

Abstract:

Distance education is a key course in Education at the undergraduate level. The course is designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills of Distance Education an innovative mode of providing education. The historical and theoretical developments of the subject are presented in lectures 1 to 5 under the topics of overview of distance education, administration and organization of distance education, historical development of distance education, theoretical approaches to distance education and models of distance education.

The roles of technology and media are discussed in lectures 6 to 10 under the topics of overview of the role of technology, types of technology in use today. This is followed by a discussion of the material development process under various types of media, with special emphasis on the print on the print medium in lectures 12 to 14. Assessment processes, record keeping and learner support services are then discussed in lectures 15 to 17. The study ends with a discussion of the economics of distance education in lecture 18.

At the end of the unit, the learner will be able to:

- (i) define and identify the characteristics of distance education
- (ii) trace the historical development of distance education
- (iii) explain the theoretical foundations of distance education
- (iv) discuss the technologies and media used in distance education
- (v) identify and discuss the various courseware used in distance education
- (vi) identify and discuss assessment, record-keeping and learner support services in distance education
- (vii) discuss the economics of distance education

The learner is also advised to read the essential reference books listed at the end of the text.