

65 Lakshmi, S. (1999) Distance education in Mother Teresa Women's University (BC-11)

## 1 Women and distance education

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**Abstract:** The Mother Teresa Women's University was established in 1984. It was set up to promote and support knowledge and research in studies on women's welfare. In addition, it provides consultancy and monitoring services on welfare schemes for women. The University offers PhD, M.Phil programmes in various subjects and postgraduate courses in guidance and counselling, and computer applications.

The School of Distance Education was started in 1989. It aims to provide higher education exclusively to women throughout India. It intends to help tribal and rural women in their pursuit for higher education. The School offers MPhil and MA programmes in various subjects including a postgraduate diploma in computer applications (PGDCA), which is the most popular distance education programme at the School. It also provides support services to the distance learners. Personal contact programmes are organized regularly for the students. Attendance at the personal contact programmes is essential for the MEd (Master of Education) and PGDCA programmes. The students are evaluated at the end of the academic year. The School has plans to start some job-oriented, short term, diploma and certificate programmes.

The author suggests that besides offering print materials, audio, video, radio, and television programmes should be introduced for the distance learners. The counsellors for various courses should be available at the study centres to attend to the needs of the learners. The needs and requirements of distance learners must be surveyed and evaluated periodically. This may help in introducing modifications in distance education programmes.

**(Source: In *Open and distance education: Policies, practices and quality concerns* edited by Santosh Panda, New Delhi: Aravali Book, 1999, xiii, 445p. Section 3: Chapter 10, p.155-160, ISBN: 81-86880-03-8)**

**Keywords:** Student Support Services, Distance Education, Distance Learners, Tribal Women, Post Graduate Diploma in Computer Applications (PGDCA), Certificate programmes, Diploma programmes, Media programmes, Audio-visual programmes, Case studies - **Mother Teresa Women's University, Tamil Nadu, India**; *Chapter of an edited book*