

THE COMMUNICATIONS

Journal of Applied Research in Open and Distance Education

The Communications—an applied journal of research in open and distance education, is an official publication of the Directorate of Distance Education, University of Kashmir, Srinagar. The Journal seeks to bridge and integrate the intellectual, methodological and substantive diversity of educational scholarship and to encourage a vigorous dialogue between educational scholars and practitioners. The journal seeks to foster multidisciplinary research and collaboration among policy makers, professionals, teacher educators, research scholars and teachers. The journal also intends to exert its efforts in capacity building for the future of learning and teaching among the new researchers across the broadest range of research activities internationally. The directorate seeks to offer spaces for more critical thinking and reflection grounded in rigorous scholarship as to ways in which higher education might go on being further reshaped in the future.

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CONTENTS

Editorial

PAPERS

- Public Perceptions of Distance Education In Nigeria: Need for Counselling Interventions 01-13
Augustine C. Ukwueze
- Research Based Vocational Education Programmes Through Open and Distance Learning Mode With Specific Reference to Open Schooling 14-26
Savita Kaushal
- Secular School Education: an Exploratory Study 27-34
Sandeep Kumar
- Vocational Maturity Of The Vocational Education Stream Subjects In Kashmir 35-40
Nazir-Ul-Amin Gash
Neelofar Khan
- Examination Reforms - A Case Study of Teacher Education Offered Through Directorate of Distance Education University of Kashmir 41-46
Nahid Ruhee
Showkat Rashid Wani
- Legal Perspectives Of Euthanasia: – An Overview 47-56
Aneeda Jan
Beauty Bandy
- Cultural Significance of Cinema: The Relevance of Post Islamic Revolution Iranian Cinematic Values In The Context of Kashmir 57-62
Shahid Rasool
Benish Ali Bhat
- Educationally Backward Tribes of Jammu and Kashmir -A Case Study of District Shopian 63-72
Syed Zahoor Ahmad Geelani

Role of ICTs In Social Movements: A Case Study of Arab Spring <i>Aaliya</i> <i>Aadil Masood Wani</i>	73-84
Quality Assurance In Distance Education <i>Bhupendra Singh</i> <i>Dr. Patanjali Mishra</i>	85-92
The Panorama of Youth in India: A Socio-Demographic Analysis Study of ICT (Information And Communication Technology) In Context of Indian Higher Education <i>Priyanka Singh</i> <i>Sanjay Singh</i>	93-98
Job Satisfaction And Self Esteem Among Teachers Working In Private And Government Schools <i>Humera Shafi</i> <i>Sayema Shaban</i> <i>Shahmaz Shaf</i>	99-108
Social Impact of Urbanization on The Institution of Family In Kashmir: A Study of Srinagar City <i>Iram Imtiyaz</i> <i>Dr Manzoor Hussain</i>	108-118
Operational Risk Management In Banking – A Study Of J&K Bank <i>Viqar_U-Nissa</i> <i>Mushtaq A Darz</i>	119-124
Search Based Software Engineering-A Review <i>Arif Mohammad Lattoo</i>	125-128
Mid-Day Meal: An Instrument For Enhancing Enrolment In India <i>Mirza Muneeb Manan</i>	129-132
The Idiom of Media In The Narrative of The Collaborator: A Critique <i>Basharat Shameem</i>	133-136
Emergence Of New Media And The Questions About Social Implications: A Perspective <i>Monisa Qadri</i>	137-146
Dismal Teacher Education in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Who is Responsible? <i>Habibullah Shah</i>	147-150
Book Review: Dyer, Caroline: Livelihoods and Learning: Education For all and the marginalisation of mobile Pastoralists. Routledge Taylor &Francis Group London, <i>Mohammad Zia Ul Haq Razaqi</i>	151-153

EDITORIAL

Distance Education, as a philosophy takes education to its wide range of learners who are separated by time and space and cannot afford regular mode of education for various constrains. As a flexible mode of education, distance or non- formal education surpasses all the barriers which are put up by the factors like distance, time and age, and thus helps in facilitating a lifelong learning. In the present-day age, spreading education through non-formal or distance modes has gained high currency as it proves highly beneficial for the aspirants seeking to achieve higher education, skill development, and career enhancement. It is therefore, very important that research based on various dynamics of the distance learning is brought to the forefront. In this regard, the Directorate of Distance Education, University of Kashmir, is fully committed to play its active role in the present times and also in the times to come.

It is indeed a moment of great joy to present *The Communications - Journal of Research in Distance Education* to dedicated researchers, teachers, scholars and students who are associated with the sphere of distance education across the country and also in other parts of the world. Through its journal "*The Communications*", the Directorate of Distance Education aims to provide platform to the dedicated researchers to put forward their valuable research endeavours regarding the different aspects of distance education in a concrete and organized way. In consonance with this effort, the present volume contains twenty three research and general papers which cover different themes related to distance education like educational psychology, pedagogy, distance education in the state and the rest of the country, social psychology, and educational technology. It is also heartening to know that this volume has received a great response from all over India and abroad. It is sincerely hoped that the assortment of research papers accessible in this volume will prove helpful and beneficial to the readers and the users in their learning and research explorations.

I express my earnest gratefulness to Prof. Khurshid Iqbal Andrabi, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, University of Kashmir, for his sagacious guidance and patronage from time to time.

The members of the Editorial Board of this journal deserve special accolades for their devotion and commitment in bringing the journal to its final realization. Mr. Habibullah Shah, Editor of this journal, deserves my thanks for his dedicated efforts in the collection and consolidation of research papers with care and caution.

Prof. Neelofar Khan
Chief Editor