

## **AN ANALYSIS OF SOCIETAL EXPECTATIONS IN ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT IN DISTANCE LEARNERS**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The data was collected through structured questionnaires designed separately for two populations. The data was analyzed and the results were converted into percentage and mean scores. The major findings are that students agreed that Today Distance education is the demand of people and concept distance education is changed due to new technology. The major hindrance in academic achievement is may be finance. Which were according to the objectives. The major conclusions were consisted that distance education fulfills the learning needs of the society. Distance education shared the financial burden of parents. A societal expectation is dire need of the distance learning. Parents accept societal expectation about their children's study. It was recommended and suggested that societal expectation should be high because societal expectation plays a key role in student's academic achievement of distance learners. Societal expectations should be positively focused for academic achievement because societal expectation and academic achievement are related with each other. There should be a financial source because the major hindrance in academic achievement is finance. Parents should accept correlated societal expectation about their children's study. Societal expectations should be sky-scraping because societal expectation is dire need of the distance learning.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Education is the fundamental element for individual progress and reduces deficiency. It has an effect on human mind, behavior and his ability. Due to this knowledge is transmitted from one generation to another in the society. Man is the vicegerent of Allah Almighty on this planet due to knowledge. He also contributes meaningfully in the development of society. The countries which are advanced in the World, these are just because of education. The fundamental aim of education is to produce civilized men so that they prosper their country.

Distance Education play a very vital role in the society, because formal education system cannot fulfill the needs of the society. Distance education is very helpful for those learners who cannot get education through formal system due to many reasons. Major characteristics of the distance education are that in these system students and teachers

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geographically scattered. A student who spends most of his/her class time and course work in an off-campus site or at home.

Allama Iqbal Open University is providing distance education. It is the mega university of the world. Distance learner is an isolated learner.

Many factors have been found to influence of students societal expectations in academic achievement. The factors that a involve in academic achievement are environment, General and special abilities, parents, teachers, family background, perception, school expenditures, desire, motivation habits and behavior and achievement, but the key role is played by high societal expectations. Every society whether simple or complex, has its own system for training its youth. When a society develops a process related to its environment and passes it on from generation to generation. Teacher has a major role in societal expectation, because teacher is the person who fulfills the needs of the society. The character of teacher is ideal for the students. They imitate their teacher. The major reason of the war of 1971 between India and Pakistan was the teachers. Because these teachers were not Muslims and they teach their students according their own ideology and the result of all this is the separation of East Pakistan.

Institution builds the character of the student. They teach him about discipline, respect, knowledge and manners. If the institution cannot fulfill their responsibilities then it is harmful for the students and communities not accept those types' institutions. Sometime student's family background affects the institutions rules .

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

Objectives of the study were:

1. To determine the impact of societal expectation in academic achievements of distance learners
2. . To find out the hindrances faced during fulfillment of academic achievements of distance learner.

## **PROCEDURE OF THE STUDY**

Procedure of the study consist on four steps and methods of study are given here.

- Design of the study
- Sampling
- Data collection
- Statistical analysis

## **DESIGN OF THE STUDY**

Two questionnaires played a vital role in descriptive analytical method. The study consisted of two sample population i.e.

- 1) Students of M.A/M.Ed:

- 2) Parents of the selected students.

## POPULATION

The population of the study was consisted on students and parents.

- 1 Students enrolled in M.A/M.Ed: during the semester Autumn 2009, Spring 2010 at Islamabad region.
- 2 Parents of the students enrolled in M.A/M.Ed: during semester Autumn 2009, Spring 2010 at Islamabad region.

## SAMPLE

**Table 1.** Shown in the sample of the study.

<b>Population &amp; Sample Table</b>			
Total population	Sample	Questionnaire Administered	Response Received
Students 420	294 (70% of total population)	294	210
Parents 420	294 (70% of total population)	294	210

## DATA COLLECTION

### Development of the Tools

Main data collecting tool were two questionnaires that were based on the five point Likert Scale.

### QUESTIONNAIRES FOR STUDENTS:

There are eighteen statements in the questionnaire for the students.

### QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PARENTS:

There are fourteen statements in the questionnaire for the parents.

In these questionnaires, the respondents were requested to response to each item on a five Likert scale i.e.

Strongly Agreed	(SA)
Agreed	(A)
Uncertain	(UNC)
Disagreed	(DA)
Strongly Disagreed	(SD)

Mean score formula is as under:

$$\text{Mean Score} = \frac{X5 \cdot fSA + X4 \cdot fA + X3 \cdot fUNC + X2 \cdot fDA + X1 \cdot fSDA}{N}$$

Formula used for percentage is given below:

$$\text{Percentage \%} = \frac{F}{N} \times 100$$

Here:  
 N = Total number of responses  
 fSA = Frequency of strongly agreed responses  
 fA = Frequency of agreed responses  
 fUNC = Frequency of uncertain responses  
 fDA = Frequency of disagreed responses  
 fSDA = Frequency of strongly disagreed responses

### STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

In analyzing the data, the researcher used for the purpose of describing, analyzing and information- implication of findings. The percentage of responses to each was calculated. Over all percentage of responses to each item for students and parents was calculated. Over all mean score for each item was calculated. Mean score for each item of the questionnaire was calculated to see the over all strength of responses to each item.

### ANALYSIS OF DATA

Data collected through questionnaire were analysis, interpreted and presented ahead.

### ANALYSIS FOR QUESTIONNAIRE OF STUDENTS

Few examples of the analysis for questionnaire of students are given below:

**Table 2.** *Distance education & demand of people*

S.NO	STATEMENT	LEVEL	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE	MEAN SCORE
	Today distance education is the demand of people.	SA	83	40	4.3
		A	99	47	
		UNC	28	13	
		DA	0	0	
		SDA	0	0	

The above table indicates the 87% of students agreed that Today Distance education is the demand of people. Mean Score 4.3 shows that the students supported the statement.

**Table 3.** *Dire need of distance learning*

S.NO	STATEMENT	LEVEL	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE	MEAN SCORE
	Societal expectation is dire need of the distance learning.	SA	81	39	3.8
		A	63	30	
		UNC	17	08	
		DA	34	16	
		SDA	15	07	

The above shows that 69% students agreed with the statement that societal expectation is dire need of the distance learning while 08% remained uncertain and 23% students disagreed with the statement. Mean score 3.8 shows that students supported that statement.

**Table 4.** *student's suggestions.*

S.NO	SUGGESTION	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1.	Adopt new method of teaching.	59	28
2.	Financial help provide by Govt:	37	18
3.	Societal expectation should be good.	34	16
4.	For academic achievement ,one should be hard worker.	51	24
5.	Societal expectation should be related to environment.	29	14

### ANALYSIS FOR QUESTIONNAIRE OF PARENTS

Few examples of the analysis for questionnaire of parents are given below:

**Table 5.** *Dire need of time*

S.NO	STATEMENT	LEVEL	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE	MEAN SCORE
	Distance education is dire need of the time.	SA	108	51	4.5
		A	102	49	
		UNC	0	0	
		DA	0	0	
		SDA	0	0	

The above table points out that 100% of the parents agreed that distance education is dire need of the time, while Mean Score 4.5 shows that the parents supported the statement.

**Table 6.** *Parents cooperate for study*

S.NO	STATEMENT	LEVEL	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE	MEAN SCORE
	Parents cooperate their children for study.	SA	79	38	4.0
		A	70	33	
		UNC	52	25	
		DA	09	04	
		SDA	0	0	

The above table points out that 71% parents agreed, while 25 % remained uncertain and 4% disagreed with the statement. Mean Score 4.0 shows that parents supported the statement.

**Table 7.** *Parent's Suggestions.*

S.NO	SUGGESTION	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1.	Govt: should reduces the education expenses.	38	18
2.	Syllabus should be revise with new demand of Life.	48	22
3.	Institutions should provide more opportunities for distance learners.	31	15
4.	Institutions should encourage societal expectations of students & parents.	33	16
5.	Educational material should be made to increase interest of distance learners.	60	29

## FINDINGS

### FINDINGS RELATED (OBJECTIVE ONE)

These findings are related with the questionnaires, which was given to students.

#### Analyze the data while getting the opinions of students:

1. 87% of students agreed that Today Distance education is the demand of people.
2. 69% students agreed with the statement that societal expectation is dire need of the distance learning while 23 % students disagreed with the statement.
- 3.

### FINDINGS RELATED (OBJECTIVE TWO)

Following are the findings related to the questionnaires for parents.

### **Analysis the data while getting the opinions of parents:**

1. 100% of the parents agreed that distance education is dire need of the time.
2. 71% parents agreed that parents cooperate their children for study, while 4% disagreed with the statement.

### **CONCLUSIONS**

The following conclusions had been drawing on the basis of the forgoing findings.

- Students and parents gave their views that today distance education is the demand of people and distance education is dire need of the time.
- Students and parents accepted that concept distance education is changed due to new technology and distance education fulfills the learning needs of the society.
- Students and parents appreciated that difficulties of academic achievement enhance the capabilities of a distance learner and distance education fulfills the desire of their children.
- Majority of parents accepted that there exists a relationship between societal expectation and academic achievement.
- Majority of the students accepted that the major hindrance in academic achievement is finance. Similarly majority of the parents accepted that distance education shared the financial burden of parents.
- Students accepted that societal expectations are dire need of the distance learning.
- Majority parents agreed that they accept societal expectation about their children's study.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

On the basis of the findings and conclusions, I recommend that:

- Societal expectation should be high because societal expectation plays a key role in student's academic achievement of distance learners.
- Societal expectations should be positively focused for academic achievement because societal expectation and academic achievement are related with each other.
- There should be a financial source because the major hindrance in academic achievement is finance.
- Parents should accept correlated societal expectation about their children's study.
- Societal expectations should be sky-scraping because societal expectation is dire need of the distance learning.

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