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As a result of advances in science advance and technology, the concept of education in the modern world is changing rapidly. Now the task of educators is to educate more people and to disseminate more knowledge. Therefore, conventional system of education although very effective in an institutional set up, is undemocratic, considering the low proportion of those who can get a formal education to these who cannot. It is also quite expensive and is unable to cope with the magnitude of the problem of the masses. This has given birth to alternate models, conventionally called 'non-formal', 'open' or distance education. It is, therefore, not surprising that by the end of this century, teaching in the world would be conducted by highly sophisticated media and distance education.

The Open University has not come to replace or oust the conventional University nor, indeed, compete with it. This system of education is very appropriate for solving the problem of illiteracy and of those who have inadequate resources and lack of educational opportunity.

In a conventional system, students come to the University while in the open learning system, the University goes to the students of age group ranging from 16 to over 60 years. In the open learning system, in otherwords, in a distance education system, a University is without any walls.

Distance education, over the last two decades, has been recognised as a significant form of education, both in developed and developing countries. It has now made its way deep into the educational, social and economic mainstreams of many societies in

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the world. This learning through distance education goes to meet the real life needs in the most effective and economic way. With great promise for the future, it has increased accessibility to help meet personal, economic, social and vocational objectives of teeming millions, irrespective of geographical barriers.

COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

Print and communication play a very vital role in distance education. In developing countries, print is supported by broadcasting, while in developed countries video-cassettes, videodisc and audio cassette services are used for the students by distance education institutions.

In developing country like Bangladesh, broadcasting is more favourable, because it has the ability to reach every home with lower cast than video-cassette distribution cost. Developed countries are also considering the use of satellite and cable television as the provide more channels, better coverage and better transmission times. Television, telephone and computer, in developed countries, are merging into single technology, called telematics. This communication system presages fundamental changes in distance education.

The first step of a distance education institution is to create the necessary structures for development and production of course books and radio and television programmes. In Bangladesh this could be done in collaboration with Radio Bangladesh and Television. And, eventually, the University has to produce its own radio and television programmes. The University must have purpose-built studio for both radio and television production, with professional staff, including non-broadcast media section.

NETWORK

There should be network of Regional Offices and Model Study Centres all over Bangladesh. Tapes should be supplied to broadcasting stations. Programmes are to be moni-

tored by production and academic staff. The country-wide infra-structure will make it possible for tutorial, information and counselling systems to work. This means large-scale logistic support and an efficient organization. There should be inter-locking departments. These could be grouped as—

   i. Academic;
   ii. Service;
   and iii. Administration.

The Academic Departments should be concerned with planning and writing of teaching materials with the supervision of course being offered.

The Service Departments will include the Regional Ser-

vices net work, course production, examinations, printing, and publications, mailing and radio and television programmes.

The Administative set up will comprise of the Vice-Chancellor as the Principal Executive and academic officer, the Registrar, his office and its various divisions.

OBJECTIVES

Adhearing to the following frame-work, the open University could have more objectives into its fold successfully developing into a non-formal counter-part of already existing formal Universities in Bangladesh :-

   i. To provide basic education to the masses;
   ii. To provide education to the people who cannot leave their jobs and homes;
   iii. To provide vocational and technical training; and

   iv. To undertake researches concerning various educational problems.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Education, both on individual and national level, is fundamental to any development. It improves the quality of life, helps the individuals to achieve a better life. One would generally agree that many of our problems result, on the one hand, from illiteracy and, on the other, from lack of proper education and training. A person cannot be trained well for his profession unless he is functionally literate. It is high time to give attention towards distance education, for, this work in areas of rural and urban skill and of women's education can really bring all round national development in Bangladesh.