MDE-413

00832

MASTER OF ARTS IN DISTANCE EDUCATION (MADE)

Term-End Examination
December, 2013

MDE–413 : LEARNER SUPPORT SYSTEMS AND SERVICES

Time : 3 Hours   *Maximum Weightage : 75%*

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

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

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

   (a) What is academic counselling ? Why is academic counselling important in Distance Education ? How the role of an academic counsellor is different from that of a conventional Teacher ? Substantiate your answer.

   (b) Describe the various functions of a Study Centre and Regional Centre. Explain the kind of support an open university provides through its Regional Centres & Study Centres.

2. Answer **any four** of the following questions in about **300** words each :

   (a) What do you mean by Supplemental Communication ? What pedagogical purpose does it serve ?

   (b) What are study skills ? Explain in brief the significance of study skills for distance learners.

(c) What is 'Flexi Study ? Discuss briefly its purpose in distance education.

(d) Describe problem solving counselling with the help of examples.

(e) What are the negative tutor comments in Assignment responses ? Discuss briefly with examples.

(f) What are the teaching type comments ? Describe briefly their impact on student learning.

3. Answer **any one** of the following :

(a) Explain the meaning of assessment? Discuss different types of assessment in the context of open and distance learning system.

OR

(b) The following is an excerpt from an actual assignment response(see Appendix-I). Write your marginal comments in the margin provided and global comments on the assessment sheet enclosed. Award a grade on the assignment response on five- point scale, using letter grade, A, B, C, D and E the national correlates of these letter grades respectively are excellent, very Good, Good, Satisfactory and Unsatisfactory. After evaluation. attach the evaluated script and the 'Assessment sheet' with your examination answer sheet. Award a grade in the box provided and also write the global comments on the assessment sheet.

Enrolment No : [   ]   Grade : [   ]

APPENDIX - I

MDE - 413 : Learner Support Systems and Services

Assignment Response

Discuss the constraints of the face-to face education system in meeting the growing demands of the modern society. In what way can distance education contribute to the educational reforms in your country?

Ans: There are thousands of colleges and few hundred universities in our country providing educational facilities for around seven million students: but there are several restrictions when it comes to access to education in these conventional educational institutions. When it comes to access to education in these conventional educational institutions. The major constraints which these institutions are faced with are:

The problem of ever-growing 'numbers'.

In India or other developing countries every year, the number of students who become eligible for higher education, is increasing. Majority of students seeking education at higher level

between age group 17-23 are not in a position to get admission in colleges. A very less percentage of students succeed in getting admission because of limited number of seats available for different courses. In conventional system, they have many set rules and regulations for admitting students like fixed age limit, cut off % age of marks etc. So the major problem of conventional education is inability to accommodate volume and variety of student demands. With all these network it is catering to only 6% of the eligible age group. To the remaining group of student it is mind boiling, conventional system cannot cope up.

Operating the 'multiplier effect'

The number problem can partially be solved by producing resource persons at the existing ELTIs, and using their services for the "Multiplier Effect". without involving additional budgetary provisions and infrastructure.

Problem of 'Relevance'

Like the problem of numbers, courses offered can also create problems with regard to relevance. Most of the courses are not sufficiently relevant to the labour market and fast changing societal needs. We can say that inspite of the efforts put in by the specialist institutes the courses offered do not serve their purposes satisfactorily. Most of the institutes like the specialized institutes of teacher training think that it is one generalist type of teacher training that can serve them all, whatever their specific needs.

Geographical limitations or problem of accessibility:

The traditional system insists that the students attend the classes organized at a specified time, date and place. Those who cannot reach the place or, are unable to attend the instruction on the date and time fixed by the authorities are deprived of getting education.

The above discussion indicates the major problems of conventional system are facing today. At the same time some alternative solutions to these problems were also discussed. But it is observed that these solutions did not appear to solve the problems. So what is the more effective alternative for these problems?

Distance Education: An Effective Education.

One of the answers for the above problems is **Education through Distance mode**. Distance learning is a type of learning which takes place where the learner and instructor are separated, distance learning tends to be much more interactive than classroom learning, which often involves sitting, listening, following instructions and memorizing. The distance education, at its most basic level, takes place when a teacher and student(s) are separated by physical distance, and technology(i.e. voice, video, data and print), often in concert with face-to-face communication, is used to bridge the instructional gap. The distance education system has augmented opportunities for higher education. By breading all known restrictions of the conventional system. It has ensured access to education to all. This type of education as the name suggests, could be accessed by students where qualifications are not required.

In some courses the age limitation is also not there. Distance education offers a number of advantages which are as follows :

Convenience

Convenience is one of the main benefits of distance education. Online classes take place at the time and place that is convenient for the student, so the student doesn't need to take time away from work or worry about problems like child care and travel.

Choice

Rather than being limited to the courses currently offered in a local college or university, learner can choose to take any course offered anywhere in the world. And the learner can choose to draw upon the resources in his/her own community while also having access to the many excellent libraries and research tools available online.

Flexibility

While most distance courses have predefined learning objectives, they nevertheless tend to be more adaptable than traditional courses in terms of the content and methods. This means that the student can design a programme of study to meet his/her own learning needs and interests.

One-to-one communication with the instructor

As class sizes in on-campus courses grow larger and larger, it becomes increasingly difficult for learners to interact directly with the instructor. Some learners find that distance education actually offers more opportunity to communicate with the instructor that is available in traditional,

face-to-face courses with the help of medium communication technologies.

Independence

As an online learner, the student can control when, where, and how he/she study. However, being independent doesn't mean that he/she will be isolated. The student still has lots of opportunities to communicate and work with other online learners.

Time to reflect

Learners who are reluctant to comment on an issue or ask questions in class will find the opportunity to reflect upon their learning a real advantage as well as those who tend to come up with the "perfect" comment, question, or response only after the class is over.

With its potential, flexibility, openness and cost effectiveness distance education can provide as an effective alternative or as one of the major alternative to the problems and challenges faced by the conventional education. Distance education has already proved in India with a network of 70 directorates and 10 open universities catering to a large and diverse clientele groups in both conventional and non-conventional academic programmes which are suiting to the present day societal and students need. Any planner or policy maker who wants to address the issue faced by conventional education system cannot avoid the distance education as one of the strategies.

ASSESSMENT SHEET

(To be filled in Duplicate)*

Enrolment No. _____   Programme _____

Student's Name _____   Course _____   Grade

Assignment No. _____

Study Centre Code No. _____

Assessment

Evaluator's Comments

If the space is not sufficient, please use back paper

Please tick ✓ in the relevent box below	
CONTENT	**STRUCTURE AND PRESENTATION**

CONTENT		STRUCTURE AND PRESENTATION	
Accurate Information ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Inaccurate Information		Well Planned ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Inadequately Planned	
Adequate Coverage ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Inadequate Coverage		Concise ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Too long or Too short	
Good Conceptual Analysis ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Poor Conceptual Analysis		Clearly Expressed ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Not Clearly Expressed	

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