
Analysis of Existing Policies and Practices in Distance Education: Empowering Women Education

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Abstract

Distance education is one of the existing development in education. Therefore, the key purpose of distance education is to provide education to the peoples, those who have no opportunity to continue their qualification after schooling. But the key purpose of this paper to explore role of distance education in promotion of women education. The main objectives of the study were: to explore the role of distance education in promoting women education. And to explore the problems of women for pursuing education. It was quantitative study, while the nature of the study was descriptive and survey was used for data collection. The population of the study was all female students who enrolled in section 2018 in all universities in Islamabad and Rawalpindi, where distance education programs exist. Therefore, 260 students were randomly selected. Researcher personally visited and collected the data. Data were analyzed by the help of SPSS (version, 20), percentage, frequency, and mean score was used for data analysis. Data were tabulated in the form of figures and tables.

Keywords: Distance Education, Practices, Policies, Women Empowerment, Effectiveness

Introduction

In the field of education Distance education is a new concept, and this innovative concept it change our life. So, the key purpose of Distance education is to delivered education to those peoples, who have no chance to improve their education after schooling. Student's plays very important role in distance mode of education, because students is a key component of such system. In Distance mode of education students are different with each other in a number of ways for example, age-wise, social prestige as well as in their methods to learning because of the modification of their geographical position, prior knowledges, as well as skills (Brookfield, 1986). Thus, women get freedom as well as empowerment by the help of education. Education provide empowerment to women in every field of life. By the help of education, it keep women in path of advancement and success, Distance Education provide them a platform where they can received knowledge and built up their personality. Education is the only one way through which women can take the decision confidently, because education provide them information and experiences, that how you can take a good decision with confidently. For the development of each and every society women emancipation as well as empowerment is very important. Male as well as female both are the important ingredient of each and every society. Therefore, both male and female plays their equal parts in the development of the society. By the help of education both male and

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female progress rapidly. In a society for example, Pakistan, which is male-controlled by nature, as well as women relish a low prestige from independence up-to now. And man is considered is superior if we compare to woman. Women have tackled discernment from the time of independence to up-to now. In Pakistani society no one allow women to go to schools, colleges and universities to receive education. Therefore, distance mode of education provides a big opportunity to women to get higher education through this mode of education. And it is very important it here to see that the results of Distance mode of Education on women empowerment, as well as the difficulties generated by people for the similar determination. Since the Pakistani society is desperately male-controlled by nature, and women have a less societal position if compare men. Despite adoring equivalent privileges beneath by-law of the terrestrial, as well as a female is up to now retrograde in each and every field of life. (Sushma & Sahay, 1998).

Distance Education in Pakistan

Distance Mode of Education is the only one way to receive education particularly higher level of education through inexpensive way, therefore this mode of education is very important for developing nations to get their targets in the field of education in all over the world. Rashid (2000) revealed that, by the help of Distance Mode of Education each and every developing nations accomplishing their manpower targets. Especially in Pakistan, formal system of education did not increase with the enlarged development of people. Furthermore the dropout rate as well as gender difference have high rate. So as to for these challenges, in 1974 Pakistan people party established "The Allama Iqbal Open University" (AIOU) in Islamabad. The main purpose of this University was that to offer courses from literacy to PhD level. The AIOU, is also called a Mega University, which is the biggest university in Pakistan as well as in all over the world, it is a distinctive university in numerous means, giving educational competence to each and every children from 'nine age to ninety age, and so on, Allama Iqbal Open University is one of the biggest university of Pakistan on the basis of course enrolment as well as course programs and offering more than 150 programs as well as communicating education to pupils above in number of 1170379, (Vice Chancellor's Report, 2004-05 & 2010-11). Because of elastic scheme Allama Iqbal Open University is playing very vigorous part in women growth as well as the national advancement additionally by indorsing female admission to education as well as reducing sex difference. (Safdar, Hussain & Hafeez). Allama Iqbal Open University Vice Chancellor Dr. Nazir Sangi accurately claims that; as a distance mode of Education University, we inspire women to take admission in a large numbers of educational programs, which offer by Allama Iqbal Open University. Numerous programs were made for women. So, in large number female students were enrolled in these programs in each and every programs. Therefore it is a sign that women trust on us as well as the high standard of education, which is provided by AIOU, (Achakzai, 2013). Allama Iqbal Open University is constantly planning to improve its competence to empower women. In recent times, Allama Iqbal Open University signed a MoU with five biggest Iranian Universities to make as well as introduced academic programs for endorsing women education as well as family trainings in Pakistan through distance mode of education (Pakistan News Network, 2013).

Need of women education and emancipation

Men and women are the main components any society, we can also say that both are two sides of a same coin. Therefore, any society cannot develop without men and women. For the advancement of each and every society, it is our responsibility to give education to women. If we educate women it means that we educate our future for better prosperity. So, the following were the main point of the women education as well as freedom:

1. Education enable women to identify as well as examine for their privileges toward, education, wellbeing, shelter, and food clothing, etc.
2. Women education enable women to battle against each and every type of judgment against their traditional, proclaim themselves towards their precise to equivalent management with their men complement as bonafide peoples of this country.
3. Women education empower the women that they were take judgements as well as assent accountabilities for enchanting such verdicts regarding themselves.
4. Education give economic power to the women as well as there by empower them to subsidies their part to the economic development of the country.
5. Education enable the women systematically through exposure to science as well as technological education for the contests of the contemporary technological age as well as information ICT break through describing universal.
6. Education support women to decrease nurturing as well as child humanity through better nourishment, developed children raising preparation, health care as well as deterrence against dangerous viruses.
7. Education give chance to the women to contributing intensely in this universe of cultured government as well as supremacy as progressive inhabitants (Kumar, 2013).

Women Empowerment

The word women empowerment is a word which is globally used, as well as in all over the world different scholars and researchers used the word women empowerment in different context. Numerous scholars and researcher used the word women empowerment in different sense according to their society. So, Empowerment entails that distinct as well as a group previously required authority as well as power by situations, disavowal or avoidance. The matter of women empowerment has developed a portion of general discussion (Olakunlehin & Ojo, 2006). So, women empowerment is apprehended in the perception of females' policy making authority as a sign of women empowerment. Emphasizing the measurement of incomes, the measurement of policy making organization imitates the competences of women have to form their lives, permitting to their peculiar requirements, (Kabeer, 1999). In other ways empowerment is conceptualization is mentioning to the significance of communal enclosure, (Malhotra, et al., 2002). Now, empowerment is selected achieved in the involvement of women in humanity as well as through, (Malhotra, et al., 2002), revealed that, the development of effects as well as competences of miscellaneous personalities as well assets to involve, stimulus and grip liable the organisations, which touch them. Associated to the perception of shared attachment is the measurement of governmental as well as societal consciousness of women, it illuminates portion of the empowerment procedure. According to Saraswathy, et al. (2008) presented that 'women

empowerment' is the outcome of a development of women "classifying their internal power, prospects for development, as well as their part in particular intention". Lastly, the women empowerment as normally designated as a procedure of females gaining further entrance to a solid revenue as well as financial authority and security, (Malhotra, et al., 2002). So, these descriptions are not fundamentally limited, however they mention some dissimilar mechanisms for empowerment. According to the prevailing research papers, the empowerment as a method, in which women emanate to trust in their capability "to hypothesis, as well as gross". Ineffectiveness, in difference, we realize it is on-going relegation of females through men in community, maintained through traditional communications of deflation affected, in different units, in womenfolk. These memoranda method on the base for females' misgivings regarding their strength to form their life (Alcoff, 1988).

Issues in Women Empowerment

Therefore, the requirement for empowerment rises from the incapability of a discrete as well as a group of peoples to represent their thoughts and extent their highest abilities because of simulated obstacles generated through entities in further groups, inside in a similar culture. So, we can say that, it is the appearance of an incontestable dissimilarity, separation, as well as relegation. According to Oxfam (1995), the word Empowerment contains stimulating domination, which induces billions of folks to perform their role in their culture on the basis of word, which is unbiased, as well as in methods to which they were disagree with them, Okeke (1995) agreed that, the word empower means to provide them strength, power, to empower a person to increase strength. According to Batliwa (1995), it is a procedure as well as the outcome of the development, whereby the ineffective as well as fewer influential followers of the culture to increase larger admittance as well as govern over factual understanding, assets, encounters & philosophies of judgments as well as reduction of transmute the organisations, edifices through which unsatisfactory entrée & regulate over in come stounremitting and propagated. Therefore, previous explanations display that empowerment infers, distinct as well as a group of peoples, that previously required strength as well as ability in surroundings, repudiation or else evasion. So, there is a great debate on problem of women empowerment. Which has been discussed with different ways: the large number of empowerment proposes women's authority to contest men, comprising their spouses. The appropriate word which is mention for empowerment produces solid expressive meanings that interpret vehement innovative accomplishment of different types, prepared through the females beside the recognized organisations. Meanwhile the existences, the domination of females has been a main world-wide problem as well as a basis of distress to numerous world-wide organisations for example, ECOWAS, UN, & AU etc. Therefore, the perception of empowerment established on appeasing the dominations of the females has controlled to the establishing of the UN increase Fund for Women, their key role is to endorse the involvement of females at each and every stages of enlarge development & enactment (Batliwa, 1995).

Objectives of the study

1. To explore the role of distance education in promoting women education.

2. To explore the problems of women for pursuing education.

Research Questions of the Study

1. To what extent the role of distance education in promoting women education?
2. To what extent the problems of women for pursuing education?

Research Methodology

It was quantitative study, while the nature of the study was descriptive and survey was used for data collection. The population of the study was all female students who enrolled in section 2018 in all universities in Islamabad and Rawalpindi, where distance education programs exist. Therefore 260 prospective teachers were randomly selected. Questionnaire was used as a research instrument. Questionnaire was properly designed as well as validated by the help of expert in the field of distance education. Researcher personally visited and collected the data. Data were analyzed by the help of SPSS (version, 20). Percentage, frequency, mean score was used in data analysis. Data were tabulated in the form of figures and tables.

Analysis and Interpretation

Table 01 *Quality of education develop among women through distance mode of education*

S. No		Frequency	Percentage	Mean Score
1.	SA	52	20.0	2.45
2.	A	151	58.1	
3.	N	45	17.3	
4.	DA	08	3.1	
5.	SDA	04	1.5	
Total		260	100	

Table no.01 revealed that, 20% of the respondents were strongly agreed, 58.1% prospective teachers were agreed, 17.3% prospective teachers were neutral, 3.1% respondents were disagree as well as 1.5% prospective teachers were strongly disagreed regarding the statement that the perceptions of respondents regarding the effectiveness of distance education on women empowerment in Pakistan. And its mean score was 2.45. Thus it is decided that majority of the participants have positive responses regarding that statement that the perceptions of respondents regarding the effectiveness of distance education on women empowerment in Pakistan.

Table 02 *Education develops Skills among women through distance mode education*

S. No		Frequency	Percentage	Mean Score
1.	SA	58	22.3	2.75
2.	A	133	51.2	
3.	N	49	18.8	
4.	DA	18	6.9	
5.	SDA	02	0.8	

Total	260	100
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According Table no.02 presented that, 22.3% of the prospective teachers were strongly agreed, 51.2% prospective teachers were agreed, 18.8% prospective teachers were neutral, 6.9% respondents were disagree as well as 0.8% prospective teachers were strongly disagreed regarding the statement that perception of the respondents regarding the impact of distance education on women empowerment in Pakistan. And its mean score was 2.75. Therefore, it is reflected that majority of the participants have positive responses regarding that statement that perception of the respondents regarding the impact of distance education on women empowerment in Pakistan.

Table 03 Education develops the quality of empowerment among women through distance mode of education

S. No		Frequency	Percentage	Mean Score
1.	SA	67	25.8	2.05
2.	A	131	50.4	
3.	N	41	15.8	
4.	DA	17	6.5	
5.	SDA	04	1.5	
Total		260	100	

According to table no.03 showed that, 25.8% of the prospective teachers were strongly agreed, 50.4% prospective teachers were agreed, 15.8% prospective teachers were neutral, 6.5% respondents were disagree as well as 1.5% prospective teachers were strongly disagreed regarding the statement that perception of the respondents regarding the role of women in distance education and their empowerment. And its mean score was 2.05. Therefore, it is reflected that majority of the participants have positive responses regarding that statement that perception of the respondents regarding the role of women in distance education and their empowerment.

Findings

The finding of the study were:

- 1) According to table no.01, 22.3% of the prospective teachers were strongly agreed, 51.2% prospective teachers were agreed, 18.8% prospective teachers were neutral, 6.9% respondents were disagree as well as 0.8% prospective teachers were strongly disagreed regarding the statement that perception of the respondents regarding the impact of distance education on women empowerment in Pakistan.
- 2) Table no.02, showed that 22.3% of the prospective teachers were strongly agreed, 51.2% prospective teachers were agreed, 18.8% prospective teachers were neutral, 6.9% respondents were disagree as well as 0.8% prospective teachers were strongly disagreed regarding the statement that perception of the respondents regarding the impact of distance education on women empowerment in Pakistan.
- 3) Table no.03, revealed that, 25.8% of the prospective teachers were strongly agreed, 50.4% prospective teachers were agreed, 15.8% prospective teachers were neutral, 6.5% respondents were disagree as well as 1.5% prospective teachers were strongly

disagreed regarding the statement that perception of the respondents regarding the role of women in distance education and their empowerment.

Discussion

The main aim of the present research paper was to investigate or to explore the impact of women empowerment in Pakistan through Distance Education. And all of the objectives of the research paper we investigate each and every factor of Distance education and their impact on women empowerment in Pakistan. For example in this research paper we explore the effectiveness of distance education on women empowerment in Pakistan, and also investigate the impact of distance education on women empowerment in Pakistan. The same result found in different studies which were investigated in different times, for examples, (Malhotra, et al., 2002) and (Achakzai, 2013), the result of these two studies is similar to the prevailing research.

Conclusion

In this research paper we highlights the role of Distance mode of Education and its Impact on Women Empowerment in Pakistan. Distance mode of education has a great impact on women empowerment in Pakistan. By receiving education through Distance mode, women's play their role in every walk of life. According to the finding of the study most of the prospective teacher were strongly agreed regarding the effectiveness of distance mode of education on women empowerment in Pakistan. Majority of the participants were also agreed that distance mode of education left a positive impacts on women empowerment in Pakistan as well as the majority of the respondents were also agreed the statements that when those women who were living in rural areas and have no access to get education and when they received education through distance mode than such women plays an active the role in the development of the country as well as in society. When women were become educated than they get empowerment.

Recommendations

The main recommendations of the study were:

1. To established equal number of Distance Education institutions for male as well as female to decrease gender gaps in Pakistan.
2. Especially established separate universities of Distance mode for female at Federal level in Pakistan.
3. Distance learning institutions also established at provincial as well as District level in Pakistan.

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