

DISTANCE LEARNING

In today's knowledge based competitive economy, the demand for professionals with academic degrees is a must. The trend for qualified professionals with academic degree is increasing. The experience and knowledge gained by the professionals over a period of time does not get recognition unless supported by an academic degree. Career development during the working era is must. To do this it is necessary to gain the latest knowledge and informations on regular basis by way of attending workshops, seminars and reading latest professional journals. However this may not elevate the position. Regular studies from the universities will enable application of experience in a systematic and professional manner, which can help in advancement of career. Time and Finance are two major factors, which play an important role to persue higher education and in particular on regular basis introduction of distance education has given plenty of opportunities for enthusiastic learners to fulfill their ambition and advancement in their career without any age barrier. There are specialized distance educations universities, which have been established to cater to this demand. Further there are also many conventional universities, which have started distance education programs.

What is Distance Learning / Education?

Distance learning is a type of education, which is imparted to a learner from a distance. In practical terms, there is a physical separation of a teacher and a learner. In this type of education, teacher and learner (student) are no more present in a classroom, which is a normal case of present day conventional face-to-face education system.

What are the advantages of distance education for Individual?

1. Learner gets education without disturbing his work schedule.
2. One can get the education at his own pace, place and at his convenient time.
3. One has the opportunity to acquire knowledge in some skills and profession.

What are the advantages of distance education for Government perspective?

1. Government Can fulfill ever-increasing demand from adult learners for education opportunities as opening the new institutions / universities with conventional facilities are a costly proposition.
2. Shortage of skilled teaching staff can be overcome by way of distance education as one teacher can cater to number of learners through different means of communication medias.
3. Education from highly developed areas can be imparted to less developed areas and thus benefiting the people with less financial background.

What is required of a learner?

Since there is no face-to-face education system, a learner must have.

1. Good communication skills.
2. Ability to understand what he reads (paper print), listens (through Audio/Video) and should be able to write and make presentation of what he understands.
3. Ability to give the reasoning regarding a particular matter after carefully studying the subject.
4. Professional experience to understand the program and its in-depth application to the work environment.

What is difference between Training & Education?

Training & Education are loosely synonymous terms. However there is a distinction between training & education. The dictionary definition of these two terms is following.

Education:

1. To develop the innate capacities of specialty by schooling or institution.
2. To stimulate or develop the mental or moral growth.

Training:

1. To coach in or accustom to a mode of behavior or performance.
2. To make proficient with specialized instruction and practice.

Education is seen to be more general and more focused on mental process. Education teaches people how to think. It enhances the minds ability to deal with reality. Education is more theoretical and conceptional in nature. The essential of past knowledge are taught for the purpose of teaching students how to appraise new events and situations.

Education equips students to acquire new knowledge. Education is the responsibility of individual. Education is more generally applicable and more portable than training.

Training focuses more on doing. Training is more jobs focused than education. Training emphasizes on maintaining or improving skills needed to perform the current job, or an acquiring new job skills. Training is limited for a specific area.

What is required from the University?

1. The teaching staff should be highly skilled having complete knowledge of the development and research-taking place in the area of their fields.
2. The course material should be to the point with the maximum emphasis / attention given to the practical applicability of the course material.
3. Course / programs offered by University should benefit in developing the career of the learner.

Recognition:

Concerned authorities / establishments should encourage the learner by recognizing their efforts as it is an indirect asset for the employer