Review of Related Research Work:

One of the aspects of a country’s progress and prospects depends upon the educational level of the citizens. Without education it is just impossible for a country to prosper or develop further. Education opens our mind and gives new vision to our thoughts at the same time it helps a person to search new avenues of opportunities.

It is therefore, necessary to review the literature of different researchers, academicians, educational thinkers, policy makers and educational reformers. The researcher examined the relevant published literature related to the study of research with a view to find out further scope of the objective of the research. Various views and comments are given below.

Despite the widespread use of distance learning, there is limited research on the issues and problems currently faced by the working students.

College students have to make a series of choices about whether to go to college, where to live, how to fund, and how to work and where to work (Paulsen & St. John, 1997).

Some researchers have reported that “the more time a student devotes to employment, the less he or she has for either academic or social activities” (Fjortoft, 1995)

Butcher (2000), defines distance education as a set of teaching and learning strategies (or education methods) that can be used to overcome spatial and temporal separation between educators and learners.

UNESCO (2003), opined that distance education is any educational process in which all or most of the teaching is conducted by someone removed in space and /or time form the learner, with the effect that all or most of the communication between teachers and learners is through an artificial medium, either electronic or print. In distance education, the normal or principal means of communication is through technology. While teachers in conventional system, may adopt technology as a supplement to their teaching.
According to Honeyman & Miller, (1993) it is defined as “A process to create and provide access to learning when the source of information and the learners are separated by time and distance, or both”. Similarly, (Jung, 2007) identified few good practices and innovative ideas in ODL in the field of cost-saving, student services, tutoring and quality assurance (Rodriguez, Telg, Irani, Roberts, & Rhodes, 2005).

**Asherian, V. (2007). Synchronous communication and its assessing benefits. Distance Education , p15.**

The author of this article focuses on the synchronous and asynchronous communication methods and its benefits in distance learning. It states that synchronous communication is most useful when there is a short timeline, a need for some co-ordinating events or an extensive group project.

The author says that with the change in technology, the conceptualisation of distance learning is also changing. Various changes took place in the interactive methods like correspondence, audio and radio study, broadcast television, computer networks, satellites, cables, videotape, multi media work stations from first to fourth generation.

**Best, J., & Kahn, J. (1993). Research in Education. Allyn & Bacon.**

This book focuses on educational research methods on statistical data analysis. The main theme of the book is to help the student, as a consumer, to develop an understanding of statistical terminology and the concepts necessary to read with understanding some of the professional literature in educational research. It also helps the student to develop enough competence and know-how to carry on research studies using simple types of analysis. Simultaneously, it also prepares the students for more advanced coursework in statistics.


The book focuses on motivational principles. The author gives a diverse approach to motivation that reflects on the effective use of extrinsic and intrinsic strategies. It offers research-based principles for motivating students to learn.

It gives guidelines for adopting motivational principles to individual and group differences as well as restoring the work of students who have become discouraged or disaffected learners. The principles and strategies are attached to the realities of contemporary schools and classrooms.
Thus, this book is very useful for the teachers as it provides many principles for motivating students to learn.


The authors in this paper write about Indira Gandhi Open University which came up with 40 FM radio stations in order to broadcast educational programmes for the benefit of students and general public in India. These FM radio stations are delivered through Gyan Vani network which caters to learners seeking to gain knowledge in the areas of basic, primary, higher and extension education. Radio programming covers various subject areas. It is anticipated that the opening of India’s airwaves will prove beneficial to the nation’s general population, thus fostering the democratising principles of empowerment, advocacy, and community participation.


Within and beyond the field of educational technology, Richard Clark’s writings are widely believed to have shown that any number of media is equally capable of delivering any instruction, so that media choices are about cost and efficiency but not about cognition and learning. However, if it is accepted that one type of efficiency is cognitive efficiency, then it follows that media choices are often about cognition and learning and can profit from an understanding of cognitive processes. Media and learning can then be reconnected in limited ways that do not compromise any of Clark’s main points, and doing this will bring media work into line with current research into the role of surface information codes.


This paper intends to focus on implementing the use of modern communication methods towards effective learning (Conklin & Osterndorf, 1995). These communication methods, when combined with technology could help save time and money of these working students. Lack of availability of funds further increases the problems of these students. In order to reduce these issues, the researcher intends to implement a problem solving model in order to assess the various issues faced by the students.

This book identified the importance of distance learning, which is the hottest topic in higher education today. There is much discussion on issues and trends of today’s education. It tells about alternative delivery system as well as administrative issues for the distance instructor. It is narrated that distance learning is still in the emerging process. It is thus opinioned that distance learning is the answer to meet the changing needs of the modern students.


The book focuses on online distance education programmes in higher education. Each chapter provides insight and advice for various stages of planning and development of an online DE program. The author and mentions that initial planning should primarily centre on two issues: identifying the educational goal of the program, and identifying the practical issues of implementation. Planners must be organised around clear educational goals and these goals must be strongly aligned with one or more key areas for the institution. The book also elaborates on common tools and strategies that can be used to help identify key goals.


The two central aims of this book are to enable readers to use statistical methods to help answer questions which are important to organisations, and to share these answers with others. To do so, it is necessary to know not only how to carry out a given technique, but also how to interpret the results it produces, and how to communicate this information to others with clarity. Therefore, I have placed emphasis not only on how to carry out a range of statistical techniques using SPSS, a widely used software package, but also how to make sense of the results, and how to write them up in a way that others familiar with statistical methods will understand.

This article states key requirements of effective distance learning are interactivity among participants and the student’s sense of presence in the classroom. This system meets those requirements, letting the instructor perceive remote students body language and facial expressions as they listen and speak, and letting remote students participate in the on campus classroom.


This article examines open and distance learning in the context of present challenges and opportunities, describe relevant concepts and contributions. It outlines some significant global and current trends. The study focuses on the internet and related effects of the networks like World Wide Web for radical effect on the transformation of education and training in all sectors.

It is stated that there is a need for cost studies of open and distance learning to be increased because funding of open and distance learning is different from conventional institutions. The author believes that the assumptions that students in open and distance learning, as are often working adults, should pay a higher proportion of the costs than the conventional students, is not correct and it needs to be modified. The study concludes that, to face the challenges and to exploit the opportunities in the present trends in ODL, internet usage and web-based education is required.

Fender, D. (2001) “Student and faculty issues in Distance Education”, Mid-South Instructional Technology Conference, Murray, KY (Connick, 1997)

Occupational safety and health faculty were surveyed to determine the considerations for distance learning. The findings are reported related to the demand for distance education; program attributes necessary for students, and faculty issues. Adequate time is the largest issue for potential students. Faculty needs to be sufficiently trained in the courses they intend to teach.

This study tested the effect of college student employment on student’s level of social and academic integration, professional and persistence. The survey model developed for the study included both the interactions between the student and the institution, the “fit,” and the continuing influence of non-college forces such as employers and employment, as well as the effect of financial aid. The survey was administered to all the first year pharmacy students at three selected colleges of pharmacy.


The concept of information is often taken for more or less granted in research about information systems. This paper introduces a model starting with Shannon and Weaver data transmission model and ends with knowledge transfer between individual persons. The model is in fact an enhanced communication model giving a framework for discussing problems in the communication process. A specific feature of the model is the aim for providing design guidelines in the designing of communication process. The article ends with identifying a need for developing the model further to incorporate communication within and between organisations of different kinds.


This book presents the very latest methodological knowledge on surveys. Author Floyd J. Fowler Jr. Provides students and researchers who want to collect, analyze, or read about survey data with a sound basis for evaluating how each aspect of a survey can affect its precision, accuracy and credibility. Some of the key features of the book are that it covers the expansion of cell phone use and legislation regarding them which offers the survey researchers the guidance as to the policy implications and practical application. It also focuses on the expansion of the coverage of web based and online surveys as well as the latest resources available to the beginning and expert researcher.

This article examines the growth of process evaluation in two different contexts: the Academy of Finland and North West University in South Africa. Comparing and contrasting the approaches using the theoretical concepts that lie behind the differentiation of Mode 1 and Mode 2 forms of knowledge production throws up a number of features which have particular implications for the development of the research management function in universities and other public bodies.


The emerging and agreed upon conclusion in this article is that the future for distance education appears rosy. Demand for education will continue to grow and distance education will facilitate access. While many of the authors speak to the increasingly important role of distance education in the areas of adult education, continuing professional education, corporate training, and post-secondary education, the future is equally bright in K-12 education.

Overall, distance education is seen as playing an important role in providing equity of access to quality education.


This book elaborates on the interpretation of the past in light of what is followed. It states about how events and changes led up to a subsequent state of affairs. If that subsequent state of affairs is the current state of affairs, then the historian must make sense of how the past may have led up to the present. The prevailing view of the present, therefore, influences how the past is to be seen.

When the present is seen in relatively optimistic terms, narratives of the past are likely to manifest themes of either progress or rebirth. Both are apparent in this history, though they are tempered by the themes of stagnation and disorganisation as well.


This article emphasise on the transformation occurring in the teaching patterns of universities towards students. New technology, changes in the composition of student bodies, with adults, minorities, women and foreign students participating in ever increasing
numbers, and distance learning are major components in this transformation. Universities are facing challenges and are offered opportunities in this new learning environment.


This paper has built a new evaluation approach called the SQ-Atten based on summary and comparative study of the four traditional service quality assessment instruments. SQ-Atten has a new term attention, which has similar function with zone of tolerance (ZOT). It can analyze the user’s satisfaction using the score of attention and performance, and has less difficult than that of ZOT in collecting data. It has data predictive ability and richer data than SERVPERF. Also, it measures the same 44 item as SERVQUAL, but has higher data reliability because of without measuring expectation and difference operation.


Innovative practices of distance education including E-Learning in Asia and the Pacific. In sung Jung- International Christian University, Japan. This paper is a study for identifying new practices or rather innovative practices which are suitable for open and distance learning, in Asia and the Pacific (AP) region. The writer as a researcher has undertaken a survey of open and distance learning institutions in their regions as well as the variety of published documents and the web sites providing the related information.

It also provides the background information about study, objectives, methods used, limitations etc. A variety of innovative and good practices are observed by the author. The author further mentioned that the student support system lies in the heart of any ODL activities. For example, telephone service, email facility, e-counselling, e-tutoring etc. In the suggestions he emphasises the importance of quality assurance strategy, remove gender gap and set up equity in developing and implementation ODL policies because the starting point must be the learners learning problems, not technology.

The authors identified elements of instruction formats that distinguish distance education (DE) methods from traditional face-to-face (FF) instruction with respect to instructors experiences and opinions. Most hypotheses were supported. Instructors (N=26) from a south-eastern university rated FF more favourable in terms of their comfort and ability to interact with students and student’s opportunity to interact and participate in class discussions, and instruction accommodating different learning styles. The authors found no difference between instructors mean opinions of DE and FF for interaction with students on assignments, contact with students outside class, instructors promptness of feedback delivery, or effect of motivation on student success.


This article emphasises on less interactivity between teachers and students and too much focus on professional terms in computer major bilingual teaching, some key approaches of communication teaching method (CTM) are introduced into computer major bilingual teaching. Based on the summarization of practice experiences in English teaching training abroad and analysis of characteristics of CTM, an improved teaching method is proposed in computer major bilingual teaching such as software engineering. Using this new method, student’s capability of expressing professional knowledge in listening and speaking with English will be improved.

Mahle, M. (2007). Interactivity in Distance Education. *Distance Learning.*, 47.

The author of this article is from Nova Southeastern University-ITDE Programme. As per the study conducted by the author it is found that interactivity is a primary factor of any distance learning or e-learning programme.

Interactivity as stated here is the level of communication and participation as well as feedback between learners and instructors. The author believes that interactivity has been an on-going challenge for the instructors that teach via the web. The skill and knowledge of the instructors is very important in such courses.

This book emphasises on the basic themes of distance learning. Anyone with an advanced degree in educational or instructional technology can appreciate the fidelity of that emphasis. This field derives from and is built upon the bedrock of a systemic view of educational processes. Another motif addressed in, is that distance education is a changing paradigm, one that is perpetually evolving, non-static, and dynamic.


Morrison and Anglin in this article state that correspondence courses and broadcast distance education courses have incorporated the most primary use of communication and interaction methods which included students reading a study guide, textbooks, or listening to radio or viewing television broadcasts.

Three types of interactions identified by them were the learner-content, learner-learner and learner-instructor interactions. The article focuses of three different sections of distance education: Interaction in distance education and online learning using evidence and theory to improve practice, Challenges in supporting self-regulation in distance education environments, and Distance education research: a review of the literature.


This paper focuses on nursing research, exploring and explaining relationships among variables, or exploring the effects of interventions. With a clear purpose identified, the researcher determines the best methods, including a plan form data analyses, to meet the goals of the research. Statistical analysis serve to organize information, generalize findings, and identify differences, associations, and relationships between variables studies. The primary purpose of the study was to determine the degree of agreement between parents and adolescents’ ratings of the teen’s health-related quality of life (HRQL). Similarly, the discussion regarding the t-test is explained.


New information technology is rapidly becoming part of the localized education process, while offering the tools and infrastructure for the establishment of a distance education process. At Rhodes University, SA, an Interactive remote Tutorial system (IRTS) was built to support distance education. IRTS will be used as an instructional medium to meet the needs
of the learner in a manner that is instructionally effective and economically prudent. This paper describes the design and implementation of IRTS as a worldwide web based distance education delivery system that allows an instructor sited remotely and connected via normal phone lines to provide two way voice communications within a class and remotely navigate web based lesson material.


In the first chapter of the edited volume, Emerging technologies in distance education, editor and digital learning environment researcher George Veletsianos articulates a definition of the term “emerging technologies”, setting the stage for a range of scholarship in the 15 chapters that follow. While each chapter can stand on its own, when read together, the authors collectively argue for an approach to distance education that sheds its own top-down, correspondence course beginnings and supports learners in their efforts to collaboratively make meaning via authentic interaction with culturally diverse and geographically distant peers and facilitators. Descriptions and data analyses in several chapters outline how a planned yet more democratized style of educational technology use affords learners a heightened sense of social presence that motivates as it collectively cultivates a sense of community.


This paper describes the content and evaluation of a distance learningcs for course in therapeutic for general practitioners. Following a pilot project, a comprehensive questionnaire was sent to the 49 participants who had completed the course in first two years. Factors influencing the impact of distance learning in general practice setting including structure, process and outcomes are discussed. Also recommendations for further research are included.


This article focuses on examining the student’s enrolment responses to college costs-both in college choice and persistence decisions- vary by social class. It also found substantial class based patterns of enrolment behaviour in response to pre-matriculation
perceptions of college costs and actual post matriculation costs, consistently restricting post secondary opportunities for lower-income relative to higher-income relative.


In this book, Mike Robson addresses the guides to pitfalls, techniques and processes of group problem solving has been updated to reflect the changes that have happened in continuous improvement and group-and team working. There are new materials on virtual groups as well as the process of managing and facilitating groups.


Quality in distance education has been studied and mostly from a top-down, from admiration and faculty to students. This study was an attempt to understand quality through the eyes of the distance learner. This study identified undergraduate and graduate student’s perceptions about quality in distance education, examining factors affecting the quality of a distance education course from the student’s point of view.

Communication was the factor identified most as contributing to quality in distance education courses. Students also indicate effective and ineffective ways communication tools- electronic mail, discussion groups, and chats are used. Student’s responses point to the importance of building learning communities and of faculty providing timely feedback.


The Distance Education Restricted Committee (DERC) is a federation Committee elected for a two-year period; its members represent the full range of distance education delivery providers, including autonomous Distance Education Centres (DECs), city and country, integrated country DECs, a specialised DEC and primary DE school.


With increasingly rapid technological developments, including hand-held, network, and personal hardware capable of processing huge amounts of data, and advances in creating virtual classrooms, the allure of delivering quality education cheaply and widely has attracted
attention of educators, policymakers, corporate boards, and end-users. However, the implications of the models and theories of mediated communication that should inform the debate regarding distance education seem to have attracted little attention. Here, Roushazamir describes the two dominant models of mediated communication: an information theory/source-receiver model and a cultural, structuralist model.


This paper focuses on research from 913 professors from community colleges, the potential barriers in the adoption of online teaching in higher education. The author says that online learning provides good opportunity to increase the access of students to higher education. The study emphasises upon the need of online teaching and for the development of these types of learning requires the active participation and co operation of university faculty.

Though there is a growth of online teaching in recent years, it is not as per the need. It remains relatively a small percentage of the entire curriculum of the higher education today. It is recommended that a better institutional policy is required for faculty development and at the same time further research is required.


This article states that distance education has become an indispensible part of the education system. Technological revolution and increasing need for skill up-gradation are the major reasons behind the unprecedented growth of distance education. Distance education brings knowledge to those types of learners who have not been served by traditional class room setting.

Rapid developments in the field of ICT offer new opportunities for the design and delivery of education through the distance mode. In spite of all the potentials of distance learning, there are many critical issues which are yet to be resolved. Quality, cost effectiveness, assessment, lack of motivation, dropout rate etc, were some important issues in this field.

The study of the author concentrates on the quality improvement of higher education. He considers, only transmission of knowledge should not be the aim of higher education. According to the author, the quality of higher education is yet to reach its maximum standards.

However he also suggests some measures to reach near the goal. He believes that the role of higher education is of prime importance in building the knowledge based society. The author calls the present era as the era of Information Technology. The best possible use of IT sector will give better results as mentioned by him. Further it is stated that, the right students, without right teachers will not produce the right results.

Todd, C. (2004)” Motivating Students in Distance Education”, Distance Learning, ProQuest Education Journals, p 1-5.

This article states that the dropout rate in the distance education courses is much higher than in similar courses taught face-to-face. The main reasons for these dropouts are lack of finance, time, isolation of distance learner, lack of self-discipline and lack of motivation. Some of these issues are beyond the control of the instructor or the course designer, but motivation is something that can be improved.


This article states that, even when instructions are prepared according to the sound instructional design principles, they often do not stimulate students motivation to learn. A motivation intervention, developed according to the processes outlined in the ARCS model of motivational design, was implemented and tested following the conventions of an embedded single-case study. This was tested in a group of 15 adults participating in a staff development course conducted within the Mozambique Ministry of Education. However it maybe concluded that the specific intervention of the ARCS model which provided the basis for designing it provided a sound basis for positively influencing student to learn.

The thought of an online-only library instruction course will either fill a librarian with fear or curiosity. It has the possibility of taking libraries in a new direction-to the world of online instruction for college undergraduates, graduates, and doctoral students. The fear of online-only library instruction is justifiable.

The questions that often arise are associated with the threat that there will be less use of the library by the traditional patron. Most librarians find it important to walk through the stacks, flipping through printed journals and value the one-on-one relationship that defines a library. When something is developed that removes a patron from this experience, we all become a little nervous.