



DISTANCE LEARNING IN MODERN ERA`S EDUCATION SYSTEM

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Annotation: *The main motive behind writing the article is to learn more about what distance learning is and get acquainted readers in more detail with the concept of e-learning in a global context. To be more precise, this article is about to provide clear explanation of distance learning in comparison with traditional way, its merits and demerits.*

Key words: *Distance learning, e-learning, education system, traditional learning, modern technologies, remote learning, conventional form of education.*

Distance education, structured learning in which the student and instructor are separated by time and place . What once considered a special form of education using non-traditional delivery systems is now becoming an important concept in mainstream education. [1;13.1]

In the modern world of education it is clear that these days distance learning is gaining growing popularity with the development of modern technology, creating an easy access for all ages and genders to acquire knowledge from every corner of the globe. Thus, we can see that educational areas, including Universities and colleges, are gradually complemented or even replaced by e-learning.

Looking through firstly advantages, this new form of learning can offer wide range of comforts for the individuals of modern age, especially for those who have busy schedule and full-time job, no having chance of attending universities and

colleges that make it really a strong and prospective competitor against traditional learning. By this way, they could study in their perfect environment, at their own place, time and also speed. This, in turn, is a great financial advantage which means that they do not have to pay for travel and renting expenses, which is not a real case for the conventional system. More importantly, distance learning has a possibility of bringing a substantial benefit for the government too. A huge amount of money, which has been heavily investing in improving the provision of educational facilities, may decrease. Instead, It can be spend on another overriding objectives, such as in order to introduce cutting-edge medical technology which means more patients are likely to survive or make a scientific breakthrough we are lacking today.

Moreover, this modern teaching delivery method may prevent people, who are not physically present in classrooms, from experiencing discrimination which may cause some negative consequences for their state of mental health, like undermining their self-confidence. Fortunately, with the help of e-learning they can easily possess a good accessibility of getting any knowledge that is interesting to them and sharing it with others too.

Diagrams below show the process of e-teaching in comparison with traditional classes in both primary and higher education system.

The model of the stationary and distance forms of teaching (Figure 1) with more activities and more differences; applied at higher universities.[1;19]

Figure 1
(for universities)

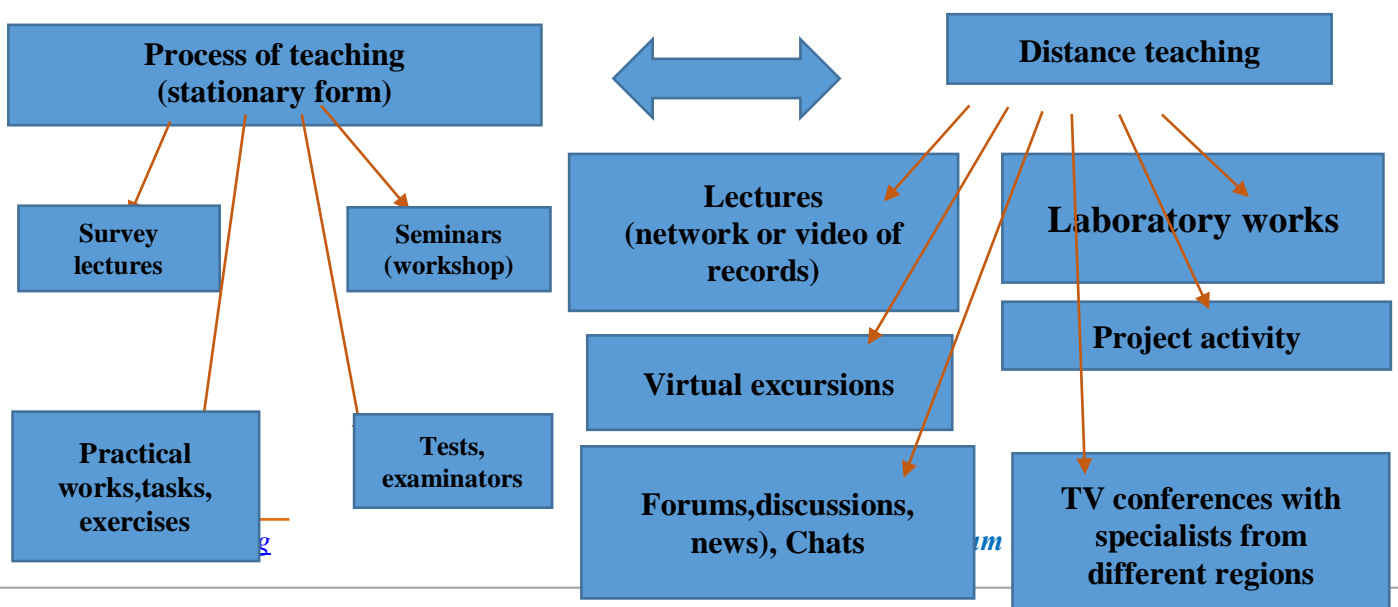
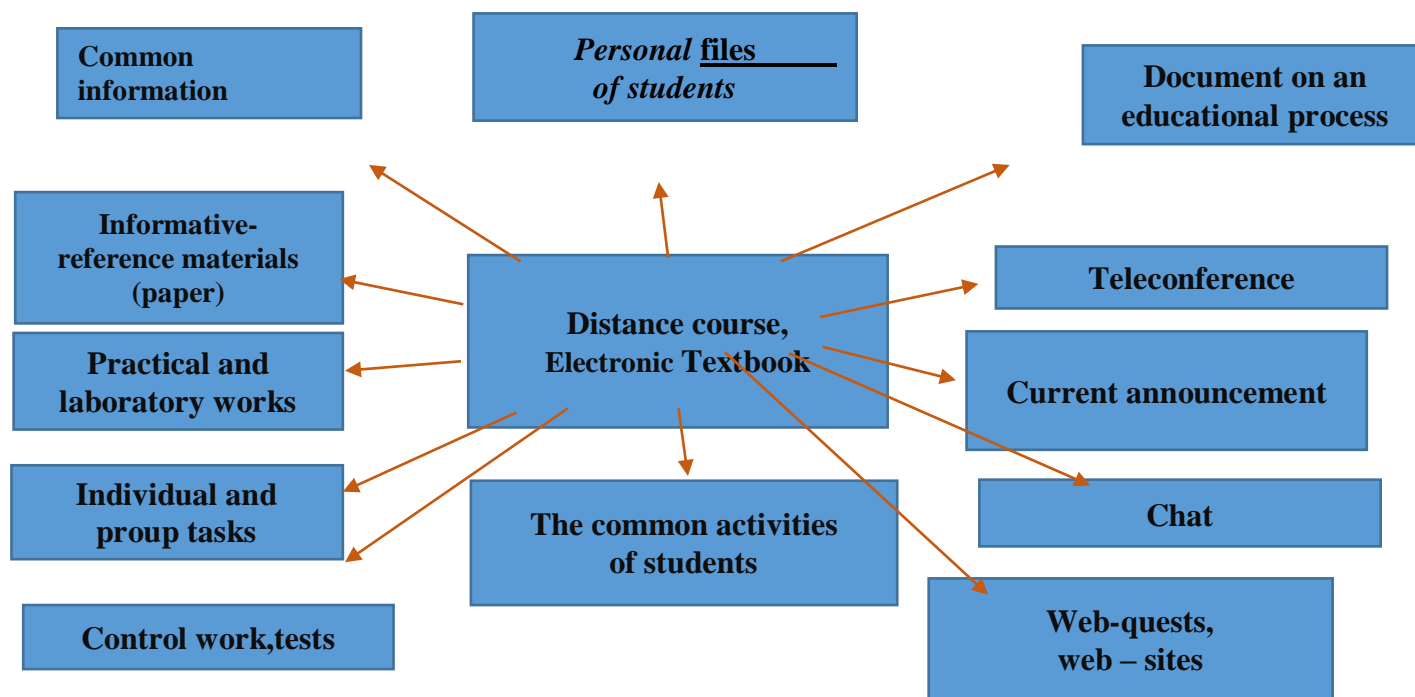


Figure 2

(for handicapped children, or children from small and remote communities, for students and adults, and anyone interested to upgrade their qualification or change their career)



On the other hand, there are always pros and cons of everything, thus distance is not exceptions well. Despite the predominant number of advantages of distance education, this system may not be perfect for all or a direct replacement for traditional way. During implementation of e-learning programs, following problems may appear:

- Students have to study in an atmosphere where is irrelevant to the subject they are actually supposed to learn with surrounding distractions which may negatively effect on the proficiency of action and the intensity of their objective.

- Insufficient computer literacy and internet access. In every country, there are remote areas where there is no direct access to the internet. Moreover, often the residents of such areas do not have any desire to learn, so it`s necessary to spread computer literacy.[2]

- Unlike conventional system, e-learning requires a strict self discipline to consistently perform stated tasks. So this form of education may not be always

effective unless learners are psychologically ready to accept an alternative method of mastering.

- There is one to say that it is difficult to imagine student life without attending lectures or having an interaction with fellow students. Being restricted from participating in classroom lessons, students have no chance to have face-to-face conversations along with their teachers on specific topics which are not well understandable for them, express their emotions openly and share interesting ideas with others when study online.

- Online education puts interaction barriers between students and teachers to some extent, resulting in loss of interpersonal skills among them. In addition to this, they may miss a good chance of getting to make new friends who have different mind-sets and nationalities in real life that does not allow them to enjoy collaborating.

Conclusion: To sum up, taking the opinions mentioned above into consideration, distance education is highly likely to be more convenient, cost-effective and confidential learner-friendly mode of learning since it makes outstanding contribution to enrich our full life.

Despite the fact that the establishment of teaching online delivery method may create a number of obstacles to make its place in the educational community, recent developments in technology are erasing the lines between traditional and distance learners, facilitating its future growth.

For these reasons online education will experience gradual growth both nationally and internationally.

The global environment rates in the institutions of higher learning have shot up tremendously since the rolling out of distance learning educational programs. Judging from the ongoing trends, it is evident that distance learning will continue to gain prominence over the traditional face-to-face education.[1]

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