



CHALLENGES OF OPEN AND DISTANCE LEARNING IN THE DUAL MODE UNIVERSITIES

Dr. S. N. Gaikwad

**Associate Professor, Department of History ,
Smt. C. B. Shah Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Sangli.**

ABSTRACT

The University of Mumbai started its Open and Distance Learning Institute in 1971, which worked ably as a best educational centre for thousands of students. There was a time when Distance Learning used to be the last resort of all those who did not get admission in regular colleges. But now a time most of the students easily give preference to the Distance Learning. Near about one lakh student take admission annually in the Open and Distance Learning Institute of University of Mumbai. Open and Distance Learning Institute implemented more than forty various courses and offered more than four hundred subjects for the students. In the library of Open and Distance Learning Institute of University of Mumbai fifty thousand of books in use for the students. This institute also faced for the NACC and it shows its merit. In University of Mumbai many students of Open and Distance Learning Institute not only stood in ranks, but also greater in merit than the regular students. More than four hundred students are gone abroad. For each year in the beginning all admission centers were houseful.

KEYWORDS: Distance Learning, University of Mumbai

INTRODUCTION

Open and Distance Learning Institute worked for those students who leave their education from the middle of the path, because of their personal issues. This institute connected those students again to the path of education. This path leads them from darkness to light and endow few with the careers so bright. Among them all the young, adult, bachelor, spinster, married, widow and widower take the advantage of the education through the Open and Distance Learning Institute. This institute is helpful for the facilities of higher education to the working population, woman and adults, those who wish to upgrade their education or acquire knowledge in various disciplines. This institute provides education for poor and such other people who cannot attend regular college and help students to upgrade educational qualification, for academic achievements in the process of lifelong education. The Curricular contents, mode of examination and the degrees to be awarded are the same as applicable to the students of the colleges affiliated to the University



of Mumbai. The learning process of the institute is mainly through the medium of printed study materials. The institute also provided home-lending of books against deposit. Also, the Institute is developing the virtual learning classrooms. The institute also conducted personal contact programmes for every year for the admitted students. The institute organized various conferences and seminars on the various issues for the student, teachers, writers and administrative staff¹.

Thus the institute made several efforts for the spread of education and try to give education to the people who went away from the flow of the

education. In the 20th century education through the Distance Learning is the major educational innovation. During the 21st century Open and Distance Learning is the essential mode in the teaching and learning process of education. Many universities in India adopted Dual Mode policy in the field of education. When the universities adopted this policy, the controversy broke out for some time in the field of education. Some educational thinkers started to blame the Open and Distance Learning and try to show its drawbacks². But in the last fifty years Open and Distance Learning Dual Mode clearly shows that there is no alternate for the spread of education in all strata of the society. Open and Distance Learning in the Dual Mode Universities played vital role in achievement of quality education for all.

Which universities adopted the Dual Mode, they have some challenges in the 21st century took place the educational field. Thousands of students wanted to complete their education, some wanted to acquire new qualifications, new knowledge. They are in waiting of education. Therefore it is challenge for the Open and Distance Learning in the Dual Mode Universities to reach to them as early as easy. For that task it is need to open more and more centers in and around the University area. With the help of advertisement it is also easy to aware the people for the education. The admission process at the center must be easy and smooth for the students.

Second challenge in front of Open and Distance Learning in the Dual Mode Universities that means to remove the misunderstanding about the Open and Distance Learning. The Curricular contents, mode of examination and the degrees to be awarded are the same as applicable to the students of the colleges affiliated to the University of Mumbai. As well as, the students of the Open and Distance Learning Mode stood in the merit list of the university. The standard of the knowledge in two modes are the same in result. There is also the misunderstanding took place the study material. But the study material is written by those professors who have lot of experience in the field of education. The study material is as per the university syllabus. This study material also referred by those students, who are from the regular mode. There is also misunderstanding took place the admission fees. The fees charged in the Open and Distance Learning Mode are more in the comparison of regular mode. But in regular mode there are other fees charged also. As well as in Open and Distance Learning the ready study material also provided to the students. It is the time to clear all these above things.

There is one problem which often came in the field of Open and Distance Learning mode for the students. The most of the students are in service or some in various professions, therefore they have no enough time. When they have any problem took place syllabus, study material, examination, etc. they got experienced some difficulties. Therefore for those students it is essential to fulfill their queries. For that purpose to open some centers for the students as well as started more flexible online service for those students.

The institute also conducted personal contact programmes for every year for the admitted students³. But it is need to increase the number of the programmes and make them effective. Those programmes helped them to understand the Syllabus, Subjects, and Queries took place the education. The Open and Distance Learning in the Dual Mode Universities are really useful for the spread of education in all strata of the society. It give chance to the people who are away from the flow of the education. It join them again them with the educational field. Who are already educated and in profession, they have got chance to getting more and more education which is known as lifelong education. They have chance to upgrade their Knowledge. Open and Distance Learning in the Dual Mode finally achieve its long declared goal of quality education for all.

REFERENCES:

¹ Dr. D. Harichanddan (Ed.), IDOL at a glance 2010, University of Mumbai, 24th March 2010, Pp. 4-23.

² Brouchre, Handbook of Center for Distance Education, Shivaji University, Kolhapur, PP 2-6.

³ Dr. D. Harichanddan, Manual of Self-Instructional Material, Institute of Distance Education, University of Mumbai, Vidyanagari, Mumbai, March 2008, Pp.1-6.