



Spreading Awareness and Job Opportunities through Odl



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Abstract

Distance Education has done miracles in the field of education, it caters to those students who study and work on their own at home or at the office and communicate with faculty and other students via e-mail, electronic forums, video conferencing, chat rooms, boards, instant messaging and varieties of other forms of computer-based communication. Distance learning makes it much easier for some students to complete a degree or get additional job-training while balancing work and family commitments. This article elaborates upon the significance of Distance Education discussing various job oriented courses offered by Open universities to aspirants seeking degrees for a better resume and for career enhancements.

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1. Introduction

Distance learning makes it much easier for some students to complete a degree or get additional job-training while balancing work and family commitments. Since the number of hours for class work are flexible, as most distance learning programs allow students to work at their own pace and on their own time, many students have the liberty to complete their work during times when they are free, rather than accommodating their lives around a set classroom time. With more flexibility comes more responsibility on the part of the learner. Students have to learn to work well independently and without the constant guidance and monitoring of an instructor, thereby making distance learning a challenge for those who are not easily self-motivated.[4]

Over the years Distance Education has done miracles in the field of education, it caters to those students who study and work on their own at home or at the office and communicate with faculty and other students via e-mail, electronic forums, video conferencing, chat rooms, boards, instant messaging and varieties of other forms of computer-based communication.[1]

Majority of the distance learning programs engage a computer-based training (CBT) system and communications tools to produce a virtual classroom. Since the Internet and World Wide Web are accessible through virtually all computer platforms, they serve as the foundation for many distance learning systems.

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Over the past decade, distance education has become an progressively popular way for Universities to provide access to their programs and for students to learn about topics and get degrees they might not otherwise be able to pursue. Instructors from grade school to college are using the powerful tool of distance learning to teach students from all around the globe and let them work collaboratively on projects, degrees-focused content, and educational enrichment.[2]

A bulk of distance education today takes place using the Internet, now readily accessible for the vast majority of students whether in their own homes or at facilities such as local libraries. These electronic means are used to disseminate the learning material, keep students in touch with teachers, and provide access to communication between students. Of course, distance learning can use other technological formats as well including television, DVDs, teleconferencing, and printable material, but the immediacy and the ease of Web learning have made it a primary choice for many distance learners. Most of the Online programs often take advantage of a number of upcoming technologies to facilitate being in touch and efficiently communicating ideas easier and more effective than ever before and students may find themselves using interactive videos, e-mail, and discussion boards to meet the deadlines.

Comprehensively, we can say that Distance learning is also a great tool to help reach students who are in demographically remote areas and may not have ready accessibility to educational facilities or who want to explore opportunities not offered by their local schools. Naturally, schools are not the only institutions who are taking advantage of distance learning, as many businesses have found it a valuable tool in making employee education and training quicker and more cost-efficient. Now we shall see how professional courses are being offered and learners are benefiting through it in ODL system.

2. Results and Analysis

Professional Courses through Distance Learning

2.1 Hospitality & Hotel Management

Many Universities have initiated new Degree and Diploma programmes in Hotel Management. *Hospitality management* is an academic analysis of the running of hotels, restaurants, and travel and tourism-related business. The hotel industry, which is an vital part of the tourism sector, gives rise to a large percentage of the total employment in the tourism industry. Any hotel requires effectual services of highly trained staff to provide professional services for national and international clients. The hotel and catering industry has been one of the fastest growing industries in the world over the past 50 years. India's hotel industry is thriving due to an enhancement in business opportunities and foreign and domestic tourism. Reliable sources estimate that the employment opportunities in the hotel industry in India has increased to 15 million by 2010. The travel and tourism industry consists of tourists, travel agents and government and private tourism departments. The programme aims at making the learners understand the conceptual skills in operation, and administrative management related to hospitality services. It provides an opportunity to meet the ever-increasing needs of the Hospitality Industry. [5] Before launching of these professional courses a survey was conducted and the date was procured.

Relevant Technical Education in the area of Hotel Management has assumed tremendous significance at present. Being the world's largest service sector and India's favorite field of export, the unstoppable growth of Tourism has helped in generating many new jobs that require appropriate education and training at all levels. Tourism sector offers a wide spectrum of employment opportunities to various skilled personnel from highly trained managers to room boys, artisans, transport workers, etc.

Many distance learning programmes are particularly beneficial for industry professionals who: have accumulated experience; require further certification for advancement or promotion in their particular field; and are restricted by time and distance from attending regular classes. Enrolment in these programmes can begin at any time. [6]

In continuation with the above area, it was seen that certain health courses also need to be put to an effective purpose.

2.2 Yoga

Distance Learning programs are best suited for those who aspire to learn about the Divine lifestyle and pursue a quality education without leaving the boundaries of home or workplace Many Open Universities have designed the

study material keeping in mind that working professional, self-employed and housewives get hardly any time to study. This self-explanatory and interactive study material is devised in such a way that only one weekend is sufficient to study the program.[7] Distance learning programs have many significant advantages. Completing your entire course at home, without having to travel, take time away from work or leave your obligations behind, are some of the many reasons why most of the people find distance learning to be the best-suited option. Additionally, the cost of taking a distance learning course is significantly reduced in comparison to a face-to-face training.[8]

2.3 Naturopathy

Naturopathy prepares the student for a new era of complementary medicine by encompassing the sum of the body, mind, and spirit, thus caring for the whole person. Complementary or integrative medicine can be considered as the science of disease prevention or health promotion. This course is often the student's first opportunity to try a distance learning format. It is designed to aid the student through his or her distance education journey. It helps the student know what is expected for distance learning and aid the student in finding the answers needed to achieve this goal. This course will cover proper techniques of exercise, weight training, aerobic workouts, and optimum nutritional intake. Students going through this course have to study topics such as the possible risk factors and body improvements from aerobic training, as well as homeopathic remedies for leg, ankle, and foot injuries. Students will complete Weight Training / Aerobic Exercise Logs and Daily Nutritional Intake Logs to analyze these techniques.[09]

2.4 Nutrition

Many Universities have also launched Certificate programmes in Applied Nutrition & Diploma programme in Food Service Management. This course provides the student with an in-depth and comprehensive knowledge of basic nutrition. Over the course of study, the student will learn various aspects of gastrointestinal nutrition, basic minerals, vitamin and enzyme nutrition, as well as an introduction to the study of amino acids and other important nutrients. This course will provide the student with the basis for understanding nutrition as a therapeutic modality. This course will introduce diet therapy and nutritional supplementation as an aid to the student's basic study of therapeutic modalities. Special Emphasis will be laid upon those diseases where nutrition is highly effective in prevention, alleviation, or cure of the state of the disease. This course will serve as an introduction to the basic principles and theories of Applied Nutrition. Included within the realm of Applied Kinesiology will be an explanation of the principles. The given course will serve as a suitable prerequisite for more advanced studies. This course provides the student with a nutritional profile for over 106 commonly used herbs and natural foods. These nutritional profiles of herbs provide the basis for analyzing traditional uses of each herb and the most popular herbal combinations and formulas. Students get to learn the history and usage of these herbs with the nutritional profile to elucidate and interpret many historical usages of herbs as foods and medicines. Certain Herbal or Botanical Sciences are rapidly playing a major role in 21st century medicine and health care. This course will empower the students with special knowledge about herbs and their nutritional value.[10]

2.5 Herbal

A rapidly growing variety of degree programs concentrate on herbal science and alternative medicine in general. Herbal science program might begin with basics of botanical identification, an overview of medicinal herbs, disease prevention research, health maintenance and a survey of economic, historical and socio-political perspectives of herbal medicine. Advanced degree programs may include a research-based focus, with studies of evidence-based programs, pharmacology, phytochemistry, toxicology and epidemiological research of herbal medicine. Career opportunities in herbal sciences vary from the commercial to the scientific. Career fields in herbal sciences include herbalist, manufacturing consultant, industry representative or entrepreneurial planter. You may wish to pursue research projects sponsored by either pharmacological commercial interests or university research grants.[12]

2.6 Ayurveda

Field of Ayurveda is the traditional natural healing system of India that dates back over five thousand years. It is the healing aspect of the Yoga tradition and consists of the secrets of both inner and outer well-being. Ayurveda is

nowadays regarded as one of the most important systems of mind-body medicine and its popularity is spreading throughout the world.[13] Ayurveda considers all aspects of healing from diet and herbs to mantra and meditation as an overall holistic system of medicine. It seems to be truly the medicine of the coming planetary age, with almost no limits to its growth and application in the modern health situation, where Ayurvedic methods of disease prevention and proper lifestyle are becoming important considerations for everyone around the globe. Ayurvedic science is aimed at the preservation of health and prevention of disease by establishing balance and harmony through nutrition, herbs, meditation, and daily routines. Ayurvedic science provides knowledge to unfold the reality beyond the physical body and achieve harmony of Body, Mind, and Spirit. The World Health Organization recognizes Ayurveda as a complete natural health care system.[14]

4. Conclusion

Distance Education has done miracles in the field of education, it caters to those students who study and work on their own at home or at the office and communicate with faculty and other students via e-mail, electronic forums, video conferencing, chat rooms, boards, instant messaging and varieties of other forms of computer-based communication. Distance learning makes it much easier for some students to complete a degree or get additional job-training while balancing work and family commitments. This article elaborates upon the significance of Distance Education discussing various job oriented courses offered by Open universities to aspirants seeking degrees for a better resume and for career enhancements.

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Statement of authorship

The author(s) have a responsibility for the conception and design of the study. The author(s) have approved the final article.

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