

Distance Education Defined

Essay Assignment 1

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Distance education is a fast-growing field in the world of knowledge and educational institutions. More and more people choose online classes to fit them into their busy lives. Sometimes they sign up for classes that are in the same area where they live, but they still take them from home using their computers, iPads, or smartphones to access the information they are given as their learning material. Philosophers and educators like Keegan, Wedemeyer, Moore, and Kearsly tried to give Distance Education an absolute definition that appears as less philosophical and more a method of education.

According to Moore and Kearsley, "Distance education is teaching and planned learning in which teaching typically occurs in a different place from learning, requiring communication through technologies as well as special institutional organizations" (Moore & Kearsley, 2012). Although the term began to be used in the 1907 and was officially adopted in 1982, its actual meaning changed over time (Holmberg, 2005). Moore called it "a family of instructional methods in which the teaching behaviors are executed apart from the learning behaviors, including those that in a traditional, face-to-face, institution would be performed in the learner's presence, so that communication between the teacher and the learner is facilitated by print, electronic, mechanical, or other devices" (Moore & Kearsley, 2012). Besides the fact that students began to study in their own time, at the place of their choice, and without face-to-face contact with a teacher, technology became a critical element of distance education definition. Technical media started to unite a teacher and a learner providing non-contiguous communication. Keegan called it a quasi-permanent separation of a teacher and a student (Holmberg, 2005).

In their definition, Moore and Kearsley also included select institutional organizations because distance education is institutionally based, which makes it different from self-study. What they both call special is becoming more traditional by day. Most educational institutions, even traditional, offer online or hybrid classes to facilitate them for adult students without interrupting their working processes. It allows higher education to become more cost-effective, and substantially more students than before can be admitted to universities. Although, distance education was initially designed for people unable to attend traditional schools. Today, it is a modern school option for students from all spheres of life. "Even students on traditional campuses are opting for distance learning courses" (Peters, 2004).

In conclusion, for many of today's money-conscious, time-strapped students, distance education offers the best opportunity for success. The world is now going the distance because it is the medium that is readily available at your home and workplace. You can learn while earning at an affordable rate. Due to these changes in technology, distance education definition can be complicated. One can continually add more to the meaning, take away what has already passed, and enlarge it due to changes and innovations in technology.

References

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