

Greetings Dear readers of TOJDE,

I am pleased to inform you that in the 8th year of TOJDE is appeared on your screen now as Volume 8, Number: 1.

In this issue we published two notes for Editor, 15 articles, three reviews, news and announcements for our readers. 29 authors from ten different countries are placed in this issue. These published articles are from Australia, Eritrea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Turkey, UK and USA.

In the "Notes for Editor" section, Jim flood's thoughts are placed via title "Online learning software – why pay for it?" from United Kingdom. He was sent another note in the recent years to TOJDE. Jim is mentioning that "Numbers with pound signs in front and four noughts following them are quite usual for the basic price of e-learning software. In spite of the high cost of software and criticism of it, many organizations are still locking themselves into expensive contracts when there are freely available alternatives that can deliver most of the attributes of commercially available Learning Management Systems (LMS)" in his note.

The second notes for editor arrived from Turkey by Dr. Yasin Soylu. His paper is titled as "The Role of The Geometric Models in The Explanation of Determinant and The Properties of A Determinant". I thought that it will be very interesting for TOJDE's readers whom are interested in geometry. The purpose of his study is to find answers to the questions such as what is the role of the geometry in the teaching of determinants and the properties of determinant. In this context, the experimental group in which concretization method through geometry used, the other as control group in which traditional teaching method used. The data is obtained mainly by means of three scales, Determinant Knowledge Test, Mathematics Attitude Test and Scientific Process Skill Tests.

The first article of this issue is coming from Education Faculty of Anadolu University, TURKEY which is written by Gamze Yucel and Atilla Cavkaytar. Their article is titled as "The Effectiveness of a Parent Education Programme Offered Through Distance Education About Independent Autistic Children Education Centre (ACEC)". Their paper examined to determine the effectiveness of a parent education program on parents' awareness about the Independent Autistic Children Education Centre (ACEC: in Turkish OCEM). The program was offered through a distance education program.

Second article is from Malaysia and it is dealt with "ASYNCHRONOUS ELECTRONIC DISCUSSION GROUP: Analysis of Postings and Perception of In-service Teachers", which is written as a joint article by Tina Lim Swee KIM, Wong Kiet WAHand Tan Ai LEE from Ipoh Teacher Training Institute, Malaysia This paper examines the practice of online discussion in a course specially tailored for in-service teachers who are pursuing their basic degree qualification at a teacher training institute. According to findings from this study suggest that overall the participants were satisfied with the six aspects of EDG examined. The aspect that recorded the highest mean was 'motivation to read tutor's responses' whilst the lowest mean (and the only one with negative perception) was for 'worthiness of time spent on online discussions'.

In the third article Generating Virtual Eye Contacts Through Online Synchronous Communications in Virtual Classroom Applications; mentioned by T. Volkan YUZER, Anadolu University, Open Education Faculty, Eskisehir, TURKEY. His paper virtual eye contact" concept is one of these.

In this article, this concept is considered with a specific application of synchronous internet-based e-learning environments which is virtual classroom platform application. Explanation, technological infrastructure and benefits of this concept and training of the trainers to use this nonverbal communication type more powerfully are explained and discussed.

The 4th articles arrived from The Islamia University of Bahawalpur, PAKISTAN on "Preparation of Instructional Material for Distance Teacher Education", which is written by Aijaz Ahmed GUJJAR and Muhammad Ashraf MALIK. Their paper discuss the presentation of instructional material for distance teacher education by mentioning of the content of such courses cannot depart from the normal; the difference of learning experience arises from the presentation of the course materials and from the situation of students and, therefore, different pedagogic skills are required. The term instructional material is used for the specific items used in a lesson and delivered through various media formats such as video, audio, print and so on.

The fifth article came from Anadolu University again, written by Reha Recep ERGUL on "Digital Broadcasting and Interactive Television in Distance Education: Digital and Interactive Television Infrastructure Proposal for Anadolu University Open Education Faculty". This paper seeks that television broadcast the infrastructure of Anadolu University Open Education Faculty needs to be replaced with a digital and interactive one. Study contains basic concepts of digital and interactive broadcasting and the new improvements. Furthermore, it incorporates the approaches of the fundamental groundwork to introduce a digital television broadcasting infrastructure.

The sixth article which is entitled as "National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN): A Historical Perspective and Challenges". It is written by, Terhemba Nom AMBE-UVA, School of Arts and Social Sciences, National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN), NIGERIA. He was sending us a nice info about Interactivity in distance education: The National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN) Experience. With his this article he tried to complete circle of The National Open University of Nigeria. The review attests to this promise, despite the ups and downs and argues that the revitalisation of National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN) by the government has the potential to widen access and become a rallying point for higher education in Nigeria. NOUN will however face two major challenges as it seeks to transform the educational landscape: the first is that it needs to demonstrate that it can provide programmes of high quality to its students; second, it needs to be able to demonstrate that it can offer programmes cost-effectively. These challenges demand a refocus and a re-conceptualizations of the superstructure, distance education in Nigeria.

The seventh article is came from too far: AUSTRALIA which is written by Mark J. W. LEE and Anthony CHAN from Charles Sturt University. Their paper is entitled as "Reducing the Effects of Isolation and Promoting Inclusivity for Distance Learners through Podcasting". In their paper authors are report on an initiative to explore the potential of using supplementary audio podcast material to reduce the anxiety caused by isolation and to promote a sense of inclusivity amongst both undergraduate and postgraduate students studying an information technology subject in external mode with Australia's largest provider of distance education. According to authors podcasting has tremendous potential to assist in acculturating distance learners and aiding them in moving towards complete social and academic integration into institutional life, despite the presence of physical separation. The authors' future research plans are also briefly outlined.

The 8th article is arrived to us Norway. The article which is entitled " Perspectives on Group Work In Distance Learning" Written by Rune Sarromaa HAUSSTÄTTER and Yngve Troye NORDKVELLE from Lillehammer University College, Lillehammer, NORWAY. Their paper explores how students react to expectations on behalf of the course provider to do their assignments in collaborative groups. They are seemingly both positively surprised by the challenges that group work offer, and they are less positive to the downsides of group work. The paper discusses both sides of the experiences and suggests why this might be a paradox to live with.

Next and the ninth article were sent to TOJDE by A. Seda YUCEL. Title of paper is "Factors Affecting Teaching the Concept of Renewable Energy in Technology Assisted Environments And Designing Processes in The Distance Education Model" from Hacettepe University, Faculty of Education, Department of Chemistry Education, Ankara, TURKEY. It is considered in the paper that essential to study whether the factors like readiness of the individuals by self-motivation and the influence of their anxieties and personal factors regarding their motivation are effective or not in creating this awareness, as well as determining up to what extent technological environments affect these factors. It is already known that technology assisted education equips the students with enriched information and an ability to control its efficiency. In the process of learning the concept of renewable energy and establishing awareness, and before and after learning with technological support, measuring the personal characteristics and concerns, which are considered to have an effect on motivational attributes that facilitate creation of renewable energy awareness, is studied, and the issue of whether these characteristics contribute to awareness creation is also dwelt upon.

The tenth article is written by Turkish and Japan scientist as a joint study. Paper is titled as "Distance Delivery of Nutrition Education As A Method For Providing Continuing Education" and written by Nurhan UNUSAN from Selcuk University Konya, TURKEY and Naomi AIBA, Miki MIYOSH and Nobuo YOSHIIKE from National Institute of Health and Nutrition Tokyo, JAPAN. Their paper aims that to prepare a participant centred, active learning model. The model focuses on constructs that distance delivery courses should address during design and assessment. For a model to be succeeded the required prerequisites should involve the establishment of a centre for educational technology, to take a model in forming the infrastructure for web based distance delivery, to update the technology required, and to train supporting staff to help in the design of web material/documentation.

The eleventh article is written by Felix Kayode OLAKULEHIN from Centre for Continuing Education & Workplace Training National Open University of Nigeria, NIGERIA. His paper topic is on "Information and Communication Technologies in Teacher Training and Professional Development in Nigeria". His paper is indicated that This paper examining the contemporary teacher training and professional development in Nigeria as an example of the experiences in developing countries of the world. It also explored the potentials of ICTs for and in teachers' professional development in Nigeria and developing countries of the world. Consequently, proposing a model of a sustainable teacher training and professional development for Nigeria and other developing countries, within the functional framework of the Information and Communication Technologies was developed to indicate how ICTs could be gradually introduced into the school systems.

Next article is which numbered 12, from USA. Article is entitled as "A Preliminary Evaluation of The Distance English Language Teacher Training Program (Delttp) in Anadolu University, Turkey", and written by Cagri Ozkose BIYIK, Educational Theory and Practice, University at Albany, SUNY, Albany, USA.

Her paper presents a preliminary evaluation of a relatively new interactive distance learning model for training English language teachers in Turkey. The Distance English Language Teacher Training Program (DELTP) was established as a result of the contractual agreement between the Ministry of National Education and Eskişehir Anadolu University, Turkey in 2000, whose goal is to train a sufficient number of EFL teachers, in the shortest time possible, without abandoning the high quality of professional training provided heretofore (AOF, 2006). In order to seek objective information regarding their current status as well as to obtain opinion data concerning their perceptions of the adequacy of their education, 2004 and 2005 graduates of the DELTP Program were administered questionnaires. Four interviews were conducted with different stakeholders.

The thirteenth article is from PAKISTAN which written by Dr. Irshad HUSSAIN, The Islamia University of Bahawalpur, PAKISTAN. His article is entitled as "Transnational Education: Concept And Methods". In his paper, he discusses The globalisation of higher education manifests itself in various forms, of which transnational education is perhaps the most visible. It is something that can be focussed immensely for global pace. Transnational education has clear long-term implications for the nature and structure of educational provision throughout the world particularly in Europe.

The fourteenth article is again from Turkey, written by Ali Riza ERDEM from Pamukkale University, Faculty of Education, Denizli, TURKEY. His topic was on "Strategic planning at the State's Education Institutions Serving -Open and Distance Education-Which are of Nonprofit Concern". His paper focusing on the Impact of Contemporary and Emerging Media on Open & Distance Learning shared information about virtual learning. In this context, integration of innovative technologies into classrooms, different levels of interaction in interactive environments, characteristics of online higher education institutions regarding educational technology, and ethical issues in online education were discussed.

The last and fifteenth paper is from ERITREA, which is written by Dr. Ravinder RENA from Eritrea Institute of Technology. His paper on "CHALLENGES IN INTRODUCING DISTANCE EDUCATION PROGRAMME IN ERITREA: Some Observations and Implications". He represents and also shows that the shortcomings of the regular and the current form of distance education in Jordan can be overcome by the use of modern information technology

One of three reviews is workshop review which is held by TOBB University in Ankara, Turkey, titled as The Workshop on Global University System & E-Learning was held on the 19th of October, 2006. The workshop attracted around 40 people from the Ministry of Education, Turkish Satellite Corporation (TURKSAT), Anadolu University, and various academic staff from different universities in Ankara.

The reviewed book is entitled as "Open and Distance Education in Global Environment: Opportunities for Collaboration", edited by SURESH GARG, SANTOSH PANDA, CRK MURTHY AND SANJAYA MISHRA and reviewed by S. K. PULIST, IGNOU, INDIA. The book is ver imporant since the book is a compendium of articles submitted in ICDE International Conference on the theme 'Open and Distance Education in Global Environment: Opportunities for Collaboration', the sub-themes dealt with it have a restricted canvas in consonance with the sub-themes of the conference. The book will prove to be a rich resource of information and will be of immense help to the scholars and researchers in the area of open and distance education the world over.

The second book review was edited by, Badrul H. Khan, Director of the Educational Technology Leadership graduate cohort program at The George Washington University, and published by Information Science Publishing an imprint of Idea Group Inc. Titled as "Flexible Learning in an Information Society", and reviewed Adile Aşım Kurt, Faculty of Education, Anadolu University, TURKEY. This book uses a flexible learning framework to create meaningful flexible learning environments. This framework consists of eight factors; institutional, management, technological, pedagogical, ethical, interface design, resource support, and evaluation.

This book presents a broad understanding of the emerging field of flexible learning and provides guidance in creating these environments. The book has thirty chapters, encompass various critical issues dealing with one or more categories of the flexible learning framework and offer a variety of points of view on these issues.

In the other sections are again in the same format as usual as TOJDE's presenting style. News and some announcements are placed in this issue too.

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To receive further information and to send your recommendations and remarks, or to submit articles for consideration, please contact TOJDE Secretariat at the below address or e-mail us to tojde@anadolu.edu.tr

Hope to stay in touch and meeting in our next Issue, in April 2007.

Cordially,
January 1, 2007

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