

00296

MASTER OF ARTS (DISTANCE EDUCATION)

Term-End Examination

June, 2014

MDE-417 : DISTANCE EDUCATION : ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVE

Time : 3 hours

Weightage : 75%

Note : (i) Answer *all the three* questions.

(ii) All the questions carry *equal* weightage.

1. Answer **any one** of the following in about **1200** words :
 - (a) Distinguish between 'economic growth' and 'economic development' with suitable examples. Justify if distance education contributes to either of the two or to both of them.
 - (b) Describe how human capital is formed. Justify, with the help of suitable examples, if distance education contributes to development of human resources.

2. Answer **any four** of the following in **300** words each :
 - (a) Distinguish between 'expenditure' and 'cost'; and explain the concept of cost both in economics and in education.
 - (b) Explain how education is considered as investment in human beings.

- (c) Describe zero base budgeting with suitable examples.
- (d) In what way distance education programmes in your country contribute to the quality of labour force ?
- (e) What mechanisms will you recommend for generation of financial resources for distance education ?

3. Answer **any one** of the following in about **1200** words :

- (a) Distinguish between 'fixed cost' and 'variable cost' on the one hand, and 'average cost' and 'marginal cost' on the other hand. Give suitable examples from the context of distance education in respect of average and marginal costs and their relationships.
 - (b) Describe the funding patterns of distance education in UKOU (UK), Universitas Terbuka (Indonesia), and Open University of Sri Lanka. What lessons will you draw from the above for recommending a funding policy for distance education in your country ?
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