

Dear intWOJDE Readers,

Welcome to the Volume 3 Number: 4 of intWOJDE;

In this issue, 6 articles of 8 authors from 5 different countries around the world have been published. These published articles are arrived to the intWOJDE from India, Malaysia, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, and USA.

The 1st article is arrived from India, written by Suja Stanley GEORGE from Subharti Medical College, Swami Vivekanand Subharti University, on "Study Habits and Demographic Characteristics of Women Distance Learners: A Comparative Study". This article explores significant difference on demographic characteristics (course, marital, employment, locality, and age) and study habits of women distance learners. This study was conducted in five cities of Uttar Pradesh viz. Gautam Budh Nagar, Baghpat, Ghaziabad, Modinagar, and Meerut and data were collected 220 women distance learners from two Universities viz. IGNOU and SVSU following stratified sampling method. The findings revealed that there was no significant difference observed in overall study habits of demographic characteristics namely course, employment, marital and age wise. Significant difference was observed in overall study habits of locality ie. rural and urban women distance learners. The urban women distance learners were found to have better study habits than rural women distance learners.

It is recommended that the distance learning universities must pay special thrust for rural women distance learners by providing more support through personal contact programmes. Proper Academic and personal counseling help the women distance learners to developing proper and healthy study habits and it helps to develop in them a sense of security and development of self confidence.

In the 2nd article titled as "The Influence of Women on Distance Education", written by Gail D. CARUTH, Texas A&M University-Commerce, USA. The impact of distance education on women has been significant. Distance education has been a viable means for helping women reach their educational ambitions. Over the last 40 years distance education has increased the ease of access and control over study time. With geographical and time barriers removed, women in particular were able to add the role of student to their list of responsibilities. Women have defeated educational barriers through educational opportunities presented by distance education. Distance education has had a positive effect on women, the majority of distance education students, but how have women influenced distance education? The purpose of this qualitative, case study was to examine the research more closely to determine if the majority of distance education students are influencing the distance education phenomenon. This look into the influence of women on distance education is important to higher education because informed knowledge of the influence will provide deeper insight into distance education. Findings suggested that women have influenced distance education by being significant user and supporters of distance education, by being a rich resource for distance education efforts to improve course content and delivery in order to maintain the continued growth of this instructional method, and by being instrumental in the development of networking opportunities.

The 3rd article is join study from Nigeria, on "Capacity Development Through Open And Distance Learning: A Case Study of National Open University of Nigeria's Environmental Science and Resource Management Programme", written by Cecilia MEDUPIN School of Science and Technology, National Open University of Nigeria. This study revealed how environmental education was communicated to a variety of people through Open and Distance Learning (ODL through the programme environmental science and resource management offered at the degree level at the School of Science and Technology of the National Open University of Nigeria. This opportunity provided learners with the ability to

continue their education build capacity and brought about social justice, with the aim of contributing to social awareness and create opportunities in social life. Questionnaires were administered on 150 learners who registered with the university across the six geo-political zones of Nigeria.

The aim of the study was to determine the accessibility and relevance of the programme to registered learners from various six geo-political locations using also their demographic characteristics. The results of the study indicated various benefits, including: the positive perceptions of open and distance learning by the respondents which resulted from their improved access to education; the availability of course materials, the open system of admission where students can register at any time of the year; at their convenience; the flexibility of study, the ability to develop skills and capacity and the potential of open learning to provide new employment opportunities, enhance career prospects and work place promotion were some of the benefits indicated by the respondents in their questionnaires. Through open learning, environmental awareness and accessibility to homes and communities is increased. This would consequently encourage the management of natural resources for the future by the promotion of technological advancement in environmental management, sound data collection and analysis. Thus, communication of environmental data would further improve the chances of mitigating future environmental challenges and encourage exchange of solutions between nations.

The 4th article is from Saudi Arabia. Written on "Extent of Appropriateness of The Outcomes of Graduate Studies In King Saud University For The Needs Of Saudi Private Sector" by Dr. NAWAL H. ALJAAD, from King Saud University. The Problem of unemployment of the graduates of the university is unique in the sense that it is related to a segment of society who carries high qualifications that do not qualify them to participate in society's development and leading the operations for change and development. The same took place in the Kingdom that expanded university education for many social and political reasons, without considering the extent of appropriateness of these outcomes with the labor market. While dealing with the weak matching, this study has tried to explain the extent of appropriateness of the outcomes of graduate studies in King Saud University for the needs of Saudi private sector, know the causes of this weak matching and present supportive solutions. This study followed the descriptive method and used a restricted end questionnaire made of 13 items as tool of study. The study sample is made of 45 female students from the graduates of graduate studies in King Saud University of Riyadh and these students are all unemployed. This study has reached a number of findings that point towards weak matching between the outcomes of graduate studies in Kind Saud University and the needs of the Saudi private sector.

The 5th article is written on "Attitude Of B. Ed. Students' Towards ODL Institutions In Tamil Nadu Open University", written by Assistant Professor, Dr. A. S. Arul LAWRENCE and Assistant Professor, Dr. C. BARATHI from School of Education, Tamil Nadu Open University, Chennai, INDIA. The present study aims to probe the attitude of B. Ed. students' towards ODL institutions in Tamil Nadu Open University. Survey method was employed in the present study. A sample of 293 B. Ed. students studying in Tamil Nadu Open University was selected by simple random technique.

The data was collected by Students' Attitude and Perceptions Rating of Open and Distance Learning Institutions Inventory (SAPRODLII) developed by Ojo, D. O., & Olankulehin, F. K. (2006). SPSS-17 Package was used for analysis of the collected data. The Percentile analysis, mean, standard deviation, level, t-test, ANOVA and chi-square were employed as statistical techniques to analyze the data.

And the last article of this issue's is arrived from Malaysia. Globally, indigenous peoples throughout the world have sustained their unique world views and associated knowledge

systems for millennia. Despite advancement and development a country has achieved, the indigenous people are always found to be left behind from the mainstream of development facing educational and economic issues. Written on "Developing Lifelong Learning Skills for Entrepreneurial Competences among the Indigenous Kensiu Community in Malaysia" by Anne A. CHRISTOPHER, PhD and Hisham DZAKIRIA, PhD from Universiti Utara Malaysia. This paper presents findings from a research project conducted by Enactus (Entrepreneurs in Action) Universiti Utara Malaysia to support lifelong learning, and as an enabler to inculcate entrepreneurial skills among selected indigenous community in Malaysia. Known for its successful programs, *Enactus*, a non-profit global organization mobilizes university students to create community empowerment projects. This project essentially aims to improve the standard of living of disadvantaged communities in Malaysia. This indigenous community known as the *Kensiu* in the rural villages of Lubuk Legong in Baling was targeted for the project as they faced a lot of problems and challenges ranging from economic problems, hygiene problems and social problems to lack of knowledge. The project was carried out to help develop the lower level skills of the Kensiu community with a focus on educating them on how to carry out their own business. Findings shows with adequate exposure, skills, and integrated efforts from all stakeholders, indigenous people can become great learning communities with much potential for economic and educational success.

Dear intWOJDE readers to receive further information and to send your suggests and recommendations and remarks, or to submit articles for consideration, please contact int.WOJDE Secretariat at the below address or e-mail to us at intwojde@gmail.com

Hope to stay in touch and wishing to meet in our next Issue on 1st of July 2014.
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Cordially,
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