

DISTANCE EDUCATION PROJECT IN GUJARAT STATE

Innovations in Distance and Continuing Education

Introduction

NITTTR also helped Gujarat State in designing, developing and implementing a Distance Education System through its Continuing Education Centre with the World Bank Assisted Project in 1992-98. NITTTR assisted the state in developing a Detailed Project Report for implementing different components of the project and provided initial support and inputs in installing and working of the Distance Education System in the state.

The project of establishing Continuing Education Centre and offering distance mode programme through distance learning mode was initiated in 1993. Initially 14 polytechnics were identified as study centres. The system was evolved to take care of the training requirements of continuous development of technicians to meet the demands of upgradation in the same field as well as requirements due to diversification. Similarly, many industrial workers and those working on remote project sites, did not get an opportunity of acquiring technician level qualification. A system was devised, which could provide opportunity for continual development of personnel in the industry.

Specific Achievements of Continuing Education and Distance Learning in Gujarat State

NITTTR guided and assisted Directorate of Technical Education, and Technical Education Board in installing a Continuing Education Centre, Learning Resources Development Centre and Curriculum Development Centre under the World Bank Assisted Project in 1992-93.

The objective of establishing Continuing Education Centre was to:

- i. Provide opportunities of acquiring technical level qualification in Civil, Mechanical and Electrical Diploma through Distance Learning mode.
- ii. Offer opportunities to serving technician to update their knowledge in tune with technological changes.
- iii. Provide technician education facility to adult learners through non-formal programmes.
- iv. Provide an alternative route to continue career development through non-formal programmes.

NITTTR helped the state through

- Training 1200 polytechnics teachers in preparing instructional material.
- Prepared Guideline document, teachers and student's guide
- Developed self-learning modules in 321 subjects.
- Training of faculty in Distance Learning Centre management.

The three diploma programmes are offered through 22 study centres. There are more than 400 course material, subjects and laboratory manual developed and modified. The total enrolment as on date is more than 67000 in three programmes. The drop out rate of the programme is around 68% and is a major concern. NITTTR Bhopal is conducting a research in this area to find out suitable strategy to check drop out rate.

The centre offered the diploma programmes in Civil, mechanical and electrical engineering by adopting the curricula of the Technical Examinations Board. Theory teaching are imparted by self learning modules, guidance materials supplied to the candidates through correspondence, while the practical skills

will be imparted at residential sessions conducted at different polytechnics working as study centres. The candidates were also benefited by counselling, tutorials and use of library etc. at the study centres.

The enrolment of candidates was being done by the Continuing Education Centre (CEC) and the records are maintained by the CEC and TEB with the assistance of study centres. The CEC is an independent organisation under the administrative control of the Director of Technical Education and funded by the state government through budgetary provisions made by the DTE.

The CEC has the status of an institute and headed by an officer of the rank of a professor. He exercises all the administrative and financial powers delegated to the head of an institute by the government and the Director of Technical Education from time to time. The CEC is adequately staffed keeping in view the administrative and academic needs. The advisory committee appointed by the DTE guides the centre in planning, implementation and monitoring of programmes. The CEC has close linkages with DTE, NITTTR and other concerned organisations.