

## A STUDY ON SOCIAL BENEFITS OF ODL LEARNERS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO VIDYASAGAR UNIVERSITY, WEST BENGAL

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### ABSTRACT

Education has social benefits. It provides societal advantages in that it efficiently trains people to take on work in a variety of contexts. High levels of knowledge and skills associated with greater education translate into higher-quality social output and, as a result, higher social status. Education is a worthwhile endeavor that has significant effects on both individuals and civilizations. This paper examines the social benefits of ODL learners of Vidyasagar University in the state of West Bengal. The study is based on a descriptive survey and the survey conducted on pass out ODL learners of Vidyasagar University. The study explores ODL learners' social benefits including educational access, health, mental satisfaction, decision making, community participation. We see the result of positive social benefit of male and female ODL learners of Vidyasagar University. Rural ODL learners' enjoying more social respect than urban learners. Result shows overall female learners' dominance of their social benefits in comparison to rural, urban and male learners.

**Keywords:** Education, social benefits, Development, Growth, ODL

### Introduction

Human progress is intended by education, which is a fundamental human right. Additionally, it is anticipated to advance culture, rational thought and civic sensibility in a person. It is assumed that educated people will be better able to handle the obstacles of life. Through education people anticipated benefits include improved productivity, helpful engagement in social activities and processes, harmony in interpersonal relationships, sustainable development, and fair social order. Education promotes social growth among individuals and communities. Education has moral and cultural aspects which help people in their social development. Equal access to education creates healthy opportunities for social life for the people.

The education system is an input for social growth and development. Education helps in social growth and development of a country (Patil, 2012). Human society is a combination of monetary and non-monetary factors. Education has multifaceted impacts on society and its people. It induces sustainable growth and development by reducing poverty and creating social equality with prosperity (Afzal et al, 2010). To develop skills, knowledge and capabilities among individuals' access to education is very much important. Higher education provides more power towards social development with the betterment of individuals. Through accessing higher education learners of West Bengal making continuous efforts towards sustainable development in all the spheres of the society. For these reasons the government focused on arranging more institutions for providing higher education for the betterment of the people and society.

From independence Indian literacy rate and students' enrolment has increased. In the last few years educational infrastructure has improved more. Students opting higher education for betterment. Due to student enrollment pressure new educational institutions are established accordingly. Government gives efforts towards providing higher education at mass level. Distance mode education came with conventional mode to meet educational demand. Slowly regional disparities were removed and equality established among the people throughout the country for its educational achievement. West Bengal started Open and distance learning in its conventional universities through distance mode after developing the Directorate of Distance Education (DDE) among their own universities in 1994. This happened when A study center was established by the Indira Gandhi National Open University in Kolkata, and later a Regional Centre at Bikash Bhaban in Salt Lake. Vidyasagar University, a state institution established by the Act created in 1981 with the motto "Education, Knowledge, Progress" and with a goal of meeting regional, ethnic, socio-cultural, and geographic needs in addition to those of mainstream education (Vidyasagar University, n.d). Vidyasagar University ODL mode provides higher education to all the persons of all ages and gender who do not undergo the higher courses as regular full-time students. The university offers a chance to innovate and reinvent the creative brains. Vidyasagar University is a location where generations of students and teachers can share their knowledge, both ancient and modern, as well as the skill of analyzing it, for the benefit of local and global human social existence.

### Review of literature

It is often believed that those with greater levels of education have healthier lives because they are more conscious than those with less knowledge. There is strong evidence that the hundreds of billions of dollars spent on education annually in developing nations are not being used effectively. A more efficient use of these funds might accelerate the buildup of human capital, raising incomes and, more broadly, the standard of living and social standing of the population (Glewwe, 2002). There is a relation between social context and healthy life. Poor income, lack of balanced diet, unplanning accommodation, unconsciousness about health and unhealthiness puerility is the cause of many diseases. (WHO 2004). Many studies show that people from different socioeconomic categories have varying degrees of health, and that the causes of these illnesses need to be determined (Wilkinson and Marmot, 2003). Education disparities have been identified and proven to have a significant impact on health status over a lengthy period of time. Research proved that there is a link between health and education (Grossman, 1972). Higher educated people more careful about their health (Silles, 2009). Socioeconomic disparity has been found in larger societies due to non-access of higher education (Abu-Saad, 2004). Cultural dynamics and social standards are also influence by higher education (Borrvalho et al., 2015). Distance learning is a multifaceted technique that involves not only students but also other workers, laborers, farmers, and stay-at-home moms who can access education according their space and time. Open Distance Learning has great impact on our society (Murray et al., 2013). In a nation ODL can remove the demographic disparities, poverty and many other socio-cultural and economic constraints. ODL is a blessing in modern education system. There are numerous social barriers of higher education, such as marriage and family. ODL has brought education to the doorstep of those students (Wadi & Sonia, 2002). Youth from remote and rural locations, especially women, now have access to an alternate kind of education. They thanks to open distance learning. It aids in expanding the range of opportunities and resources available in remote places to youngsters and women. (Munawar & Akhtar, 2017).

### Significance of the study

The social development of individuals is significantly influenced by higher education (Sun, 2012). It has an impact on the standard of living of individuals. Higher education reform initiatives are now of utmost significance to social life. Higher education institutions are frequently acknowledged as businesses that play a significant role in the socioeconomic dynamics. One of the important social markers that affects an individual's success and community development is higher education. People who pursue higher education benefit from societal advancement for a better quality of life in the future. To behave effectively in their surroundings, people and their community must be developed through social development. Additionally, social integration is one of the key measures of how far society has come in terms of social development. By doing this, higher educational institutions will improve the social infrastructure that aids students in finding a position that suits them, facilitating simple access, enhancing social status, mental satisfaction, correcting their social notions, and ultimately facilitating their overall development. Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE) of Vidyasagar University come under the higher education system of West Bengal state and provides better knowledge and skills to the learners for their upcoming future. So, it is very much necessary to see what types of social benefits did they received after completion their course.

### Objectives

The objectives of the present study are as follows: --

1. To study the social benefits of ODL Learners of Vidyasagar University.
2. To examine the social benefits of male and female ODL learners in urban and rural areas of Vidyasagar University.
3. To compare the social benefits among the male and female ODL learners of Vidyasagar University.

### Hypothesis

<sup>0</sup>H<sub>1</sub>. There exist no significant differences of Social benefits of ODL learners with in female and male learners of Vidyasagar University.

<sup>0</sup>H<sub>2</sub>. There exist no significant differences of social benefits of ODL learners in urban and rural areas of Vidyasagar University.

<sup>0</sup>H<sub>3</sub>. There exist no significant differences of social benefits among rural male and rural female ODL learners of Vidyasagar University.

### Delimitation of the study

The study is restricting to Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE) Vidyasagar University in the state of West Bengal with the background of higher education system only within the completion of post graduate degree in the subjects of English in the academic year 2015 and 2016.

**Data source and methodology**

Data for the current investigation were gathered from the Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE), Vidyasagar University in the state of West Bengal. Present study is followed by the quantitative approach with the help of descriptive survey method in nature. The data were collected through questionnaire which has been standardized through test-retest method of reliability and this value estimated as  $r = .71$

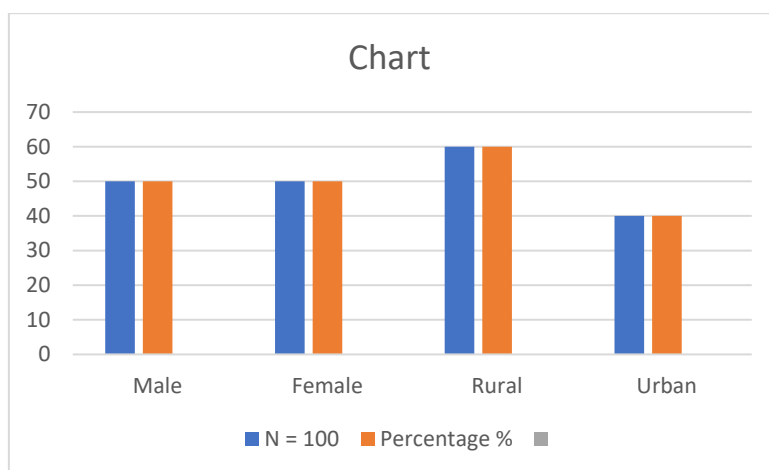
**Sample:** 100 ODL Learners of Vidyasagar University comprising of 50 male and 50 female having the subject of English in Master’s degree level are residing at either urban or rural areas have been considered for the study.

**Data Analysis and findings**

The description of data interpretation of the current study is described below according to the objectives and hypothesis.

**Table -1: Demographic Profile of Sample**

Measures	Gender		Locality	
	Male	Female	Rural	Urban
N	50	50	60	40
Percentage %	50	50	60	40



**Fig-1: Percentage of ODL Learners with respect to Gender and Locality**

**Table - 1:**

(As per Gender) shows that total numbers of ODL learners are 100 where male and female learners are equal 50.

(As per Locality) shows that total respondents (100) are divided into two groups like rural and urban respectively. The numbers of ODL learners residing at urban areas are 40 and ODL learners residing at rural areas are 60.

**Table- 2: Social Benefits of Male and Female ODL learners of VU**

Variables	Male		Female		df	t-value	Critical Value of t	Decision	Conclusion
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD					
Social Benefits of ODL learners of Vidyasagar University (VU)	117.02	3.07	121.58	4.89	98	5.56	$t_{0.01} = 2.58$	$P < .01$	Significant diff. exists Null Hypo. rejected

Table-2 describes that ‘t’-value of two set of data in gender variation of male and female ODL Learners of VU regarding the variable Social Benefit is 5.56. This, at a 0.01 level, is significant. As a result, the alternative hypothesis is accepted and the null hypothesis is rejected. Result indicates significant difference exists between male and female ODL Learners of VU related to Social Benefit. By considering the mean and sd value of both

gender regarding the variable it can be said that the level of Social Benefit of female ODL Learners of VU is much better than the level of Social Benefit of male ODL Learners of VU.

**Table-3: Social Benefit of ODL Learners of VU Residing at Rural and Urban Areas**

Variables	Rural		Urban		df	t-value	Critical Value of t	Decision	Conclusion
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD					
Social Benefits of ODL learners of Vidyasagar University (VU)	120.87	4.84	116.95	3.21	98	4.83	$t_{0.01} = 2.58$	$P < .01$	Significant diff. exists Null Hypo. rejected

Table-3 depicts that 't'-value of two set of data in locality variation of VU ODL Learners residing at urban and rural areas regarding the variable Social Benefit is 4.83 which is significant at 0.01 level. So, null hypothesis is rejected and alternative hypothesis is accepted that means there exists significant difference between ODL Learners of VU residing at urban and rural areas related to Social Benefit. By considering the mean and sd value of both cases regarding the variable Social Benefit, it can be said that the level of Social Benefit of ODL Learners of VU residing at rural areas is higher than urban areas.

**Table-4: Social Benefit of rural Male and rural Female ODL Learners of VU**

Variables	Rural Male		Rural Female		df	t-value	Critical Value of t	Decision	Conclusion
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD					
Social Benefit of Female ODL Learners of Vidyasagar University (VU)	117.06	2.99	124.33	3.74	58	8.35	$t_{0.01} = 2.60$	$P < .01$	Significant diff. exists Null Hypo. rejected

Table-4 indicates that 't'-value of two set of data in the rural Male and rural Female ODL Learners of VU regarding the variable Social Benefit is 8.35 which is significant at 0.01 level. So, Alternative hypothesis is accepted when null hypothesis is rejected, indicating that there is a big difference between male and Female ODL Learners of VU residing at rural areas related to Social Benefit. By considering the mean and sd value of both cases regarding the variable Social Benefit, it can be said that the level of Social Benefit of Female ODL Learners of VU residing at rural areas are higher than the male ODL learners of rural areas. Female learners are available much opportunities, social respect and status than male.

**Conclusion**

Through our study it notified that considerable social benefit differences exist of male and female ODL learners of Vidyasagar University (Table 2). Through our interpretation we see .01 significant levels which indicate Female ODL Learners enjoyed better level of Social Benefit than male ODL Learners of VU. From Table – 3, we see that rural male and female learner’s dominant their social benefits regarding the urban male and female ODL learners. Hypothesis no two rejected due to rural male – female t- value 4.83 and significant level at .01 levels. Table three concludes the differences of social benefit of rural and urban residing learners. Table – 4 accept the alternate hypothesis while rejecting the null hypothesis. Consequently, there is a large difference (significant at .05level) of female ODL learners’ social benefit with in comparison of male ODL learners of Vidyasagar University according to their t- value, mean and standard vitiation differences. We overall concluded that female ODL learners are enjoying more social benefit, social importance and social status than male ODL learners of Vidyasagar University.

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