

# ATTITUDE OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS TOWARDS DISTANCE EDUCATION IN MURSHIBAD DISTRICT

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## INTRODUCTION

Education has to be made accessible to all, irrespective of financial, social and psychological conditions. Life-long education is also be emphasized not only for all, but also for all stages of life. People engaged in various hard-earning vocations or deprived of education at any stage of their life may like to get education of their choice.

As the result, the terms like "Distance Education", "Correspondence Education", "Open Education" have been added to the terms - "Formal", "Non-formal" and "Informal" education. Formal education is learning within an organized institution, with time schedules, established curricula and syllabus taught by the teachers, and learnt by the students, followed by a system of examination. Non-formal education, is learning that is organized outside the formal system, with emphasis on its organized character its hours of learning being flexible.

The concept of distance education has been universally accepted as an alternative system to the institutional teaching to provide a second chance for providing higher education to those who missed the opportunity of getting the same at their normal stage.

## OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

- To measure the attitude towards Distance Education of undergraduate students.
- To compare the attitude towards Distance Education of undergraduate students in respect to location.
- To compare the attitude towards Distance Education of undergraduate students in respect to streams.
- To compare the attitude towards Distance Education of undergraduate students in respect to religion.

## REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE:

Mutlu (2005) presented a descriptive study of the design and development of the E-learning services in the open education system in Turkey. The researcher concluded that the structure of the Open Education E-learning services are flexible to the extent that student can study efficiently respecting the distance education regulation, follow the books.

Ludher and Lee (2008) conducted a study on the socioeconomic context of home- based leaning by women in Malaysia. The findings of the study illustrated the urgent need for urban and rural learners alike to be served by up to date ICT equipped learning centers.

(Ural 2010) investigated the views of the doctoral students at traditional universities on the use of distance education systems, technologies and independent learning in Turkey where there is a great demand for higher education.

Isik et. al. (2018) had under taken a study on "Postgraduate students' attitude toward distance learning". For this purpose, web-based distance learning (WBDL) attitude questionnaire and demographic survey are applied to Gazi university information technology distance learning post graduate students. 64 postgraduate students were attended the study.

(Lenka, S. K. and Ravikant (2012) studied the attitude and perception of the learners towards the Distance education. In this study, with the help of self made tool and a sample of 150 graduate distance learners, it is revealed that gender plays no important role to develop positive attitude and perception.

#### HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

Ho.<sub>1</sub> There is no significant difference between boys and girls undergraduate students attitude towards distance education.

Ho.<sub>2</sub> There is no significant difference between urban and rural undergraduate students attitude towards distance education.

Ho.<sub>3</sub> There is no significant difference between arts and science undergraduate student's attitude towards distance education.

Ho.<sub>4</sub> There is no significant difference between Hindu and Muslim undergraduate students attitude towards distance education.

#### VARIABLES OF THE STUDY

In this investigation, Undergraduate students' attitude was considered as the Dependent Variable and Distance Education, Sex, Locality, Religion, and Academic streams were considered as the Independent Variable.

#### TOOLS USED IN THE STUDY

Researcher used self made tool for assessing the attitude towards Distance Education among undergraduate students. This was a summated five point scale rating scale. Multiple choice type statements usually with five alternatives such as Strongly Agree, Agree, Undecided, Disagree, Strongly Disagree concerning the object of attitude was collected by the investigator.

#### METHOD OF STUDY

In order to achieve the objectives of the present study Descriptive survey method was used to assess the attitude towards distance education among undergraduate students. To find out relevant issues of the present problem, the descriptive methodology has been implemented in this case. By implementing the questionnaire techniques, the numerical data has been collected and corresponding data has been analyzed with the help of statically system.

#### SAMPLE

It is not easy to select a sample for a research work. It depends on the nature and problem of the study concerned correct procedure should be followed while selecting a problem according to the requirement of the investigation, otherwise accurate situation cannot be obtained to expected result and the whole investigation may be invalid.

#### DISTRIBUTION OF SAMPLES

Sl. No.	Name of the College	Boys	Girls	Total
1	Subhas Chandra Bose Centenary College	64	58	122
2	Krishnath College Distance Education	43	35	78
3	TOTAL	107	93	200

### IDENTIFIED KNOWLEDGE GAP

The existing literature, so far attempt in chapter -2 reveals some significant research gap, although valuable contribution of scholars and researchers to the field cannot be underestimated. There are some studies on the attitude towards distance education among undergraduate students in India and some of them in many state of India, but very few of them in West Bengal. In this context the researcher has chosen his field of study as- Attitude of undergraduate students towards Distance Education in Nadia district.

### EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

Every investigation has some implications. The present study will have both applied and theoretical implications. It can act as a mirror to the ongoing programmers of distance education in general and IGNOU in particular. This will be quite useful to the educational planners, teachers, students, politicians and the general public who are interested in distance education, to bring about improvement in their skills and upliftment of their qualification.

### LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

- As the present dissertation work is only for the partial fulfillment of M.Ed Degree, the duration of the study has been very restricted within limited time frame.
- In choosing the sample the researcher selected only 200 undergraduate students as the sample of his study.
- No sophisticated methods like ANOVA, F-values were computed for analysis and interpretation of the data. Any graphical representation is also not being available for proper analysis of data.
- The situation and the environment in which the study was conducted may also affect the reliability of the data.

### CONCLUSION

Present study has great relevance and importance. All of us well know that distance Education plays a very important role in the whole educational system. All the educators should plan and facilitate distance education to all courses. It helps improving the literacy rate of our country. By this large population has an opportunity to get education with flexibilities. These flexibilities are in all aspects of distance education from admission to examination now day students have keen desire to get education through distance education. So the concept of Distance Education has been universally accepted as an alternative system to the institutional teaching to provide a second chance for providing higher education to those who missed the opportunity of getting the same at their normal stage.

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