Study And Analyze The Factors Related To Distance Education Using Data Mining

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Abstract

Today Distance Education is adopted by most of the students for getting their basic as well as higher qualification. The Distance Education has many merits & demerits at graduation and higher level of education. At basic level it is less required but for higher degrees like post graduation it is more required. Distance education need to be adopted by students during their job to increase their degrees for their promotion or getting a better job. But in today's time distance education becomes the source of getting degrees instead of knowledge. This paper reviews the factor effecting the distance education for the students and professionals. It also includes a survey questionnaire which takes most of the factors into count and before starting actual survey, a pilot study for this questionnaire was done which conform its acceptance.

Keywords - Interaction, well equipped, Feed-back, Infrastructure, Learning center, Sessional exam

1. Introduction

Education is the need of everyone to face the challenges of life. Getting the knowledge is more important than getting the degrees. Two ways of education are available, regular education and distance education. Distance education was started by the universities to meet the education need of the people, who can't come to college as a regular student due to their job or due to large distance of a college. But now a days distance education is more preferred by the students not due to above reasons only but due to easy way to get the degree or even get the degrees without meeting proper eligibility. In this way level of education goes on decreasing. This questionnaire helps to find the factors which are most responsible for preferring this education by the students also find the factors responsible for decreasing the level to study in distance education.

2. Factor Categories

This questionnaire considers all the factors effecting distance education and most probably all these factors are taken according to their suitable priority. It includes major factors and all these factors are taken as questions which can be answered in five different ways (Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Neutral, Agree, Strongly Agree) according to which Distance Education level can be improved.

3. Classifiers

According to the factors in the questionnaire the respondents can be classified in broad six classifiers, these are following.

3.1. Regular Students
3.2. Distance Education Students
3.3. Regular Teaching Staff
3.4. Distance Education Teaching Staff
3.5. Employers
3.6. University Authorities

4. Category Factor Variables

Infrastructure   V6 (Lack of well-equipped labs)

	V25 (Poor infrastructure)
	V43 (No Wi-Fi facility)
Services	V11 (Less opportunities to improve communication skills)
	V17 (Seminars are not conducted)
	V19 (Less use of advance technologies)
	V23 (Educational trips are not organized)
	V30 (Functions are not held)
	V35 (Video lectures are provided)
	V38 (Athletic meets are not held)
Quality of Education	V1 (In Distance Education, there is poor interaction between teacher and student)
	V2 (Less qualified faculty)
	V3 (Poor quality of study material)
	V5 (Less number of study hours)
	V9 (Guest lectures are not provided)
	V10 (volume of library books is not sufficient)
	V12 (Attendance of students is not must)
	V13 (No proper schedule of classes)
	V14 (No immediate feedback)
	V26 (Students miss class environment)
	V28 (Students are mostly dependent upon self-study)
	V32 (Students are not properly guided)
	V33 (Associated Universities are responsible to provide study material)
	V37 (Sessional examinations are optional)
	V39 (Poor management to conduct viva)
	V44 (Study Centers are shops instead of education hub)
	V47 (In many study centers, single teacher is giving lectures of all subjects)
	V50 (Study centers provide help during final exams in form of open books, notes etc)
	V51 (Many universities are not bounded to conduct the exams and declare the result on time)
Admission Criteria/	V7 (Admission eligibility is not as per regular)
Eligibility	V8 (Need to conduct an entrance test)
	V45 (Students are registered in more than one course simultaneously)
	V46 (Students are enrolled without meeting the eligibility criteria)
Difficulties	V4 (Low status of education)
	V16 (Students suffer from lack of knowledge)
	V21 (No placements for distance education students)
	V24 (Hidden cost (in exceptional cases)
	V27 (Low confidence level of students)
	V31 (Improper management of students records)
	V34 (Students' personality cannot develop)
	V41 (Students under distance education are generally lazy)
	V42 (No promotions for faculty)
	V48 (Many employers do not consider candidates for employment having distance education degree)
Objectives and Goals	V15 (Easy to get education while doing job)
	V18 (Cheaper source of education)
	V20 (Lateral entry in courses)
	V22 (Convenient for person of any age group)
	V29 (Learning centers are easily accessible)
	V36 (Students can study anywhere)
	V40 (More and more people can get education easily)
	V49 (Better method to improve qualification during service for the purpose of promotion)

5. Conclusions

Improvement in distance education is the need of hour. So that level of knowledge in students getting degree through distance education can be maintained. This questionnaire helps to find the factors responsible for decreasing the quality of distance education as well as the reasons due to which student prefer it. These factors must be considered for improving the quality of distance education and before starting the distance

education a students can be aware about the problems and difficulties he/she have to face in future.

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Annexure

A questionnaire on survey of distance education

Please take few minutes to fill out the survey. We welcome your feedback and your answer will be kept confidential

Statement	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
V1 (In Distance Education, there is poor interaction between teacher and student)					
V2 (Less qualified faculty)					
V3 (Poor quality of study material)					
V4 (Low status of education)					
V5 (Less number of study hours)					
V6 (Lack of well-equipped labs)					
V7 (Admission eligibility is not as per regular)					
V8 (Need to conduct an entrance test)					
V9 (Guest lectures are not provided)					
V10 (Volume of library books is not sufficient)					
V11 (Less opportunities to improve communication skills)					
V12 (Attendance of students is not must)					
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V23 (Educational trips are not organized)					

V24 (Hidden cost (in exceptional cases))					
V25 (Poor infrastructure)					
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V28 (Students are mostly dependent upon self-study)					
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V41 (Students under distance education are generally lazy)					
V42 (No promotions for faculty)					
V43 (No Wi-Fi facility)					
V44 (Study Centers are shops instead of education hub)					
V45 (Students are registered in more than one course simultaneously.)					
V46 (Students are enrolled without meeting the eligibility criteria.)					
V47 (In many study centers, single teacher is giving lectures of all subjects.)					

V48 (Many employer do not consider candidates for employment having distance education degree)					
V49 (Better method to improve qualification during service for the purpose of promotion)					
V50 (Study centers provide help during final exams in form of open books, notes etc.)					
V51 (Many universities are not bounded to conduct the exams and declare the result on time)					

PERSONAL INFORMATION

By Students

Regular Student ☐	Distance Education Student ☐	

Gender………….. Age………….. City…….…………… Name of Study Centre/University.…………………….

Name (optional)……………………………………… Contact Number(optional)……………………………….

Stream……………… Course…………………. UG/PG

By Teaching Staff

Regular Teaching Staff ☐   Distance Education Teaching Staff ☐

Name of College/University……………………………………………………………………

City……………………………………………. Gender…………………… Age…………………

Name (optional)…………………………………….(Lecturer/Assistant professor/Associate Professor/Professor/Administrative Staff)

Conduct Number (Optional)………………………. Department………………………………

By Employer

Name of Organization……………………………………………………………………………………………

Employer Strength………………………………….Name of Employer…………………………………………..

Designation……………………………………….Contact Number(Optional)…………………………………

By University Authorities

Name of University………………………………………………………………………………………………

Name of authority(Optional)………………………………… ….Designation…………………………………

Provide Regular Degree ☐   Provide Distance Education ☐