

Role of Media Technology in Propagation of Open and Distance Education

¹Sagar Singh Sirola, ²Dr. Debaki Sirola

¹Research Scholar, School of Education, Department of Teacher Education, Lal Bahadur Shastri Government Post Graduate College Halduchaur, Kumaun University Nainital (263001), Uttarakhand, India

²Assistant Professor, School of Education, Department of Teacher Education, Uttarakhand Open University, Haldwani (263139), Nainital, Uttarakhand, India

Authors E-mail: sagarsinghsirola@gmail.com, dsirola@uou.ac.in

Abstract - The present era is the era of science and technology. At present, whatever is happening in the entire world is the result of science, technology and scientific inventions and science and technology have also made an unforgettable contribution in the progress of the world. The education system has also been greatly affected by the development of science and technology. At present, media technology has been developed for accumulation, transmission, dissemination and communication of knowledge in order to assimilate it within the entire education system. Media technology has done an excellent job in focusing students' attention as well as creating lasting learning, especially in the field of open and distance education. Under the implementation of the current National Education Policy-2020, the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, keeping in mind the needs of the current education system, is working to develop a web-based national creation system and special open resources in a state-of-the-art form through media technology to make various forms of education such as formal, informal and non-formal education more receptive and creative. Under this, along with the construction of more and more smart schools, colleges and university campuses, the use of e-books and e-text materials is being encouraged. Apart from this, media technology is a very effective means for making the teaching-learning process simple, interesting, comprehensible and creative, for expanding educational opportunities, for the promotion of education and for the implementation of research innovation in education. So therefore, in the present education system, in the field of open and distance education, media technology is not only related to the highest level of cognitive, emotional and functional areas but is also a specific functional tool based on scientific and psychological knowledge sequence.

Keywords: Education, Learners, Open and Distance Learning, Science and Technology, Media Technology and Human Resources.

I. Introduction

Open and distance education system is becoming very popular in the whole world today and many scholars and educationists have accepted open education, distance education and online education as the education of the future. Open and distance education means imparting education by sitting at a distance freely or imparting formal education by maintaining distance without the constraint of place and time. Under open and distance education, there is no direct verbal conversation between the teacher and the learners. Under this, along with the distance of physical space between the teacher and the learners, there exists a gap between the creation, communication, study and learning of the text or learning material. Due to these distances in the process of teaching and learning, this education system is also known as distance education system.

At present, distance education is continuously developing as a modern education system of formal education in India. It is being provided through various means of correspondence such as Sampark program and various traditional and modern means of mass communication. Open and Distance Education is basically for such learners and adults who due to various reasons have not been able to or cannot receive formal education regularly. Apart from this, the main objective of open and distance education is to take formal education to the doorsteps of those people who are deprived of the benefits of formal education due to some special reasons. In this way, the concept of universalization of education also gets strengthened through open and distance education.

II. Important Components of Open and Distance Education

From the point of view of organization and structure, the open and distance education system is a very detailed and comprehensive education system. For the successful and effective implementation of its work, the open and distance education system takes the help of the following means-

A) Printed Learning Materials

The success and effectiveness of open and distance education depends most on printed learning material. Printed learning material used in open and distance education means specially prepared printed reading material. Learners read it according to their wish keeping in mind the available time. This includes self-learning chapters, study guides, magazines and books. The main purpose of printed learning material is to encourage independent learning of students as well as to make their learning meaningful and useful.

B) Radio and Television Broadcasting

Radio and television broadcasting act as a very important and effective means in open and distance education. Under this, education is provided to students of many places simultaneously through radio and television broadcasting. Special channels have been provided for educational broadcasting in many countries of the world. In India also, some universities are moving in this direction, which are working as an innovative initiative for the education of all the citizens of the country under the joint aegis of the Government of India. E-Vidya Channel, SwayamPrabha TV Channel, GyanDarshan Channel, Digital India Channel, DD Vyas, DD GyanDarshan and Vande Gujarat TV Channel are mainly included under this. Through all these channels, the work of explaining even the most difficult topics to the students in a simple and effective manner through Doordarshan is done.

C) Audio-Visual Materials

Apart from radio and television broadcasting, other audio-visual materials are also used under open and distance education. Other audio-visual materials include television, computer, VCD player, LCD projector, virtual classroom, slides, movies, video cassettes, audio cassettes, laser projector and multimedia etc. Learners of open and distance education system can acquire knowledge with the help of these tools by getting them delivered to their homes. Apart from this, they are also used at various distance education learning centers. The use of audio-visual materials improves the critical and analytical thinking of learners and such tools also help in clarifying the abstract concepts of the learning process.

D) Computer and Internet

Computer and Internet have become very useful and essential tools of the present era. Computer and Internet also play an important role in open and distance education. Under the computer based teaching-learning process, learners get more opportunities to resolve their errors and doubts. Apart from this, computer based online education or training programs are also a low cost solution for educating learners.

This education system provides the necessary skills to the students to think critically and solve problems as well as prepare them for the digital future. In this way, computer and internet based education works to make the open and distance education system more capable.

III. Need and Importance of Media Technology in Open and Distance Education

At present, media technology is especially used along with printed learning materials in modern methods of study and teaching under open and distance education. In the present context, promotion of open and distance education is not possible without using media technology. Only the proper use of media technology makes the entire study-teaching process of open and distance education system successful, meaningful and effective. The need and importance of media technology in open and distance education system is as follows:

- For the collection of information and knowledge.
- For the development and expansion of knowledge.
- For the promotion and dissemination of knowledge.
- For making the teacher learning process simple, interesting and effective.
- For generating motivation for self-study in learners.
- For making the learning of learners permanent as well as for their professional development.

IV. Various Factors Effecting Media Technology in Open and Distance Education

The various factors effecting media technology under open and distance education are as follows:

- Computer hardware technology.
- Computer software technology.
- Telecommunication and communication system technology.
- Human resources.

V. Role of Media Technology in Open and Distance Education

The role of media technology under open and distance education is as follows:

A) For Educational Documentation

Media technology has proved its usefulness for creation, compilation and maintenance of educational records under open and distance education. At present, various academic and administrative tasks related to open and distance education are being performed and information is being disseminated through computer and internet. All educational records of open and distance universities are now being created in a

state-of-the-art manner by computer systems. Apart from this, important records of determination and implementation of all policies related to educational planning, management and administration are also being collected through information technology.

B) For Creation or Development of Curriculum

At present, the usefulness of media technology in the creation of curriculum under the teaching-learning process of open and distance education system has become inevitable due to the increasing influence of science. At present, the quality of open and distance education is being improved by the application of media technology and by refining the traditional teaching curriculum, it is being made learner-centric, due to which the form of open and distance learning curriculum is also becoming very flexible. With the help of media technology, various topics of distance learning curriculum are now being presented through various creative forms.

C) For the Development of Self-Instructional Learning Materials

Instructional material, also known as teaching learning material (TLM), is a collection of living, inanimate objects as well as human and non-human resource materials which the teacher uses in learning situations to achieve the desired learning objectives under traditional classroom. At present, under open and distance education, this material is being given the form of self-instructional learning material with the help of media technology. Self-instructional learning material is used for self-study in the field of higher education. Generally, in the field of open and distance education, self-instructional learning material is provided for self-study and self-learning of the learners. Self-instructional learning material is prepared in such a way that the person reading it can read and understand it himself without the help of a teacher. Thus, in the field of open and distance education, media technology is proving to be helpful in simple and understandable presentation of self-instructional learning material.

D) For Examination Evaluation

After the teaching-learning process under the open and distance education system, the application of media technology and ICT for examination evaluation of learners has now brought about extensive changes. Now in most of the examinations of open and distance education, OMR based answer sheets are also being used in place of traditional answer sheets and along with their checking by computer, the examination result is being declared through the Internet. Apart from this, now internal examination programs, interviews and teaching-learning process are also being implemented through online medium, in which the

presentation of assessment is represented by graphs and immediate feedback is also provided.

E) For Formal Promotion and Dissemination of Higher Education

Media technology and ICT have their own special importance in the promotion of all the agencies of higher education such as formal, informal and non-formal agencies. At present, under open and distance education, an effort is being made to collect all the materials related to teaching-learning and research-innovation through media technology and make it reach all the citizens of the nation, which has been named as digital initiative in education. Many education innovations like Swayam, SwayamPrabha, National Digital Laboratory, Virtual Lab and E-Yantra are being implemented for the promotion of open and distance education through media technology. Moreover, recognizing the importance of media technology, the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India has emphasized on popularizing it as a cutting edge tool in education.

VI. Research Findings and Discussions

At present, the role of media technology in the entire education system has its own special significance to meet the increasing demand for higher education in India and for the current educational and professional needs of the learners. Media technology is useful in various dimensions related to open and distance education such as learning, communication, broadcasting, research, measurement and evaluation etc. Media technology is also effectively helpful in making the entire teaching-learning process of open and distance education simple, understandable, interesting, effective and comprehensible. Under this, media technology erases all the geographical boundaries of formal education and connects all the learners of distance education with subject expert trainers. This type of multi-cultural contact enriches all the experiences of learning and also introduces the learners to various perspectives of teaching skills. Apart from this, media technology is of special importance as a web-based resource for the quality creation of teaching material and its dissemination to inaccessible and remote areas. Thus, media technology has a very effective importance in the development and promotion of open and distance education.

REFERENCES

- [1] Sirola, Sagar Singh and Purohit, Prem Prakash (2022), "Role of ITC in Education" ISBN Edited Book Chapter (978-93-5552-390-7), Page No. 72-77, Nikhil Publishers Agra (Uttar Pradesh).
- [2] Singh, Vishal and Dubey, Amit (2022), "Role of Information and Communication Technology in

- Education in India” Volume-11, Issue-8, ISSN: 2320-2882.
- [3] Sinha, Shweta and Lamba, Shalini (2016), “Role of ICT in Higher Education”, Research Science Journal, ISSN: 2350-0123 (E) / 2322-0708 (P).
- [4] Singhal, Anupama and Kurushreshtha, S.P. (2012), "Important Components of Educational Technology", Aggarwal Publications, Patna (Bihar).
- [5] Baker, H.J. (2000), “Access to classroom computers”, Communications of the ACM, 43(6), 24-25.
- [6] https://unacademy.com/content/kerala_psc/study_material/extension-education-andcommunication/audiovisual-aids/
- [7] https://www.drdo.gov.in/drdo/sites/default/files/publications-document/vishv_pragati.pdf
- [8] <https://www.google.co.in/search?q=विज्ञान+एवं+प्रौद्योगिकी+का+महत्व>
- [9] <https://www.google.co.in/search?q=दूरस्थ+शिक्षा+में+कंप्यूटर+की+भूमिका&-eCkAg&oq=दूरस्थ+शिक्षा+में+कंप्यूटर+&gs-qQE&sclient=mobile-gws-wiz-serp#vhid=zephyr:0&vssid=atritem>
- [10] https://www.google.co.in/search?q=आत्म+अनुदेशन+अधिगम+सामग्री+के+निर्माण+में+आई0सी0टी0+की+भूमिका&sca_esv=093f1932c1e44e67&ei=d2V6ZvSKLM2Pvr0PscibaA&oq=आत्म+अनुदेशन+अधिगम+सामग्री+के+निर्माण+में+आई0सी0टी0+की+भूमिका
- [11] http://en-m.translate.google/wiki/Instructional_materials
- [12] <https://www.vedantu.com/computer-science/using-computers-in-education>

Citation of this Article:

Sagar Singh Sirola, Dr. Debaki Sirola. (2025). Role of Media Technology in Propagation of Open and Distance Education. *International Research Journal of Innovations in Engineering and Technology - IRJIET*, 9(3), 28-31. Article DOI <https://doi.org/10.47001/IRJIET/2025.903004>
