

EFFECTIVENESS OF DIFFERENT MEDIUM OF EDUCATION TO IMPARTING KNOWLEDGE AT BANGLADESH OPEN UNIVERSITY

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ABSTRACT

Open and distance learning system mainly based on different types of media to impart education to the learners. Bangladesh Open University (BOU) offered education through open and distance learning system. There are two largest programs one is Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and another one is Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) offered by BOU through Open School (OS). To impart education to the learners, OS prepared text materials in the modular form and also broadcast audio-visual educational program through radio and television.

At present, BOU provided printed materials to learners and telecast so many radio and TV programs for learners of the SSC and HSC program. Some survey stated that there are not enough evidences to fulfill the learner's objectives effectively. According to the previous survey result, study materials and audio-visual medium of teaching are of average quality (Islam 1988). The participants of this survey were mostly learners, tutors of the Open School programs and the media experts. This study has focus on how the educational program of the Open School could be more acceptable and enriched.

Keywords: Open Learning, medium of education, open school, effectiveness and acceptable.

INTRODUCTION

Bangladesh is a developing country and 40.9% of its population lived on poverty level (BER, 2005). According to the BER review report in 2004, the literacy rate is 65%. Infrastructure facilities for education are not upto the mark at a standard level. For this reason a lot of students was dropped out or can not take part in the conventional educational system. Distance education and open learning is the possible alternative way to educate mass people in the country.

Bangladesh Open University (BOU) is only one public university that offers education through open and distance mode. BOU launched SSC and HSC programs in 1995 and 1998 through OS, respectively. BOU has emphasis upon the importance of modular form of textbooks and other printed materials where the learners can accept easily and comfortably. Here the learners have a scope to attend tutorial classes and face to face counseling twice a month. Beside these, teaching is imparted through audio-visual methods even though these facilities are limited.

Study revealed that the use of media i.e. audio and video can strengthen the formal method of classroom teaching (James 1986; Islam and Islam 2003). Another study also revealed that (Islam, 1998) the learners were not aware only of modular system in distance learning, they were more deviated to media teaching.

The present study deals with the use and effectiveness of printed text, both audio and video in distance education with relation to the socio-economic background of the learner of Bangladesh.

CHARACTERISTIC OF THE OPEN LEARNING SYSTEM

In open learning system the learner gets the opportunity to educate them at any place or position of life irrespective their age and profession. In the other words, it can be called as continuing education.

To distinguish between the traditional face-to-face classroom teaching and the open learning system, it is essential to understand that the difference between pedagogy and andragogy (Knowles, 1980). The concept of teaching in pedagogy is dependent and andragogy is independent. Pedagogy is teacher concerned, where as andragogy are learners concerned. Pedagogy is uniform by age and level, but andragogy is life task and problem directed.

Learners enrolled at BOU come from different age group and profession. Since, there is no age bar, it is convenient to impart education through andragogy method. The main objectives of the BOU are to reach education to these learners of different professions and levels through different mediums. Most of the learners of the SSC and HSC programs of BOU come form all societies and classes, that is, dropped out student, and poor to high society etc. Most of the learners have no access to technology like audio-visual facilities.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Text Materials

The text has prepared as modular form. A modular form is a set of learning opportunities organized around a well-defined topic, which contained the elements of instruction, specific objectives, main text, teaching-learning activities and evaluation using self-interactive measure. The text material is also called the self-learning materials. Where the learner read it by owns and understands with confidently.

Radio and TV Medium

Researcher suggested that people learn and retain 20% of what they hear, 30% of what they see, 50% of what they see and hear, 70% of what they say, and 90% of what they experience directly or practice doing. The programs offered by BOU through audio-visual media have been related to the researchers 50% opinion on see and hear (Date 1977). Instruction through Radio and TV is a one-way traffic where as radio medium is non-visual medium, and TV is visual medium. So, TV medium is very interactive then that of radio.

In BOU, learners are well informing about the audio-visual program which are broadcasting through radio and TV. Most of the important and critical lessons are discussed into that audio-visual program. To broadcast the text material into the audio-visual program concerned tutors or teachers identify some portions of the text on priority basis and then produce to teach it through radio and TV.

Effective Learning

The entire mediums like text, radio and TV as well as tutoring are the four wings to executed education to the learner.

The learners have to require and access to the textbook and other facilities of medium at their convenient time and place. We can have a relationship between teaching and learning and also among the medium of teaching as a functional form (Islam and Azad 1999). So, effective learning should be expressed by the following way.

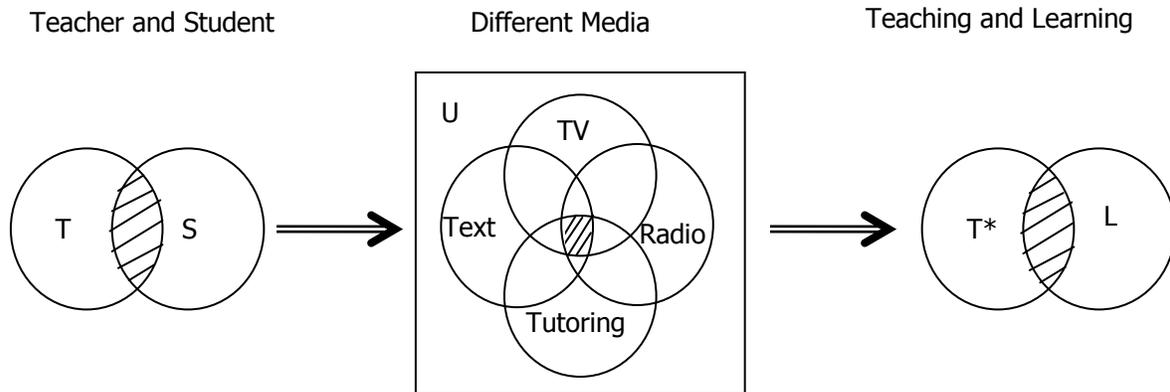


Figure: 1
Teachers Students relationship model.

The above diagram gives us the impact of interaction among the different educational media on teaching and learning. These are as follows:

- $T \cap S \cap U = T^* \cap L \Rightarrow$ Student would be a good learner
- $T \cap S \cap U = 0 \Rightarrow$ Student would be detach from learning
- $T \cap S \cap U \geq T^* \cap L \Rightarrow$ Student would be fairly learner
- $T \cap S \cap U \leq T^* \cap L \Rightarrow$ Student would be excellent learner.

DATA COLLECTION METHOD

BOU has 12 Regional Resource Centers (RRC) and more than 1000 Tutorial Center (TC), where all learners are enrolled and attend their tutorial sessions.

Data were collected from the TC of RRC by using stratified random sampling methods. Sample unit consists of learners, tutors and coordinators.

Including these sample unit media and subject experts were also interviewed. Raw data were keyed into the computer database.

Data were analyzed using Statistical Package of Social Sciences (SPSS) and Excel. Most of the data were analyzes as frequency distribution.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION LEARNERS OPINIONS

Opinions of the learners about different mediums

Learners were asked about the different mediums like textbook and tutorial classes, TV, Radio and multimedia of which medium was acceptable to the learners and they feel more at home.

The learners' opinion about different mediums is shown in the graphical representation at Figure: 2.

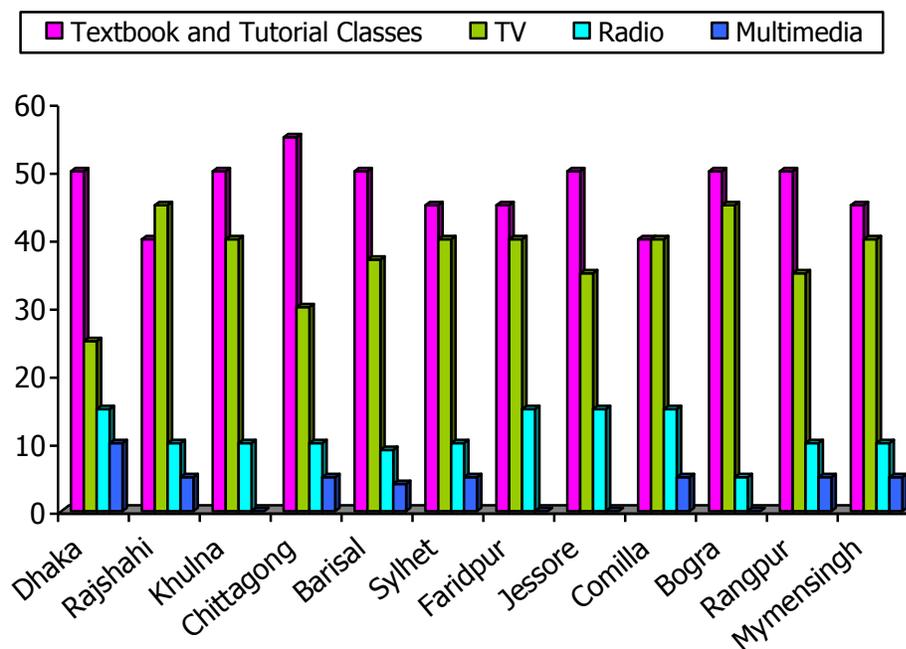


Figure: 2
Learners opinion about different medium.

Figure: 2 revealed that 47.5% learners made their opinion in favor of text material and tutorial class, 37.6% were in TV program, 11.2% were in radio program and rest 3.7% learners opinion in favor of multimedia, respectively.

On the basis of the above-mentioned information it can be said that most of the learners have emphasized on the textbook and the tutorial classes. Along with that TV medium has also been pointed out. Some of the learners had given their opinion in favor of radio and multimedia.

Opinions of the learners about TV program

Opinions were collected from the learner's interest in TV program. Learner's opinion on that has been shown in the Figure: 3.

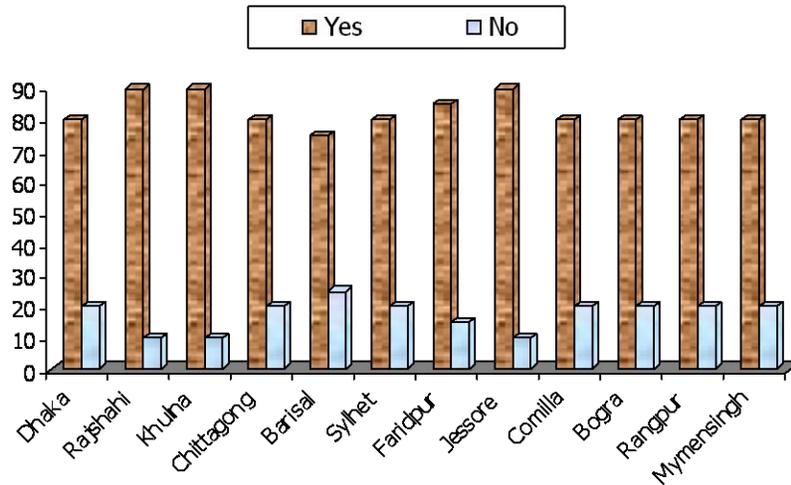


Figure: 3
Learners opinion about TV program.

The above graph indicates that 82.5% learner’s had positive opinion about TV program and rest 17.5% had negative response about TV program. This result explained that most of the learners are interested in television program. A few are against about television program.

Opinions of the learners as to the present status of TV program

Learners were asked to know the present condition of the presentation of contents of the TV program. These are as follows:

- Entertaining and enjoyable
- Conventional
- Repulsive
- Poor

The opinion given by the learners are shown in the graphical representation in Figure: 4.

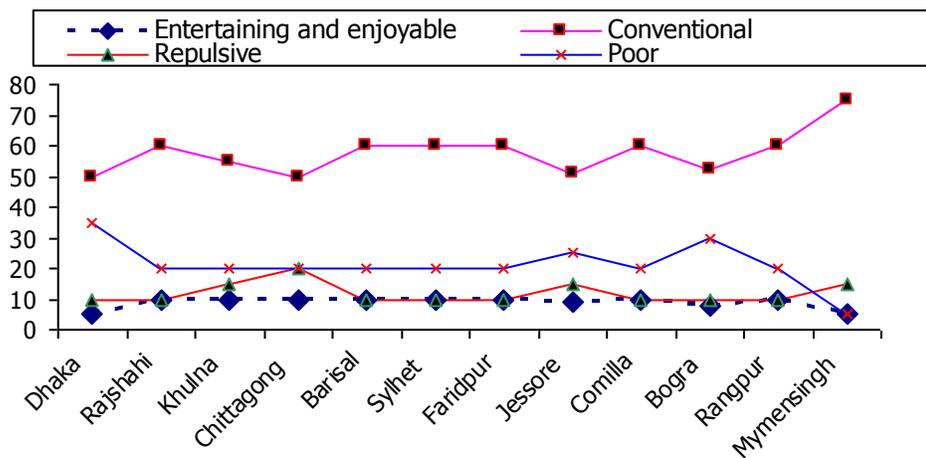


Figure: 4
Learners’ opinion about the present situation of TV program.

Figure: 4 indicated that 9% learners were responses about entertaining and enjoyable of the present condition of the presentation of contents of TV program. Among the respondent 57.7% were responses as conventional, 12% were repulsive and rest 21.3% responses were not satisfactory. So we can conclude that presentation of contents in TV programs conducted by BOU is less enjoyable. Most of the learners opine that these are conventional and some expressed that these are very repulsive. The quality of the presentation is also not satisfactory.

Expectation of the learners about the TV program

To know how the TV programs could be made enjoyable, learners were asked to give their opinion on four questions. These are as follows:

- Entertaining and informative
- Entertaining, informative and diverse nature
- As it is
- To make the present programs meaningful after some changes

The opinions of the learners are represented in the following graph in Figure: 5.

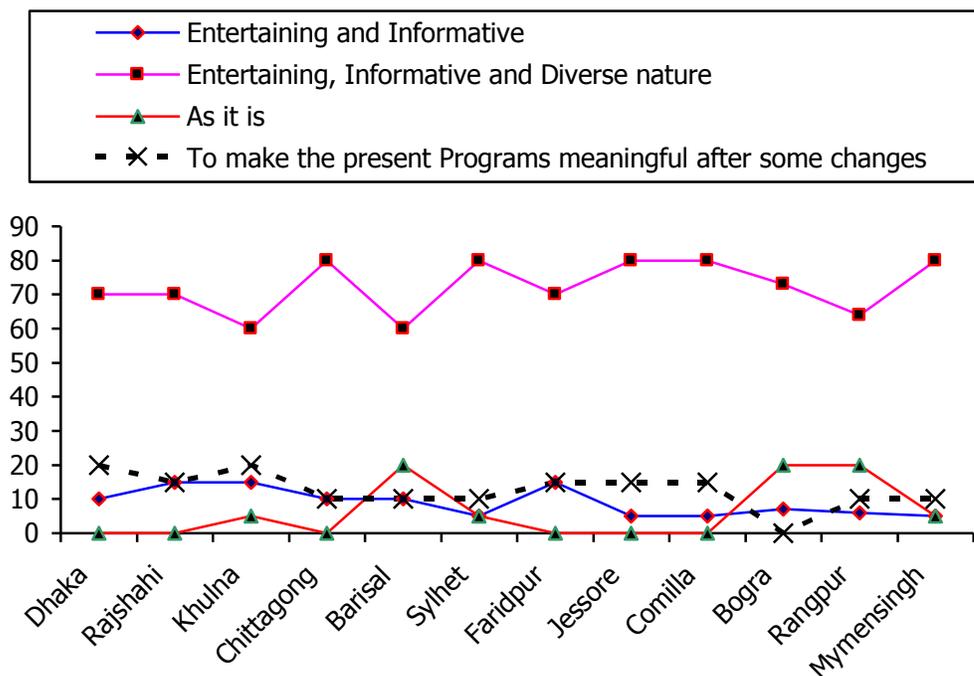


Figure: 5
Expectation of the learners about the TV program.

Figure: 5 revealed that 10% of the learners expressed that the program should be entertaining and informative. Among the learner 74% gave their opinion on entertaining, informative and diverse in nature and 5.5% were said that the program should be as it is. Rest 10.5% of the learners said the program should be changed. ost of the learners positively give their opinion that the programs should be entertaining, informative and of diverse nature. On the other hand, some have opined that the format of the present program should be changed and made meaningful. In fact they implied that the programs should be presented in a new dimension.

TUTORS OPINION

Opinions of the tutors on different mediums

Respected tutors of OS were asked about the different mediums like textbook and tutorial classes, TV, Radio and multimedia of which medium was acceptable to the learners and they feel more at home.

Respective tutors' opinion about different mediums is shown in the graphical representation at Figure: 6.

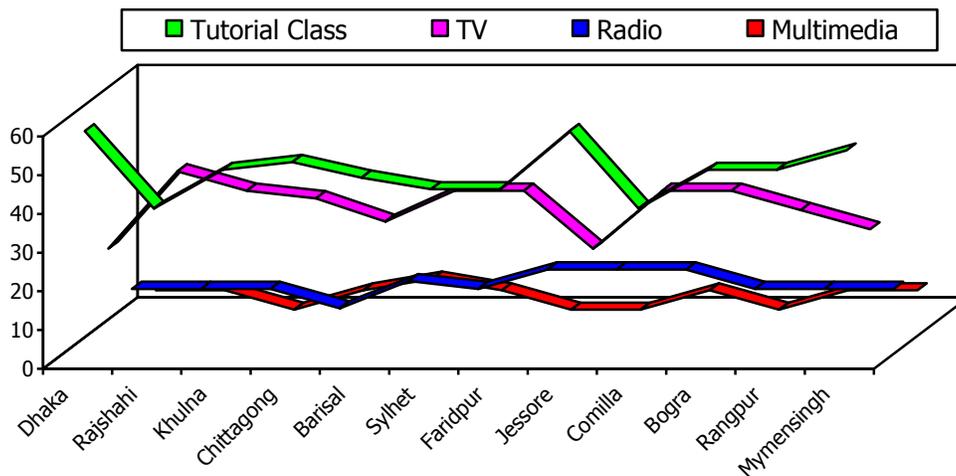


Figure: 6
Tutors opinion about different medium.

Figure: 6 showed that 49.6% tutors made their opinion in favor of text material and tutorial class, 35.8% were in TV program, 11% were in radio program and rest 3.6% tutors gave their opinion in favor of multimedia, respectively.

On the basis of the above-mentioned information it can be said that most of the tutors have emphasized on the textbook and the tutorial classes. Along with that TV medium has also been pointed out.

Some of the tutors had given their opinion in favor of radio and multimedia.

Opinions of the Tutors as to the present status of the TV programs

To know the present state of the programs related to the content presentation, four questions were asked to the tutors. These were whether the presentation:

- entertaining and enjoyable,
- conventional,
- repulsive and
- (poor.

The answers are analyzed and given in the following graphical representation in Figure: 7.

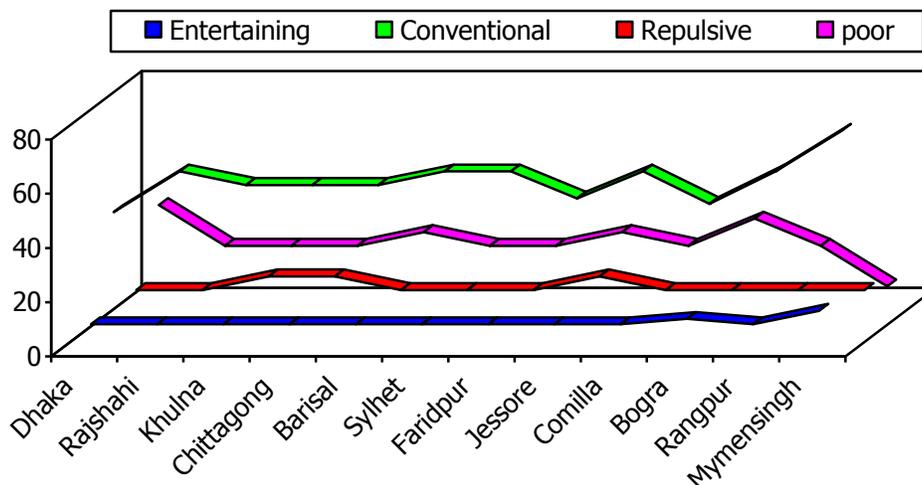


Figure: 7
Tutors opinion about the present status of TV program.

Figure: 7 indicate that 11.8% tutor were responses about entertaining and enjoyable to the content presentation. Amongst tutors 74% were responses on conventional, 3.8% said it should be repulsive. And rest of the tutor i.e.10.8% said as poor.

From the above-mentioned discussion it is quite clear that the content presentations of TV programs of BOU are mostly conventional and not much entertaining. Some opinions also make it clear that these are rather repulsive and not up to the mark.

OPINIONS OF THE MEDIA EXPERTS

The media experts were give their opinion that the program should be entertaining and informative. They also suggested that proper training should be given to the teachers for script writing and teachers should be familiar with technical aspects of the production.

The presenters should be well informed about the content of the script and their efficiency must be increased. The main features of their opinions are as follows:

- Printed matter is organized along with the schedule of TV and Radio program.
- To make the TV program more effective, concerned people should be trained. They should have updated knowledge about the technical know-how.
- Time schedule of the program given by the government is not adequate. BOU media center should have its own frequency and the programs should be telecast through satellite channel.
- In respect of science teaching, proper practical science teaching programs should be made.
- Programs should be made according to the level of the learners.
- Contents should be presented in an easy and lucid language.
- Definite time and program schedule should be chalked out and maintained.

CONCLUSION

BOU has been imparted education through different medium. The learners have the scope to get educated anywhere, either at home or in any place in any situation. As alternative of the classroom traditional teaching, BOU offered different mediums like Printed Text, Radio, TV etc. BOU has been entrusted with the task of reaching education to the doorsteps of the learners. BOU teachers have more responsibilities in preparing the text martial in the modular form. Till date the number of educational TV programs made by BOU is not enough.

In conclusion, the study revealed that about the different medium of teaching among the learners and tutors almost half of them prefer text materials and tutorial classes was the best medium of learning. On the other hand, more than 80% learners were interested to see the TV program for their teaching learning activities. While, among the learners more than 50% and among the tutors, more than 70% stated that the present status of BOU's TV program was conventional. Where as more than 70% learners, expected that TV program should be entertaining, informative and of diverse nature. While undertaking this study, various problems relating to instruction through mediums have been surfaced and following that guidance of the experts suggestions have been made as to how these problems can be solved.

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Acknowledgment

We would like to express our highest gratitude and thanks to the Bangladesh Open University to conducting the study. This study also express vote of thanks to those learners, tutors and experts who had participated in this study.

We would like to thanks Dr. Sarker Md. Numan, Assistant Professor, School of Science and Technology, BOU, for his critical and helpful comments regarding the development of this manuscript.

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