

Who should consider Distance Education at AKU-IED?

Distance education option provides people in remote locations or those who face job and family restrictions, with equal access to quality education. Participants enrolled for courses by distance education can study where and when they prefer and do not have to be on-campus to attend classes.



A successful distance education student requires self-discipline to study independently, good time management skills, and willingness and ability to maintain a regular contact with tutor. Access to and some proficiency in using a computer and the internet will be an added advantage for online learners.

Successful course participants' feedback

Here are a few of the many comments we have received from our successful course participants:

"I could educate myself while not attending a classroom."

Uzma Butt, Cert. Ed. Inclusive Education 2005

"I didn't need to come for face to face sessions. I did the course at home. For someone who is working in the morning and has kids, it was very useful. If I had to come regularly, it might have been difficult. It was very good as IED is very far from my home. My physical presence was not required to learn although learning was happening every day!"

Saira Salman, Cert. Ed. Inclusive Education 2005.

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آغا خان یونیورسٹی
THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

Institute for Educational Development



Open Learning

The Aga Khan University-Institute for Educational Development (AKU-IED) was established in July 1993 under the charter of the Aga Khan University with the overall objective of becoming a leader in educational reform and improvement, especially in developing countries.

Key education indicators in these countries illustrate the poor quality of education: low and inequitable enrollment and retention rates; irrelevant curricula compounded by ineffective assessment which in turn fosters rote learning and passive student roles; and poorly resourced schools staffed by inadequately trained and supported teachers. Thus, the aim of the Institute is to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of schools and other educational institutions in the country through innovation, policy development, practice, training and research.

AKU-IED offers a variety of professional development courses including a two-year Master's of Education and shorter Advanced Diploma and Certificate courses for classroom teachers and educational leaders and managers.

Open Learning at AKU-IED

In 2002 AKU-IED established an Open and Distance Learning programme as a commitment towards providing access to education for teachers and educational leaders who are unable to attend full time on-campus programmes.



The term Open Learning was chosen as it seems to carry the connotations of flexibility and resource-based learning and captures our uses of materials both at a distance and on-campus. According to Bates (1995):

Open Learning is primarily a goal, or an educational policy; the provision of learning in a flexible manner, built around the geographical, social and time constraints of individual learners, rather than those of an educational institution.

At present, the main mode of content delivery is through printed learning materials supplemented by audio and visual resources. Occasional face-to-face sessions are held to assist course participants (CPs) to make effective use of the learning resources provided to them. Wherever CPs have access to a Computer with Internet connection, they are encouraged to engage in e-activities via our Virtual Learning Environment called IEDOnline.

Distance Education vs. Classroom Based Education

There is little evidence to prove that classroom based instruction is better as compared to distance education. The studies indicate that any form of instruction that is based on principles of good pedagogical design could lead to improved learning outcome.



Learning resources in AKU-IED's distance education courses are designed and developed by AKU-IED faculty and course designers, and go through a formal review and approval process to ensure quality. AKU certifies distance education courses in the same way as face-to-face courses.

Courses Offered

The following courses are offered for in-service teachers and educational leaders:

- Certificate in Education: Environmental Education
- Certificate in Education: Inclusive Education
- Certificate in Education: Information and Communications Technology for Educators
- Certificate in Education: Educational Leadership and Management
- Certificate in Education: Health Education