The World of Open and Distance Learning

The World of Open and Distance Learning. New Delhi: Viva Books

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This book is edited by Dr. V. Venugopal Reddy and Dr. Manjulika Srivastava who are well known with their studies on distance education. Total of fifty-nine papers took place on the book. The authors of the papers are from many different countries and they are both designers and managers of distance training or they are studying on theoretical and practical aspects of distance education.

The book contains fifty-nine papers in three major parts. Many of the papers contains tables and figures supporting the data given in the texts. In addition to this, the book also includes the list of all contributers, list of acronyms and abbreviations that ara used in the book and an author index. At the end of every paper the references takes place.

Before the major parts a paper written by the editors takes place. In this paper named “Open and Distance Learning in Transition” the editors present their own point of views and definition of distance education and technology and they point out the currnt trends in this field supporting them with some tables. After this they discuss what might be the future trends are.

In the first major part, the situation and practices of distance education in developing world is discussed. In this part there are papers from Hong Kong-China, West Indies-Caribbean, Argentina, Fiji, Thailand, Malaysia, Turkey, South Africa, Sri Lanka, China, Zimbabwe, Cameroon, Pakistan, India (Allama Iqbal Open University, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Open University, Indira Gandhi Open University practices), Bangladesh, Uganda. In the papers first of all generally the country profiles are given. After this the status of the distance/open education of the related country is discussed. The programmes of distance education system of each country are introduced in details in the following parts. Then, instructional technologies and metodologies, student support systems, training and staff development strategies, finance, quality control approaches and assessmant of learners are pointed out in the papers. In some of the papers the colaborations are also explained.

In the second major part, similar to the first part the situation and practices of distance education in industrial world is discussed. In this section, there are papers from Canada(Athabasca University and Simon Fraser University), USA (The University of New Mexico and Regents College), Japan, New Zealand (The Open Polytechnic and The University of Otago), Australia, Portugal.

In addition to these papers the last paper of the section is an general evaluation about distance education with the topic of “The Secret Behind The Success of Open and Distance Learning”. In the papers of this section similar knowledges about the distance education of industrial world practices are mentioned.
The third major part of the book is epilogue. The social, theoretical and practical aspects and impacts and future of distance/open education is discussed in this section by either designers and managers of distance training or the people who are studying or making researches on distance education.

The book has met the purpose of generating understanding and sharing knowledge and perspectives on distance/open education. The book’s unparalleled breadth of coverage makes it a book of reference for policy makers, researchers and academics on distance education. It is also a source for industrialists particularly those in the information technology sector for understanding the scope of investment as well as collaboration.