

Dear intWOJDE Readers,

Welcome to the Volume 4 Number: 1 of intWOJDE;

In this issue, 5 articles of 10 authors from 5 different countries around the world have been published. These published articles are arrived to the intWOJDE from Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, South Africa and Turkey.

The 1st article is join study which conducted by Sabina YEASMIN from Bangladesh Open University and C. R. K. MURTHY from Indira Gandhi National Open University, from India, Their article is titled as "Study Habits and Demographic Characteristics Learners' Attributes And Perceptions of Effectiveness Of Gender-Sensitive and Responsive Texts and Tutorials of Open School of Bangladesh Open University" They mentioned in their article that Open School (OS) of the Bangladesh Open University (BOU) has passed more than an era in imparting school education at par to the formal education using mainly self-learning materials (SLMs) and face-to-face (f2f) tutorial sessions at the weakened near to the learners' place. Both male and female have been the learners of the OS programs named Secondary School Certificate (SSC) for grade-9-10 and Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) for grade 11-12. There have always been questions; do tutors provide a gender-sensitive learning environment -are girls encouraged to answer questions, do the texts present stereotypical images of girls? Their paper aim to study on this issue. Selected stakeholders including learners are interviewed as per the objectives of the study. Subject group of this study is learners and tutors and the control group is non-user of OS SLMs. In order to study the attributes and perceptions of the learners on the effectiveness of gender sensitive and responsive texts, a questionnaire is developed. A five-point Likert scale of 1 to 5, ranging from 'strongly agree' and 'strongly disagree' as anchoring points are used for main items.

In the 2nd article titled as "The Importance of Distance Education in Nursing", written by Belgin BOZ YUKSEKDAG, Anadolu University, College of Open Education, Testing Research Unit, Eskisehir, Turkey. She emphasize in her study their importance of the nursing education and the reason of its essence arises from social requirements is a practical discipline. It requires knowledge and skills. This knowledge and skills must be updated with developments in the health field. However, because of their living conditions, nurses cannot continue the formal education. Distance nursing programs provide flexibility to them. In this study will be handed the importance of distance education for nursing and the attitudes of nurses towards distance nursing programs.

The 3rd article is join study from South Africa, on "The Impact of Technology in Breaking Barriers Towards Women's Liberation in Open Distance Learning", written by Anniekie NNDOWISENI RAVHUDZULO from University of South Africa and Unisa, South Africa. This study revealed how technology has brought about unique changes in education as a whole, how people communicate; research, preference and social interaction. It presents before the society a growing recognition of the recent and wider possibilities in the new era.

The proposed study identified the impact of technology in breaking barriers towards women's liberation in Open Distance Learning (ODL) to contribute towards enhancing women empowerment. The two concepts Open Distance Learning (ODL) and Distance Education will interchangeably used in this research because the participants are furthering studies through ODL and DE (ODL/DE). This paper is qualitative research in nature and an auto-ethnographic approach focused on questions pertaining to how technology breaks barriers towards women's liberation, perseverance, how women integrate the ODL/DE environment into their personal life. The findings suggested that technology improved and liberated women's livelihoods in many respects because of their

perseverance and taking extra online modules through ODL/DE. Findings suggested that technology contribute towards enhancing women's empowerment and liberation in. Therefore, women empowerment is an active multi-dimensional process which empowers women to realize their full uniqueness and powers in all walks of life. The paper concludes by recommending that women should be able to live a life without limits and see life in a better perspective.

In The second part of the journal we would like republish recently published articles around the world for to inform and aware intWOJDE readers about old published articles somewhere.

The 4th article is from India. Written on "Attitude of Women Learners Towards Distance Education: A Comparative Analysis" by Suja Stanley GEORGE, from Subharti Medical College, Swami Vivekanand Subharti University, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, India. The study was conducted in Uttar Pradesh's Meerut district and data were collected from 43 women distance learners of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) and 77 women distance learners of Swami Vivekanand Subharti University (SVSU) following purposive sampling method. The comparative attitude level was measured in eight sub-areas of distance learning viz., general, admission procedure, self learning material (SLM), multimedia, assignments, counseling, study centers and evaluation system. The findings revealed that women distance learners have positive attitude towards distance learning and no significant difference was found between the overall attitudes of learners from both universities. However, the IGNOU learners exhibited more favorable attitude than SVSU learners on five sub-areas of attitude towards distance learning namely admission procedure, assignments, counseling, study centre and evaluation system with a significant difference only in assignments area ($P < 0.05$). The related implications for distance education are discussed. carry out their own business.

The 5th article is from Malaysia and published before in TOJDE-Turkish Online journal of Distance education. The aim of republishing belongs to reach intWOJDE readers after a years again. It is titled as "THE SUPPORT SYSTEM IN DISTANCE EDUCATION: Factors Affecting Achievements Among Women Learners", written by Hanafi ATAN, Zuraidah A. RAHMAN, Omar MAJID, Noraida A. GHANI and Rozhan M IDRUS from School of Distance Education, Universiti Sains Malaysia, MALAYSIA.

At the first they emphasized that distance education has the potential to contribute to the enhancement of women's development by overcoming not only temporal and spatial barriers but familial commitments as well. It brings education to their home and allows women to learn at their individual pace, seek skills for individual development and at the same time, enables them to fulfill family responsibilities. An important element of distance education is the provision of the learner support system that provides students the access to learning resources and means of communication that would facilitate the array of educational activities and exposure to various other guidance and advisories.

This paper reports on the study undertaken to elucidate the dimensions of the support system provided by the School of Distance Education (SDE), Universiti Saints Malaysia (USM) to its women learners that would have significant impact on their achievements. The factorial analysis conducted revealed that the role of the faculty is the main contributing factor affecting these achievements, followed by the provision of the intensive course, the electronic portal, video conferencing and to a much lesser extent, the existence of the regional centers. The implications of this study are discussed with the view of improving the support system provided by the institution and the need to put into action the necessary strategies to further improve the achievement of the women learners.



As you notice we created a "re-published Section in our journal coincidentally for to inform and benefit our readers from earlier researches and published studies or reports which are related our field by receiving their official permission and giving its original cite in the literature. Here, in this issue I would like announce and to give a place two the latest, very well designed and published reports which are permitted officially written by re-publish in our medium for to inform our readers directly. These are entitled as "E-learning market report" and "Mobile Learning Report", prepared and published by Docebo as the source of the documents, linking homepage as (www.docebo.com).

In the third "Success Stories" section we tried to give a place for LOUANN POIRIER story who was cancer when she graduated from Athabasca Unicersiy, Canada, 2014.

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 April, 2015.
International Women Online Journal of Distance Education, Volume: 4 Issue: 2.

Cordially,
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