres in a careless manner. It is organized as if it needs to be completed in time without taking consideration of learner's need and requirement. The researcher observed that female distant learners have high attitude towards PCP as compared male distant learners.

SUGGESTIONS OF THE STUDY:

The author of this study suggested that PCP should encourage and motivate to the learners working individually and independently. A schedule for PCP should be prepared and sent to the coordinator of the respective study centre. PCP should be rich in terms of organization units and content, help distant learners to complete any project work and assignments and should give more emphasis on self-assessment. The assignment responses should be evaluated properly counselor should be at study centre. Counsellor should be trained to solve the problem of indiscipline amount learners and lack of interaction between teachers and taught. The counselling facility should be made available at the centre. Counsellor should develop awareness of whole structure of learning the subject matter, Group discussion and educational training programme should be advance for achieving educational goals. More opportunities should be given to the distance learners to make their doubts clear. Today there is a demand of new technology of learning computer knowledge should be given to the learners. In distance study centers there should be organization of technical education. Policy makers and concerned authorities should take these fruitful suggestions for development of positive attitude towards PCP in distance education.

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