Distance Learning Courses become more popular in rural areas than urban areas?

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ABSTRACT - Mukhopadhyay (1998) described distance education and differentiated it from open education as “Distance education is a mode of delivery and not an educational system; open education is a system -- distance education is often the delivery mode of open education” This research addresses the roles of distance education in rural and undeveloped areas. Distance education is very useful. Distance education promotes and develops the right of every person to enjoy access to quality education. Distance students can save costs because people do not have to travel to campus to attend classes on regular scheduled basis, nor live on campus, although they will have to pay for tuition fees and expenses for the purchase of learning materials. This relatively much lower cost of distance education on the parts of the students compared to the face-to-face mode of education should improve participation and expand greater opportunities for those socially and economically less advantaged groups of the society, particularly women to have access to quality education, higher education at affordable costs.

Keywords - conclusive Research, sampling units, hypothesis, level of significance

Introduction

1.1 Scope of Distance Education

Keegan (1986) identified seven principal characteristics of distance education. Keegan’s definition provides a synthesis of most of the definitions. The characteristics are:

- Separation of teacher and student
- Influence of an educational organization
- Use of technical media
- Provision of two way communication
- Absence of group learning

In developed countries 30% of students go for higher education after high school. In India the figure is 6.5% only. After food, it is education that has posed as the second greatest challenge for modern India. It is a sector where the government should have pumped in more funds. Youth population in India was 41.05% in 2001, so to
provide good education to everyone distance learning plays a significant role.

1.2 Research Objectives

The aim of this study is to analyze Distance Learning Courses become more popular in rural areas then urban areas. This research is an endeavor towards to analyze the attitude of the students towards distance education. Today number of such institutions has crossed 850 which offer more than 16,000 courses to over 15 million learners of the world.

During this research work we made a survey among the youth of Uttar Pradesh in order to verify the roll and impact of distance education and popularity in rural areas then urban areas. We investigated the challenges of effective distance learning system and on the basis of our study we will recommend suggestions.

1.3 Research Methodology

I have used the conclusive Research Method in this study. As our project deals with the study of distance learning education so we need to meet the student. Our primary aim was to find the psychology of student for what they think about the distance learning education. We had interacted with students of different areas and came out with some conclusions, for that we had framed fifteen questions.

1.4 Area of Research

For our convenience we have selected many area of district of Uttar Pradesh (East) as a research area that includes Faizabad, Lucknow, Gonda etc. for the research project.

1.5 Sample Unit

My sampling units were students of different district of Uttar Pradesh (East). I have taken 150 respondents for my study.

1.6 Statistical Analysis

**Question**- Do you agree that Distance Learning Courses become more popular in rural areas then urban areas?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Valid Percent</th>
<th>Cumulative Percent</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>48.0</td>
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<td>48.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>57</td>
<td>38.0</td>
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<td>86.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>can't say</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source-Primary data
Primary data

1.7 Chi-Square Test

Hypothesis—Let us take the hypothesis that Distance Learning Courses no more popular in rural areas then urban areas.

Frequencies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Observed N</th>
<th>Expected N</th>
<th>Residual</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>72</td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td>22.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>no</td>
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<td>50.0</td>
<td>7.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>can't say</td>
<td>21</td>
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<td>-29.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>150</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Source-Primary data
Test Statistics

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<th></th>
<th>QUESTION4</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chi-Square</td>
<td>27.480*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Df</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asymp. Sig.</td>
<td>.000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a. 0 cells (.0%) have expected frequencies less than 5. The minimum expected cell frequency is 50.0.

1.8 Findings/Interpretation:-

For one degree of freedom at 5% level of significance, the table value of $\chi^2=5.991$. The calculated of $\chi^2$ is much greater than the table value and hence our hypothesis stands rejected. We, therefore conclude that Distance Learning Courses more popular in rural areas than urban areas.

The pie diagram gives very mixed response. 47.33% agree that it is popular in rural areas reason may be that less facility of traditional classes like less no of institution are there another reason may be that its less expansive so that any one can go for distance learning. Percentage i.e. 36.66 says that it's not a part of rural only they were thinking that urban people are busy with their part time jobs so they prefer the DLE system.

During my research I have found many facts related to distance education. As we know India had impressive success in improving its education system. India is one of the few countries that adopted the distance education both at secondary and higher level. In year 2013 India’s population cross level of 1.27 billion. Literacy rate of India is about 74.04 percent. 150 students given his opinion on distance education system. During research we asked question to students (both male & female)

1.9 Conclusion

Distance Learning Courses are very popular and people are much interested in distance learning courses because this is cheaper than the regular courses but we found that some of people do not believe in this system because they think this will not help in grooming the personality of the executive.

So we found that distance learning courses are popular not only urban areas but rural areas. Many people were satisfied with distance Learning Education System.
References

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