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## THE ROLE OF SOME TYPES OF MEDIA IN ENHANCING LEARNING IN DISTANCE LEARNING

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### ABSTRACT

Different kinds of media are used nowadays to transmit education to learners through Open Learning or Distance learning. Some types of media enhance the learning process especially in the undeveloped countries in Africa and Arab countries. The objectives of this study are to show the role of media in enhancing the distance learning in undeveloped countries and to provide the learning in remote places .The method that used by this study is descriptive analytical in how media enhance the learning process in open and distance learning in undeveloped countries .The present study shows the role of different kinds of media like print which is the most medium used in distance learning even in organizations that use telecommunications technologies which transmit the bulk of information and learning materials to the learner. Secondly, radio which is the most popular of all the media for distance learning in the poorest countries, most people can be reached through radio, at relatively low cost .Although television is also consider as one of the media that used in more affluent countries. Another type is audio cassettes is a familiar technology ,easy to use , and can easy to be portable . The study conclude that these types of media are more effective in the remote places in undeveloped countries and must be distributed in many far places and these types of media help women sector who live in remote places and are not be able to leave their children and their home .The study recommended to provide these media in remote places in undeveloped countries to help people especially women to complete their education because they do not have time to go to university.

**Key Words** :Distance learning ,Media, remote places

### Introduction

According to (Schlosser and Simonson,( 2002) distance education is defined as "institution-based, formal education where the learning group is separate, and where interactive telecommunications systems are used to connect learners, resources, and instructors". Distance education is a means of providing both open

and more restricted learning. Distance education is one way in which learners can study flexibly. Open and distance learning is a term that combines the two, and emphasizes learning rather than teaching among the more commonly used. According to the Common Wealth of Learning (2004) Terms related to open and distance learning are the following: correspondence education, home study, independent study, external studies, continuing education, distance teaching, self-instruction, adult education, technology-based or mediated education, learner centered education, open learning, open access, flexible learning, and distributed learning.

### Role of Media in Distance Education

According to Solomon (2016) distance education is definitely linked to media and technology. The organizational pattern and operating practices of a distance education facility are generally based upon the same educational method as conventional system. However the use of media is greater in Distance Learning. According to Bates (1995) the media that are provided for use in distance learning can be described in terms of a number of properties. Among the more important properties are availability; costs; teaching functions; and interactivity. According to Halla & Wassan (2014) mentioned the technologies which used for distance education fall into two categories: telecommunications technologies that connect instructors to distant learners and classroom technologies that record, present, and display instructional information. Collins (1996) Communicating with someone via the right communication media seems to be difficult nowadays as people use various mode of communication media and senders do not have any knowledge about receivers' current communication media, especially in ubiquitous environment.

**1- Print:** One of the major features in the field of distance learning has been how to deliver the media. Some of the past programs were delivered in form of print. The instructional media were books and other printed materials. The papers which passed from instructor to learner and vice versa provided the interaction between instructor and learner.

**2- Audio cassettes:** Audio cassettes have many merits they are a familiar media, easy to use, portable. Secondly they are relatively low-cost to buy to produce and little time to produce. They help in learning vocabulary and pronunciation. Its lessons can vary in duration. Instructor can 'talk' to learner through difficult concepts and can make model for good practice.

**3-Radio:** According to Folarin (as cited in Okwu, Kuku & Aba, 2007), radio has always been a favored medium of mass communication as it is easily understood by the laymen and the intellectual alike. Radio is the most simplified of all the media for distance learning.

**4. Television:** According to (Bates 2006) television has a unique role to play in distance education because of its features conveying, presentational, and control characteristics. The ways in which these properties could be utilized, discussed in depth, and related to different types of learner.

### RESULT & DISCUSSION

The objectives of this study are to describe the role of media in enhancing the distance learning in undeveloped countries and to provide the learning in remote places. Media can form an important role in recent education since the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century starting from print up to web e-learning. The technology has out broken the world of education. The role of teachers has been changed from providing information to learners in their detection of innovation technologies which have enhanced e-learning. The term of distance learning is applied to a distinguished variety of programs which help many students via a wide variety of media. Distance education is one of the means that to help to break the barrier of geographic places because it increases time and place flexibility, provides just-in-time learning, reduces costs, and has quicker time development than traditional material development. Print is one of the popular media used by distance learning and open learning. Some of its advantages are: it is a familiar technology, so it is easy to use, portable and learner controlled pace. It is a relatively low-cost to buy and relatively low-cost to produce. It also can provide carefully argued analyses and systematic presentation, as well as provides learners with a record of their learning experience. In print photographs, diagrams, and

pictures are useful tools and can be used as activities for group discussion and as a medium of exchange between tutor and learner. Secondly audio cassettes which conveying culture, they have become extremely important, used in this way, they are certainly a form of open and distance learning. It has many advantages it is a familiar technology, easy to use, and moveable learner controlled pace. It is also relatively low-cost to buy, low-cost to produce and little time to produce. It helps in learning vocabulary and pronunciation. It emphasizes on meaning which are added by modulation of human voice. Its lessons can vary in duration. Tutor can 'talk' to learner through difficult concepts and can make a for model for good practice.

Thirdly according to the Commonwealth of Learning and Asian Development Bank (1999) radio developed in the 20th century and initially found very few listeners. Radio broadcast began in locations as Detroit and Pittsburgh. In 1922, there were 30 radio station transmitters and by the year 1942, it had become a part of the day to day life of the people. Radio is the most reachable of all the media for distance learning. even in the poorest or undeveloped countries in the world. Most people can be reached through radio, at relatively low-cost. Radio broadcasts words, music, and other sounds, and in the case of digital radio can also be used to transmit data in the form of text and graphics. It is true that radio is the more effective media in transmitting information in distance learning and open learning because of its flexibility, portability and its low cost. Finally according to Bates (2006) television has a unique role to play in distance education because of its distinctive delivery, presentational, and control characteristics. Finally according to Bates (2006) television has a unique role to play in distance education because of its characteristics delivery, presentational, and control characteristics. Characteristics could be explained in depth, and related to different kinds of learner. Educational television came into favor for educational purposes from about 1950 onward. Bates (2006) Although the mode of transmission has become much more varied, with conventional broadcasting from terrestrial transmitters now supplemented by cable television and broadcasting via satellite, the purposes remain the same: to enrich lessons through documentary-type programs; or to teach content directly. It has many advantages in more affluent countries, almost all households have television. It is a familiar medium. Television provides evidence; showing documentary real world material takes learners into real world. It is useful for pacing work for the learner, because of the need to keep up with the broadcast Schedule. Also it can be used to keep learners in touch with events within the institution. It is a Well-designed broadcasts which can involve the learner in active ways. Thus, the researcher proposes to open more sites for open and distance learning in remote places in order to serve the women sector who are not able to attend universities and choose which is the most appropriate media can be selected based on the effective tests. Also, it suggests strategies for the design of media for better learning. Indeed, This study investigate these types of media (print, radio, cassette and television) which are more effective in the remote places in undeveloped countries and must be distributed in many far places. The most effective type of media is radio according to the researchers' belief. Media helps women sector and learner who live in remote places and are not be able to leave their children and their homes or their work. when selecting media developers must choose the media that suits learners in remote places. Generally, Distance learning and open learning, are a field of education that focuses on technology and instructional systems designed to send the information incorporated in delivering education to students who are not physically "on site" to receive their education. printed text is often accompanied by audio and television or cassette constituents such as records and slides, interaction in the correspondence method can be written or printed documents. Some Universities use radio and television broadcasts and audio cassettes to supplement the printed materials. Evaluative study has shown that learners the quality of the self-learning materials: print, radio, TV programs and audio cassettes are good for self-study (Rumble, 1995; Ali et al., 1997 as cited in Islam et al., 2006). However, the effectiveness of the TV and radio programs has been limited owing to short duration of broadcasting by the government owned TV and radio stations. In addition, frequent power problems also have adversely affected the broadcast of radio and TV programs. (Islam et al., 2006).

TOJET (2011) mentioned that many distance learners are also working people who cannot leave their jobs and places for contacting teachers in institutions on regular basis. In the situation, media play essential

role in providing educational aid to learners where no other systematic interaction between teacher and learner is possible. At last but not least the researchers agree with Isman and et al (2003:12) by coding Kinross (2000) explained "technology breaks down all barriers by facilitating easier use of knowledge and creating common place for everyone. It is also reflected that technology become representative which creates home schooling rather than unique learning under the dimension of flexibility. Open and distance learning offers many of advantages to remote learners especially women sector in undeveloped countries. They solve and overcome some problems such as distance and time, which considered as barriers to conventional learning.

### Recommendations

The greatest challenge for researchers to understand the essential role of media in providing education to those who live in remote places and help women sector who are not able to attend systematic education .

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