

Section: Technical Sciences

Namchevadze Tsatsa

*Academic Degree of Engineering Sciences,
Associate Professor of the Department of Computer Technologies
Kutaisi Akaki Tsereteli State University
Kutaisi, Georgia*

Gobiani Iamze

*Mastar’s Academic Degree of Computer Technologies,
Teacher of the Department of Computer Technologies
Kutaisi Akaki Tsereteli State University
Kutaisi, Georgia*

DISTANCE LEARNING

At the modern stage of civilization, both developed and developing countries pay great attention to the formation and development of knowledge based society. Today the world is characterized by a growing number of people who seek education. Learning is considered as a permanent process. The number of applicants in the US is about 100 million. The state satisfies only 15 million of them. In modern conditions, it is necessary for people to have a continuous improvement of knowledge, qualification raising and retraining. Distance learning is the best way to solve these problems. Distance studying is widely spread abroad. In the United States, there are more than one million students who study this way, 168 000 in the UK and 120 000 in Spain [1].

Distance Learning is a new form of learning organization based on the student's independently learning principle. The learning environment is characterized by the fact that the student is away from the teacher in time and

space. At the same time it has the opportunity to conduct a dialogue with a teacher at any time. Electronic and telecommunication facilities are used for interconnection, if necessary face-to-face meeting. Electronic and Telecommunication facilities include: e-mail, skype, audio and video conferencing, telephone, fax and etc. In the distance learning process, student learns methodical materials independently, experiences testing and performs controlling tasks under the guidance of the teacher, enhances the relationship with other students of "virtual" group, passes exams and tests. After passing the course, a certificate of education or diploma is issued.

Students, who choose this form of teaching, are usually busy in daily life by working, business trips, sports, children, and other activities. Therefore, each of them needs its own curriculum. Although students can learn from individual pedagogy and time to organize teaching, they are obliged to learn the subject of the course in a specific period of time. Distance learning curriculum is divided according to courses, as well as in requiring attendance. Students are gradually recruited according to a concrete plan.

Distance Learning - This is the study in absence, but not self-learning. The materials for distant learning differ from the traditional teaching materials. These are special materials prepared for distance learning: electronic study books, audio and video files of lectures presentations, exercises for self-control, tests and tasks for studying the learning program. These materials are developed by the leading lecturers of the University.

The issue of laboratory works is especially important for technical universities. For solvation of this issue the following are used:

1. Imitation modeling that changes the natural experimentation;

2. Realization of the penetration of the experiment results;
3. Realization of the penetration of doing the experiment.

The student's distance learning needs the following: motivation, learning habits, knowledge of time planning, computer access to the internet, computer skills.

Education in foreign universities is more accessible than ever before. Distance learning is the means of getting education with minimum expenses. Some distance learning is absolutely free.

The advantages of distance learning are as follows:

Convenience - the ability to learn anywhere in the world; **Flexibility** - the right to independently draw up the learning schedule; **Access** - Distance Learning is available for everyone regardless of age, education, activity and location. This form of teaching is especially convenient for disabilities for disabled students, for persons in military service and others; **Modularity** - the ability to set up a curriculum from the module of independent learning courses, which responds to individual and group requirements; **Parallelism** - learning opportunity, service, family life, leisure and other parallel; **Sustainability** - Effective use of learning spaces and technical means, concentrated performance of learning information, multiculturalism reduces the cost of preparing specialists; **Technology** - the use of new achievements in the process of communication and telecommunication technologies, introduction of modern virtual laboratories, etc. **Internationalization** - Export and Import of World Achievements in Educational Service Market; **Teacher's New Role** - Distance Learning expands the demands of the teacher. The teacher should coordinate the cognitive process, continuously perfect the course of the course, increase its activity and qualifications according to innovations. **Quality** - The quality of distance learning is provided by attracting the best professors - teachers, using the best methodical editions and controlling tests in the learning process [2-4].

There are computer systems that are specially designed for managing distance learning. The software system MOODLE is especially popular. The latter is the Learning Management Systems (LMS) of the management program. It has the opportunity to support thousands of courses (the possible number of courses is limited by server hardware capabilities). The MOODLE system is implemented in all leading universities in Georgia. It is used in parallel to traditional teaching. This means that the university is perfectly using this system with some specialty, with a certain number of students. In general, universities use some components of the system [5].

At present, the refinement and development of distance learning is under way. In the nearest future it is possible to carry out a full-fledged distance learning. For this purpose, special training programs will be created in all subjects that are intended for distance learning. At the same time, it is necessary to equip the audience with the technical means necessary for distance learning.

Distance education system in our country is less popular now. One part of the students interviewed about the distance learning in universities abroad prefer to get a fixed-site education. What makes it clear that the direct communication with the lecture makes the learning process easier. In addition, they will live in new friends and acquaintances in a strange city. The second part of the students is not against distance learning, but there is no clear idea about methodical work. A small number of interviewed students like distance learning.

The main dignity of distance learning is to increase the capacity of higher education for the broad layers of the population by introducing modern innovative technologies. Distance learning allows the community to continuously improve its knowledge of professional skills without leaving the work and the family. Today, in Georgia modern techniques and technologies

of learning are being inculcated. Due to the student survey, society is experiencing lack of information on the distance learning in our country. Therefore, it is necessary to raise public awareness by inculcating the non-traditional forms in education.

References

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