



Open Distance Learning in Global Environment Issues and Challenges: Social Justice in India

KEYWORDS

Social Justice, higher education, distance education, gender inequalities, global issues

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ABSTRACT

Social justice generally refers to the idea of creating a society or institution that is based on the principles of equality and solidarity, that understands the values and recognizes the human rights and the dignity of every human being. A social justice is found not only in India also we can see in many countries of the world. There is basis biased on religion, caste, language, gender etc., therefore social justice is needed to overcome from all these bias. One way to come out of this bias can be only through education without any fence to all. Everyone has to offer formal education in Open University through open distance learning. One of the objectives of Open Distance Learning system in India is to democratize higher education by providing access to large segment of the population. In India the Open Distance Learning System only focuses on solving the basic problem of providing equal access to higher education. In spite of limited access to higher education India faces another problem that are the inequalities of other kinds within the education system mainly, the gender inequality and inequalities among the disadvantaged groups such as weaker sections in the larger neglected masses of the country. The aim of this paper is to brief review on how open distance learning system involve in social justices.

INTRODUCTION

Distance learning and its relationship to emerging computer technologies have together offered many promises to the field of education. In practice however, the combination often falls short of what it attempts to accomplish. Some of the shortcomings are due to problems with the technology; others have more to do with administration, instructional methods, or students. Despite the problems, many users like technologies such as compressed video and continued growth in the area. This paper will examine some of the current research and thought on the promises, problems, and the future possibilities in modern distance learning, particularly types that are delivered via electronic means. The struggle for individual freedom and social justice is as old as human existence although there is bound to be conflict between the claims of individual freedom and those of social justice these two values have assumed a significant place in the movement of constitutionalism throughout the world during the guaranteed individual freedoms world lose much of their meaning, value and significance without adequate commitment to the constitutional promise of social justice. India inspire of being a socialist democracy, opted for the liberal democratic model with due emphasis on the basic human rights consequently, the framers of the Indian Constitution attempted to strike a balance between the claims of the individual and social justice by incorporating the individual freedom. The constitutional goal of social justice enshrined in the preamble of the constitution of India and to assess the actual position of their socio-economic and political situations. Besides, that attempt has also been made to trace the historical evolution of caste system, which is responsible for inequality, injustice, and discrimination between the haves and have-nots. In this paper describes on Social Justice as contemplate under the constitution of India which concentrates on treating all people equally and providing people with equal rights. Basically, it is about giving everyone a 'fair go'. However, since inequality still exists in society treating everyone the same does not necessarily mean fairness of treatment. The provision of equality of opportunity must be combined with social justice principles to provide

substantive equality to marginalized groups. Social justice provides equitable outcomes to marginalized groups by recognizing past disadvantage and existence of structural barriers embedded in the social, economic and political system that perpetuate systemic discrimination.

History

Kautilya in his Arthashastra has beautifully put in an analytical manner, the duties of the different castes as mentioned be expelled at will. And to be slain at will. The milk, which was used to be used for fire-oblation was not allowed to be milked by a shudra. Besides, he was not to be addressed by a person consecrated for sacrifice. The Shatapatha Brahmana goes to the length of declaring the shudra as untruth itself. The Shudra, though kept away from following the religious practices of the Aryans. The ideas of Untouchability were first given literary expression in connection with the Shudras and the sacrifice. Besides, there were many inequalities in the matter of religious practices between three other classes. Each order seems to have been habitually endogamous in marriage though occasionally Brahmins married Kshatriya females.

Before any discussion of distance learning, we need to look at the way the term has been defined in the past and how it is currently defined in the literature. The term can be used to describe any of a number of instructional situations. Although it is thought of as a new term, distance learning has been around for well over 100 years. One of the earlier forms of distance learning was done through correspondence courses started in Europe. This stayed the primary means of distance learning until the middle of this century when instructional radio and television became more popular (Imel, 1996). As technology has changed, so has the definition of distance learning. Videotaped lectures have been a standard in university and professional courses for the last two decades (Moore & Lockee, 1998). Audiotapes and lessons sent through the mail have been used in correspondence courses to teach subjects such as foreign language for quite some time (Teaster & Blieszner, 1999). Today, the Internet and compressed video have

taken distance learning in new directions, allowing distance learning to occur in real time. Live video instruction is the most popular and fastest growing delivery mode in the United States (Ostendorf, 1997). The hereditary and prescriptive right of the Brahmins to act as priests to all castes of Hindu fold has been the on uniform and general principal inherent in a cast society through its entire vicissitudes. But later, due to the decision of the high courts in the three presidency towns the Brahmins were dislodged from their monopoly of priesthood. In Bengal and in some parts in North India, generally it is now settled that there is no office of priest recognized as such in law and a householder may employ anyone he likes for the performance of any priestly service and pay the fees to him. Several non-Brahmins reformists started to perform their religious rites without the assistance of the Brahmin priests. Many Brahmin priests lodged complaints against such acts in the Many Brahmin priests lodged complaints against such acts in the High Court of Bombay asking for an injunction against those persons who were not at all bound to call for the services of the hereditary priest. On the other hand, the hereditary priest must be paid some fees by way of compensation. Through the uniform law enforced by the

British many prejudices inequality and ill will among many castes were removed and whoever discriminated and treated with contempt was punished under the law. Although the British brought this uniform law through the territory of India for their survival and safety in their administration, yet it also helped for the removed of many social disabilities, which existed in the Hindu society to some extent.

Meaning of social justice with reference to open distance learning

Distance education or distance learning is a field of education that focuses on teaching methods and technology with the aim of delivering teaching, often on an individual basis, to students who are not physically present in a traditional educational setting such as a classroom. It has been described as "a process to create and provide access to learning when the source of information and the learners are separated by time and distance, or both."^[1] Distance education courses that require a physical on-site presence for any reason (including taking examinations) have been referred to as hybrid or blended courses of study.

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