

Dear readers of TOJDE,

TOJDE appears on your screen now as Volume 12, Number: 4. In this issue it publishes 5 notes for Editor, 10 articles, 2 book reviews. And this time, 33 authors from 10 different countries are placed. These published articles are from Bangladesh, Ethiopia, India, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, UAE and USA.

The first Notes for editor arrived from USA, written by Kevin YEE and Jace HARGIS. They focused on Google+ is like Twitter in that anyone can follow a given user's posts. There is no direct –friend|| relationship required to read the posts written by others. However, it also approximates some features of Facebook. Rather than friends sorted into –lists|| like in Facebook, Google+ allows users to place feeds into one or more –circles,|| the better to monitor (or control) the flow of information to and from different audiences. Circles are more intuitive, and more central to the experience, than the Facebook lists. They provide an explicit organizational structure, compared to the less-obvious listing functionality, which feels like an afterthought, found in Facebook.

The second notes for editor is titled as –Learning Community In Online Education|| which is written by Ziad D. BAGHDADI, Faculty, Riyadh Colleges of Dentistry & Pharmacy, Riyadh, SAUDI ARABIA, Faculty, Damascus University Dental Faculty, Damascus, SYRIA. This paper discusses establishing learning communities early in online education and their helps in bridging distances and differences between physical and virtual worlds of teaching and learning. This article sheds light on the importance of learning communities, and gives readers advices for creating communities that connect, engage, and inspire. Several tools for assessment of learning are provided to appraise online learning communities' benefits to learners at all levels. –Investigating The Effect Of Asynchronous Discussions On Students' Learning And Understanding Of Mathematics Subjects|| is the third paper for –Notes for Editor|| section of TOJDE's in this issue. It has written by Ozcan OZYURT and Hacer OZYURT, from Karadeniz Technical University, Trabzon, TURKEY. In the present study, document analysis was employed and all Turkish originated ADFs related to mathematics teaching were scanned and subjected to content analysis. Besides, a survey was implemented on 86 high school and undergraduate students. Both qualitative and quantitative data were obtained through this survey. These data were analyzed to qualitatively and quantitatively. Attitudes of students towards computer-supported collaborative learning and asynchronous discussion forums as mathematics learning instrument were tried to be revealed via this study.

The fourth notes for editor on –Design And Development Of An Intelligent Instructive System: (Scholastic Tutor (St*))|| written by Adebisi MARION O. and Akinboni OLUWAFUNMILAYO A. from Department of Computer and Information Sciences School of Natural Sciences, College of Science and Technology, Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, NIGERIA. This work describes the design of an Intelligent Tutoring System that was tagged Scholastic tutor (St*), which has the individual learning and collaborative problem-solving modules. The individual tutoring module was designed to provide appropriate lessons to individuals based on his/her background knowledge level, interest, and learning style and assimilation rate prior to using the tutoring system.

The fifth notes for editor written by Manas RANJAN PANIGRAHI, from Department of Pedagogical Sciences, College of Education and Behavioural Sciences, Haramaya University, Dire Dawa, ETHIOPIA, AFRICA, on –Perception Of Teachers' Towards Extensive Utilization Of Information And Communication Technology||. The⁴ purpose of the present study is the perception of Sr. Sec. School Teachers' towards extensive utilization of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). The Objectives

of the study were: to study the perception of Sr. Sec. School Teachers towards utilization of Information and Communication Technology (ICT); to compare the perception of Sr. Sec. School Teachers towards utilization of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in relation to gender; to compare the perception of Sr. Sec. School Teachers of different age groups towards utilization of Information and Communication Technology (ICT); to compare the perception of urban and rural Sr. Sec. School Teachers towards utilization of Information and Communication Technology (ICT); to compare the perception of Sr. Sec. School Teachers to different level of qualification towards utilization of Information and Communication Technology (ICT); (vi) to suggest guidance for effective utilization of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Sr. Sec. Schools.

The first article is from INDIA, on —Online Interactive Forums As A Learning Tool Among The Media Students-An Analysis|| written by S. ARULCHELVAN, from Department of Media Sciences Anna University, Chennai, INDIA. The specific objectives of the study were to know the awareness; analyze the process and usage pattern; to find out the effectiveness and other dimensions of the online forums among the media students. Content analysis, survey and in-depth interview methods were used to find out facts. Forum's contents like visual appearance, interaction, navigations, interface, etc. were analyzed. Survey was conducted among the media students. In-depth interview was done among the experts. The research has found the following important facts: Online forums are acting as better platforms for the media students. The users frequently visited the forum and follow the thread. Most of the students post their doubts, queries on the particular topic and got many reply answers from other members like peers, experts, etc. They also exchange their views and clear doubts. It increases their capacity, subject knowledge, etc. Online forum is a cost effective method and a better tool for education.

The Second article is on —Teachers' Views On The Potential Use Of Online In-Service Education And Training Activities||, written by Mehmet KOKOC, Aysenur OZLU, Atilla CIMER and Hasan KARAL from Karadeniz Technical University Fatih Faculty of Education, Trabzon, TURKEY. This study examined teachers' views on the potential use of online in-service education and training (INSET) activities. The study used a qualitative approach. A total of 13 in-service teachers from primary school, vocational school, science and art center, and high school in Trabzon (on the Black Sea coast of Turkey) participated in the study. To determine opinions of participants about the potential use of online INSET activities, an online conference was held to determine teachers' views. The participants who had experienced traditional and face to face INSET courses discussed their INSET experiences and thoughts about online INSET activities. These views were transcribed and then analyzed using content analysis. The main conclusions are: with online INSET activities, especially time and place dependency can be overcome, and accommodation and transportation issues can be resolved. Teachers feel that online INSET activities can promote effective use of resources.

The third article is from, TURKEY. It is on —Collaborative Learning In Teaching A Second Language Through The Internet|||, conducted by Ilknur ISTIFCI, from Anadolu University, Eskisehir and Zeki KAYA from Gazi University, Ankara, TURKEY. In their paper they mentioned how teaching through distance education happens, interaction in teaching through the Internet, collaborative learning, and how collaborative learning occurs in teaching a second language through the Internet.

The 4th article is a joint study which is arrived from BANGLADESH an INDIA, prepared on —Developing Conceptual Framework For Revising Self-Learning Materials (Sims) Of The Open School (Os) Of Bangladesh Open University (Bou) At A Digital Environment|| written by Sabina YEASMIN, from Bangladesh Open University, BANGLADESH and CRK MURTHY, from Indira Gandhi National Open University, INDIA. This study collects⁵ data from tutors, distance educators, writers and reviewers and finally develops a framework for revising the OS SLMs at a digital environment.

The fifth article is from PAKISTAN which is entitled as –Issues And Problems In Distance Education|| written by Nadia RASHID, from Department of Business Administration, Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad and Muhammad RASHID, from Faculty of Education and Dean Doctoral Program, Preston University, Islamabad, PAKISTAN. This article provides decision makers with some trends that affect distance education and thus enable them to plan accordingly. The issues and problems are organized into categories as they pertain to students and enrollment, faculty members, academics, technology, the economy, and distance education. All such issues and problems were identified during an extensive review of current literature in the field.

The sixth article is from MALAYSIA, on –Weblogs For English Language Learning: Students' Perceptions|| written by Juida WAN, Limkokwing University of Creative Technology and Bee Hoon TAN, Department of English, Faculty of Modern Languages and Communication, Universiti Putra MALAYSIA. This study investigated how students perceived the use of weblogs for English language learning. A questionnaire which was made up of both close-ended and open-ended questions was administered at the end of the study. A mixture of quantitative and qualitative methods were used to analyse the students' responses to the questionnaire. The study found that students were aware of their audience when they blogged and that they geared their writing towards their audience. In addition, they also interacted with others through the use of the comment feature on their weblogs. Furthermore, the majority of the students enjoyed blogging and found weblogs useful for English language learning. This study found that weblogs are promising interactive tools for English language learning.

The seventh one is again from INDIA. On –Academic Motivation Among Urban & Rural Students: A Study on Traditional Vs Open Education System in India|| written by Shashi SINGH, Ajay SINGH, from Meerut Institute of Engineering and Technology and Reader Kiran SINGH, from University of Allahabad, INDIA. This paper also tries to compare the academic motivation of rural and urban based students. It has been found in this paper that there is a significant difference in Academic Motivation among students of the two types of education systems. The significant difference in academic motivation has also been found in urban and rural based students, compared between the two systems. The paper has also forwarded some suggestions which may be considered by the policy makers and administrators of OES to help increase the academic motivation of students of OES. ⁷

The eighth article is from TURKEY again and it is on –Trends Towards Distance Education Of Nursing Education In Turkey||, written by Emine SENYUVA, from Istanbul University, Florence Nightingale School of Nursing, Department of Education of Nursing, Istanbul, TURKEY. This paper claims that in today's world rapidly changing, evolving and increasingly complex area of a state health care services, nursing education from the issuing institution, advanced human and professional members of the advanced characteristics and has adopted the lifelong development of nurses are required to have graduated. Resources in this direction were examined, the distance education of nurses after graduation various vocational courses, certificate programs until completion and graduate degree (master and PhD) education in maintaining the successful results were indicated.

The 9th article is again from PAKISTAN and written by Sufiana Khatoon MALIK and Fauzia KHURSHED from National University of Modern Languages Islamabad, PAKISTAN on Nature Of Teacher-Students' Interaction In Electronic Learning And Traditional Courses Of Higher Education- A Review. Present paper explores differential teacher-student interaction in electronic learning (el) and in face to face traditional learning (tl) courses at higher education. After thorough study literature available and getting information from university teachers teaching el and tl courses about the nature of teacher-student interaction in both modes it was found that teacher-student interaction is significantly different in el and tl higher education courses. There are fewer⁶

opportunities for developing students' moral judgment, critical thinking, communication and interpersonal skills in teacher-student interaction in e-learning courses at higher education level.

The article is which numbered as 10 is again from NIGERIA. Article is entitled as –Adapting On Demand Examination System In National Open University Of Nigeria End Of Semester Examination||, written by Okonkwo, Charity AKUADI from School of Education, National Open University of Nigeria, Lagos, NIGERIA. This paper discusses the On Demand Examination System (ODES), an Information Communication and Technology (ICT) based innovation which enables the assessment of students, –on their own readiness and demand. But, the paper opined that NOUN can make better use of ODES by convenient adaptation and use of the ODES software functionalities and processes. The ODES can be used to handle the challenging examination processes such as generating items that could be administered to students as a group at the End of Semester Examination. The results of the examination can then be timely processed and released following the laid down procedures already entrenched by the use of the software to overcome most of the burden experienced so far. Since, the institution, the students and even the staff are not technologically ready for On Demand Examination for now.

The 11th article arrived from Turkey on –Relationships Between Open Education Faculty Students' Economic Profiles And Their Use Of Internet In Education|| which is written by Senay NARTGUN , Abant Izzet Baysal University, Faculty of Education Department of Educational Sciences Golkoy, BOLU, TURKEY. This study aims to identify the economic profiles of Open Education Faculty students and to determine the relationship between their economic profiles and the following of online courses using Internet. In the study survey model was used. The population of the study was composed of 4652 Anadolu University Open Education Faculty students who live in Bolu. Sample of the study consisted of 361 students randomly selected from research population. Data were obtained by surveys. Some of the research findings are as follows: the income levels of parents for both unemployed and single and employed students are in the range of 0-1300 TL. Since almost all the mothers are housewives, they do not have separate incomes. Fathers for both unemployed and single and employed students are commonly workers, retired individuals, self employed individuals and public officials. Meaningful relationships were observed between the economic profiles of employed students which include opportunities such as having access to a computer at the workplace or owning one at home and following the classes through Internet.

The 12th article is also from Turkey. Written by Ilknur ISTIFCI, Anadolu University, Eskisehir, TURKEY, Prof. Dr. Tamar LOMIDAZDE, Georgian Technical University, Tbilisi, GEORGIA and by me on “An Effective Role of E-Learning Technology For English Language Teaching By Using Meta Communication Actors”. This article mentions that E-Learning has introduced new approaches of instructional delivery where the roles of teacher and student have significantly changed. The integration of information and communication technologies into the education field is in constant progression and generates empirical approaches for educational environment design. Some research projects in distance learning are introduced in the world.

Two books are reviewed in this issue. The book titled as –DESIGNING INSTRUCTION FOR THE TRADITIONAL, ADULT, AND DISTANCE LEARNER: A New Engine for Technology-Based Teaching by Lawrence A. Tomei (Robert Morris University, USA). Adult students demand a wider variety of instructional strategies that encompass real-world, interactive, cooperative, and discovery learning experiences. Designing Instruction for the Traditional, Adult, and Distance Learner: A New Engine for Technology-Based Teaching explores how technology impacts the process of devising instructional plans as well as learning itself in adult students. Containing research from leading international experts,⁷ this publication proposes realistic and accurate archetypes to assist educators in incorporating state-of-the-art technologies into online instruction.

The second book review on –DISTANCE NURSE EDUCATION (UZAKTAN HEMSIRELIK EGITIMI)||, was written by Gulsun KURUBACAK & Belgin BOZ, Anadolu University Open Education Faculty, Department of Distance Education, Eskisehir, TURKEY.

This book focuses on what distance nurse education design means, and how diverse approaches can be implemented in the distance nurse education programs through the ALINE Model. Based on this understanding, the book reflects a radical approach in which human rights and equity are manifested in the everyday digital lives of nurse from every level of distance education society. These distinguished and careful analyses are the most important critics of distance nurse education design, and also provide unprejudiced point of views of the progress for distance nurse education designs against several opponents. Moreover, this publishing presents sufficient explanations, interpretations, comparisons, developments, illustrations, constructions, realizations, debating and questionings on distance nurse education. Therefore, the capacity of this book serves in two main dimensions: First, the content of the book provides a general knowledge on both the design of distance nurse education as a whole. Secondly, this book highlights how to design distance nurse education from the diverse ideas to the real world considering transformative distance nurse education issues.

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Hope to stay in touch and meeting in our next Issue on 1st of January 2012.

Cordially,

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