Education is, undoubtedly, the most important and the most fruitful investment for a peaceful and productive world. And it is also a striking fact that due to lack of either time or place it is not possible to provide everybody with education in schools. Hence, the concept of “Distance Education” has a special meaning for those who are related to education as an authority, teacher, expert or learner. Owing to technological innovations in our age, distinguished academicians like the author of this book are determined to make use of every available opportunity in order to achieve their ultimate objective; to educate as many people as they can.

Written by a well-known Turkish academician, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zeki Kaya, and published by one of the most selective publishers, Pegem A, this book aims at introducing what “Distance Education” is and how it has been developed in theory and practice, as well as how it can be practiced in different teaching situations. Therefore this book, to which the author poured his years of experiences, is composed of ten main chapters and covers such significant topics related to “Distance Education” as the needs of distance education, some implementations for distance education, the administration of distance education, course-books, radio and television lessons, computer-mediated learning resources, interactive settings, co-operative learning through internet and programme assessment.

In Chapter 1, the author focuses on the humans’ needs and skills of learning, some basic educational problems, as well as the meaning, benefits and limitations of distance education. In Chapter 2, the first distance education practices in the world and in Turkey, and distance education practices, today, in some Turkish universities and in the Ministry of Turkish National Education is introduced. Chapter 3 deals with the administrative elements of the distance education. Chapter 4 covers and analyses the course-books for the distance education. In Chapters 5 and 6, radio and television lessons attempt to put forward some practical suggestions on pre, on and post production procedures. Chapter 7 concentrates on computer-mediated learning resources with their benefits and limitations. Chapter 8 aims to introduce various interactice settings such as face to face education, group activities, multi-media activities and education through internet. Chapter 9 is devoted to co-operative learning and the function of the internet and the role of the teacher in the co-operative learning is emphasised. The last chapter covers the concepts related to programme assessment. Each chapter has a summary part and a list of references of some selected works.

On the basis of the review above, it is safe to claim that as the author has managed to convey his ideas through authentic relevant references within 291 pages of high quality print, this book, which is written in Turkish, is a useful material not only for those who are involved in the teaching and learning process of this subject but also for everyone who are interested in “Distance Education”.

Reviewed by
Ismail Hakki MIRICI,
Assistant Professor,
Kirikkale University, TURKEY