







- To identify the role open and distance learning system in promotion of teacher Education in Pakistan;
- To investigate problems faced by M.A (Education)/M.Ed students of AIOU in Region Bahawalpur;
- To suggest solution of problems faced by M.A (Education)/M.Ed students of AIOU in Region Bahawalpur;

## 5. Research Methodology

### 5.1. Sample of the Study

1620 students of M.A (Education) /M.Ed of spring 2007 enrolled in AIOU in Region Bahawalpur was the sample for the study. Region Bahawalpur consisted on four Districts of Southern Punjab i.e. Bahawalpur, Bahawalnagar, Rahim Yar Khan and Lothran.

### 5.2. Development of Research Tool

Since the study was descriptive in nature, therefore, survey approach was considered appropriate to collect the data. For this purpose a questionnaire on the five points scale was developed for students of M.A (Education)/ M.Ed of Region Bahawalpur.

### 5.3. Administration of Research Tool

The questionnaire was distributed to the students of M.A (Education) M.Ed of semester spring 2007 during the workshop and collected the researcher himself. 1250 respondents filled and returned the questionnaire.

### 5.4. Data Analysis

The data collected through questionnaire was coded and analyzed through Ms-Excel in term of percentage and mean scores were calculated. Scale values assigned to each of the five responses were as:

Level of Agreement

Scale Value	
SA	5
A	4
UNC	3
DA	2
SDA	1

To calculate the mean score, following formula was used.

$$\text{Mean} = \frac{(\text{FSA} \times 5 + \text{FA} \times 4 + \text{FUNC} \times 3 + \text{FDA} \times 2 + \text{FSDA} \times 1)}{N} \quad \text{Score} =$$

Where

FSA= Frequency of strongly agreed

FA= Frequency of agreed

FUNC= Frequency of uncertain

FDA= Frequency of disagreed

FSDA= Frequency of strongly disagreed

The findings from data analysis are presented below:

## 6. Findings

### 1-Opinion of the Students about Admission

It is evident from table 1 that majority of the respondents (68.80 %) agreed with the statement that you got admission notice for distance learning well in time. The mean score 3.4 supported the statement. A significant majority of the respondents (89.28 % with mean score 3.9) agreed with the statement that you got sufficient time to submit your admission application. Majority of the respondents (64.08 % with mean score 2.5) disagreed with statement that you got prospectus easily. Majority of the respondents (64.08 % with the mean score 3.6) agreed with the statement that you got sufficient guidance and counseling by the regional office. Majority of the respondents (68 %) agreed with the statement that you easily submit fee for the admission. The mean score 3.5 supported the statement. Majority of the respondents (65.36 % with mean score 3.7) agreed with statement that you found sufficient informations on the web site of distance learning.

### 2-Opinion of the Students about delivery of Material

It is evident from table 2 that a significant majority of the respondents (91.28 % with the mean score 4.1) agreed with the statement that you received the material packet by the institution of distance learning. Majority of the respondents (66.72 % with mean score 3.5) agreed with the statement that you received the material packet well in time. Only 54.48 % with the mean score 3.2 agreed with the statement that you received complete material packet containing books, question papers for assignments, meeting schedule, schedule for assignment submission and students guide. A significant majority of the respondents (68.24 % with mean score 2.2) disagreed with the statement that you are satisfied with delivery system of material. A significant majority of the respondents (82.64 % with

mean score 3.7) agreed that you are satisfied with the delivery system of Pakistan post.

### **3-Opinion of the Students about Assignments**

It is evident from table 3 that majority of the respondents (60.72 % with mean score 2.6) agreed with the statement that you received sufficient material for completion of assignment. Majority of the respondents (61.92 % with mean score 2.6) agreed with statement that you easily understood the material in preparation of assignments. Majority of the respondents (69.60 % ) of the respondents agreed with the statement that you received tutor intimation well in time while the mean score is 3.6. A significant majority of the respondents (85.92 % with mean score 1.6) disagreed with the statement that tutors returned your evaluated assignments with remarks. Majority of the respondents (73.04 % with mean score 2.3) disagreed with the statement that you found complete answers from the material in preparation of the assignments.

### **4-Opinion of the Students about Students Supports Services**

It is evident from table 4 that majority of the respondents (77.36 % with mean score 4.1) agreed with the statement that you got counseling regarding your problem from regional office. Majority of the respondents (70.32 % with mean score 3.6) agreed with the statement that the attitude of the regional office personnel was polite and cooperative. Majority of the respondents (66.40 % with mean score 3.4) agreed with the statement that you found helpful both tutor and staff of regional office.

### **5-Opinion of the Students about Tutorial Meetings**

It is evident from table 5 that majority of the respondents (77.84 % with mean score 2.1) disagreed with the statement that you got intimation of the study centre. Majority of the respondents (76.08 % with mean score 3.6) disagreed with the statement that you found your tutor available according to schedule. A significant majority of the respondents (88.72 % with mean score 1.8) disagreed with the statement that tutors provided sufficient guidance during tutorial meetings. A significant majority of the respondents (84.88 % with mean score 1.8) disagreed with the statement that tutorial meetings enhanced the knowledge of the course. Majority of the respondents (74.64 % with mean score 2.3) disagreed with the statement that tutorial meetings resolved students difficulties concerning understanding of material.

### **6-Opinion of the Students about quality of Material**

It is clear from the table-6 that majority of the respondents (79.44 % with mean score 3.8) agreed with the statement that you are satisfied with quality of paper, printing and designing of material. Majority of the respondents (70.86 % with mean score 3.6) agreed with statement that the language of the material was easy to understand. Majority of the respondents (77.42 % with mean score 3.8) agreed with the statement that the content covered all the aspects of the course. Majority of the respondents (67.24 % with mean score 3.5) agreed with statement that the material was self explanatory. 53.60 % of the respondents with mean score 2.6 disagreed with statement that the material consisted on updated, modern and latest knowledge of subject. Majority of the respondents (60.30 % with mean score 3.4) agreed with statement that the material was in accordance with the distance learner's need.

### **7-Opinion of the students about workshop**

It is evident from the table- 7 that majority of the respondents (76.024 % with mean score 3.7) agreed with the statement that you received intimation of the workshop well in time. Majority of the respondents (66.80 % with mean score 3.6) agreed with statement that the environment of the classroom in the workshop was supportive for teaching learning. Majority of the respondents (68.72 % with mean score 3.5) agreed with statement that resource persons were punctual and regular during workshop. Majority of the respondents (66.48 % with mean score 3.6) agreed with statement that the lectures of the resource persons were effective for learning. A significant majority of the respondents (80.64 % with mean score 4.0) agreed with the statement that workshop covered all the content of the course. Majority of the respondents (68.80 % with mean score 3.6) agreed with statement that you are satisfied with the facilities at the workshop venue. 51.76 % of the respondents with mean score 2.6 disagreed with the statement that the duration of the workshop was sufficient. A significant majority of the respondents (89.76 % with mean score 1.8) disagreed with the statement that the resource persons utilized multimedia and projector as A/V aid. Majority of the respondents (60.96 % with mean score 3.4) agreed with statement that you are satisfied with the professional knowledge and skill of the resource persons. 50.75 % of the respondents with mean score 3.1 agreed with statement that the venue of the workshop was easy to access.

## 8-Opinion of the students about evaluation and examination

It is clear from table 8 that majority of the respondents (70.4 % with mean score 3.7) agreed with statement that you received roll number slip and date sheet before the examination. Majority of the respondents (66.56 % with mean score 3.5) agreed with statement that you are satisfied with the distribution of the marks for assignments, workshop and final written examination. Majority of the respondents (67.82 % with mean score 3.6) agreed with statement that there were sufficient facilities at the examination centre. Majority of the respondents (64.92 % with mean score 3.4) agreed with statement that the attitude of the examiners was polite and positive at examination centre. Majority of the respondents (76.88 % with mean score 3.0) agreed with the statement that the question papers covered all the content of the courses. Majority of the respondents (71.36 % with mean score 3.8) agreed with statement that you are satisfied with the examination system of distance institution.

## 9-Opinion of the students about results

It is clear from the table 9 that slight majority of the respondents (56.88 % with mean score 3.3) agreed with statement that result declared well in time. Majority of the respondents (70.80 % with mean score 3.7) agreed with statement that you received result card after declaration of result. Majority of the respondents (66.80 % with mean score 3.1) were uncertain about the statement that the correction process of the result card was easy. A significant majority of the respondents (82.16 % with mean score 3.9) agreed with statement that you got result card by post. A significant majority of the respondents (80.32 % with mean score 2.0) disagreed with the statement that you got your result card by internet.

## 7. Conclusions

- Majority of the respondents agreed that they got admission notice, sufficient time to apply, sufficient guidance by Regional office and sufficient Informations on the web site of the distance learning institution.
- Majority of the respondents agreed that they received material packet well in time from institution.
- Majority of the respondents agreed that they received sufficient, easy and understandable material for assignments from distance institution.

- Majority of the respondents agreed that Regional office provide counseling , tutor provide help and cooperate during study.
- Majority of the respondents disagreed that they received intimation and guidance during tutorial meeting.
- Majority of the respondents agreed that they received quality printed and self explanatory material which fulfill the needs of the distant learner.
- Majority of the respondents were satisfied with environment, resource persons, effective lectures, facilities, professional knowledge and skill of the resource persons and venue of the workshop.
- Majority of the respondents were satisfied with distribution of the marks for assignments, workshop and final written examination, facilities at examination centre, attitude of the examiners, question papers and examination system.
- Majority of the respondents were satisfied with the declaration and delivery of the result card of distance learning institution

## 8. Recommendations

- There may be started online admission to provide access and increase enrollment of the students.
- There may be e-submission of the assignments and e-assessments by the tutors to improve the feed back to the students.
- There may be effective monitoring system for tutorial meeting by the Regional Office of AIOU to improve the quality of education.
- There may be provided updated material having latest knowledge of the subject for the effective learning by the students.
- The duration of the workshop may be increased to provide professional skill and face to face interaction with the experts.
- Multimedia and projectors may be used during workshop for effective learning and comprehension.
- Delivery system of the material may be improved and the soft copy of the material may be mailed to the students ID

## 9. References

- [1] AIOU (1999). *25 years of AIOU (1974-1999)*. Allama Iqbal Open University Islamabad: Pakistan.
- [2] AIOU (2000). *A Profile*. Allama Iqbal Open University Islamabad: Pakistan.
- [3] AIOU (2005). *Vice Chancellor's Annual Report*. Allama Iqbal Open University Islamabad: Pakistan.

[4] AIOU (2007). *In Brief*. Allama Iqbal Open University Islamabad: Pakistan.

[5] AIOU (2007). *Manual of Teaching Practice*, Allama Iqbal Open University Islamabad: Pakistan.

[6] Goel.A and Goel.L.S (2000). *Distance Education in 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, Deep & Deep publishers, Rajouri Garden, India: New Delhi.

[7] Khanna.S (2006). *Relevance of Distance Education*, Max Ford Books: India

[8] Panda.S (2003). *Planning and Management of Distance Education*, 120 Pentonville Road London N1 9JN, UK.

[9] Rai, Bajpai and Singh (2007). *Growth and Development of Distance Education*, APH Publishing Corporation, Ansari Road, Darya Ganj, India: New Delhi.

[10] Rai, N.A (2000). *Distance Education Open Learning VS Virtual University Concepts*, E-35/103, Jwaha Park Laxmi Nagar, New Delhi: India.

[11] Rao, K.V (2003). *Distance Education*, 5, Ansari Road, Darya Ganj New Delhi: India.

[12] Siddique.H.M (2004). *Distance Learning Technologies in Education*, 5, Ansari Road, Darya Ganj New Delhi: India.

[13] S. Manjalika (1999). *Unexplored dimensions of Open Universities*, 5, Ansari Road, Darya Ganj New Delhi: India.