

Distance Learning at the Turkish Maritime Education

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Distance education or distance learning is a field of education that focuses on teaching methods and technology with the aim of delivering teaching, often on an individual basis, to students who are not physically present in a traditional educational setting such as a classroom. It has been described as "a process to create and provide access to learning when the source of information and the learners are separated by time and distance. Some Maritime Collages and Universities have distance-learning courses in the world. These are such as Marine Surveying, Maritime and Logistic Management, Marine Law, Marine Insurance, etc. International Maritime Organization advises Distance Learning at the Maritime Education. Unfortunately Distance Learning is insufficient at the Maritime Universities and Faculties in the Turkey.

This paper focused to applicability of distance learning at the Turkish Maritime Universities and Faculties. Authors compared distance learning at the Maritime Education both Turkey and World. It is also supposed to get more efficient distance learning at the Turkish Maritime Education.

Key Words: Distance Learning, Maritime Education, Training, E-Learning, Open Education, Distance Education.

1. Introduction

Distance education or distance learning is a field of education that focuses on teaching methods and technology with the aim of delivering teaching, often on an individual basis, to students who are not physically present in a traditional educational setting such as a classroom. It has been described as "a process to create and provide access to learning when time and distance, or both separate the source of information and the learners." Distance education courses that require a physical on-site presence for any reason (including taking examinations) have been referred to as hybrid or blended courses of study.

The field of distance education has changed dramatically in the past ten years. Distance education, structured learning in which the student and instructor are separated by place, and sometimes by time is currently the fastest growing form of domestic and international education [1]. What was once considered a special form of education using nontraditional delivery systems is now becoming an important concept in mainstream education. Concepts such as networked learning, connected learning spaces, flexible learning and hybrid learning systems have enlarged the scope and changed the nature of earlier distance education models. Web-based and web-enhanced courses are

appearing in traditional programs that are now racing to join the “anytime, anyplace” educational feeding frenzy [1].

Distance education relies heavily on communications technologies as delivery media. Print materials, broadcast radio, broadcast television, computer conferencing, electronic mail, interactive video, satellite telecommunications and multimedia computer technology are all used to promote student-teacher interaction and provide necessary feedback to the learner at a distance. Distance education has experienced dramatic growth both nationally and internationally since the early 1980s. It has evolved from early correspondence education using primarily print based materials into a worldwide movement using various technologies. The goals of distance education, as an alternative to traditional education, have been to offer degree granting programs, to battle illiteracy in developing countries, to provide training opportunities for economic growth, and to offer curriculum enrichment in non traditional educational settings. A variety of technologies have been used as delivery systems to facilitate this learning at a distance [1].

This paper focused to applicability of distance learning at the Turkish Maritime Universities and Faculties. Authors compared distance learning at the Maritime Education both Turkey and World. Based on this viewpoint, it is also supposed to get more efficient distance learning at the Turkish Maritime Education.

2. History of Distance Education

The earliest distance education courses may date back to the early 18th century in Europe. One of the earliest examples was from a 1728 advertisement in the *Boston Gazette* for "Caleb Phillips, Teacher of the new method of Short Hand," who sought students who wanted to learn through weekly mailed lessons [2].

Distance education traces its origins to mid-19th century Europe and the United States. The pioneers of distance education used the best technology of their day, the postal system, to open educational opportunities to people who wanted to learn but were not able to attend conventional schools. People who most benefited from such correspondence education included those with physical disabilities, women who were not allowed to enroll in educational institutions open only to men, people who had jobs during normal school hours, and those who lived in remote regions where schools did not exist. Distance education increasingly uses combinations of different communications technologies to enhance the abilities of teachers and students to communicate with each other. With the spread of computer-network communications in the 1980s and 1990s, large numbers of people gained access to computers linked to telephone lines, allowing teachers and students to communicate in conferences via computers [3].



Figure 1 Distance learning

Distance education also makes use of computer conferencing on the World Wide Web, where teachers and students present text, pictures, audio, and video. File sharing and communications tools like email, chats, audio and video conferencing are integral to the Internet model.

3. Distance Education in the Turkey

Distance education is one of the newest forms of education that basically depends on these communication and information technologies. As a new and modern approach to deliver instruction, many corporations and organizations for both formal and non-formal educational settings in Turkey and all around the world have increasingly used distance education. A recent study reports that corporations and organizations that have successfully implemented distance-learning systems list a range of benefits for their corporations.

Distance Education has been actually applied in Turkey since 1982. When the past of distance education is examined, though it can go back to 50-60 years ago, it seems it appeared in 1970s, closer to its meaning of today. In 1970s, the methods and components of the distance education were given by a television system established at the Eskisehir Economical and Commercial Sciences Academy (EECSA) and under the structure of EECSA, the close circuit education by a television was realized in an academic environment and level with the assistance of the national and international symposium and conference studies on education technology and distance education. In 1981, reading/writing campaign was started in all around Turkey for purpose of increasing the literate rate in our country, the studies made through television in great extent, these studies became successful and the literate rate

was increased. By 1982 a new constitution and new Higher Education Acts were accepted. As a result a Council for Higher Education (HEC), referred to as YOK, was created and given the authority by the Constitution of the Republic to regulate all higher education [4].

After 1998, a videoconference system was established between the universities in the East Anatolian Region and distance education has been carried out by means of television, radio, camera, satellite and other new technologies. In 2000, Bilgi University, a foundation university, started its web-base MBA program and continues it successfully. Since 2000, distance education has been made between Istanbul University and Harran University by means of videoconference and broadcasting. Istanbul Technical University also provides teaching in different campuses by means of videoconference system [4].

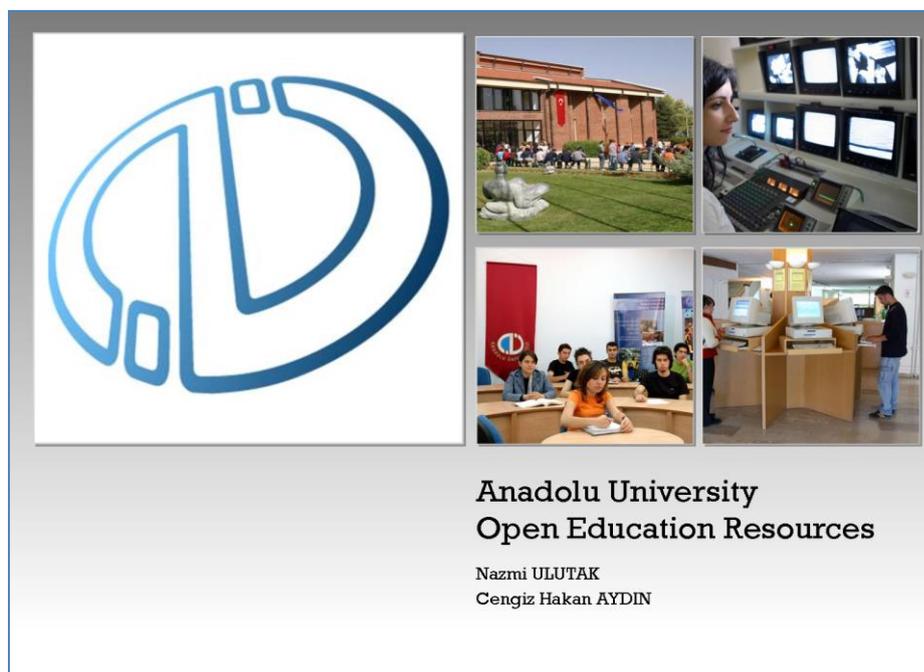


Figure 2. Anadolu University Open Education Resources

Technologies used to deliver distance education programs in Turkey are typically one-way and are designed to reach the masses. The two primary forms of distance education are the Open Education Faculty (OEF) at Anadolu University in Eskisehir and the Open High School (OHS) through the Ministry of National Education. The technologies for both programs include specially designed textbooks and other printed materials including newsletters and bulletins, television and radio broadcasts; technologies for the OEF include videotapes and face-to-face lectures at universities throughout the country. Distance education in the OEF and the OHS provides for all three types of education such as learner-content interaction, learner-instructor interaction and learner-learner interaction [4].

4. Distance Education at the Maritime Collages/ Institutes in the World

Many maritime collage/institutes have distance courses. Some of them are for graduate and undergraduate students. Others are short-term maritime courses. There are;

- SUNY Maritime Collage,
- Australian Maritime Collage,
- Lloyd's Maritime Academy Distance Learning (Certificate in chartering course),
- World Maritime University(WMU-Sweden),
- North West Kent Collage (UK),
- Videotel Distance Maritime Training Courses (UK)

SUNY Maritime Collage is a facilitator competent in the field conducts the courses. Reading materials, personal assignments, and discussion questions are provided. The heart of the class is the discussion questions. This is where student will be able to share ideas and get feedback with others in the class. The format is "asynchronous." That means it is not "live" so student can determine what time of day you want to be online. Student will receive the equivalent of 40 hours of regular classroom instruction within a 45 day time period. Classes may run 4 to 8 weeks depending on the subject. Graduate program are offered five core courses and four elective courses online. Undergraduate programme is offer also some distance course, so student can take some course online. Some examples are, Essentials of Macroeconomics, Fundamentals of Marketing, Transportation Management, International Business and Transportation Law, Maritime Port Security, Transportation Risk Management, Economics of International Trade, Financial Management, Logistics within the Supply Chain, Dry and Wet Bulk Vessel Operations, Financial Management, etc. [5].

World Maritime University has been Distance learning program developed to enable students to study marine insurance at the highest educational level, and is delivered by distance learning, making it available to students based anywhere in the world. In cooperation with Lloyd's Maritime Academy, WMU offers two options for Postgraduate Diplomas (PGD). Delivered by distance learning, these programs are available to participants based anywhere in the world. WMU has two postgraduate programmes are Maritime Energy Management and Marine Insurance [6].

Australian Maritime Collage's unique suite of Distance Education options allows you to take your career to another level. The distance delivery system is first class, the qualifications are world renowned and the jobs are worldwide. AMC have Distance Education options;

- * Maritime and Logistics Management courses
- * Graduate Certificate of Applied Science (Marine Environment)

- * Graduate Diploma of Applied Science (Marine Environment)
- * Master of Philosophy (Masters by Research)
- * Doctor of Philosophy (Doctorate by Research) [7].

5. Distance Education for ITU Maritime Faculty

ITU Maritime Faculty doesn't have online-distance learning courses. Some course is only theoretical course, which is suitable for online course, but some course is both theoretical and practices so they are not suitable for distance education. Some courses, which are only theoretical, Physics I (3 hours Theoretical, 1. Semester), Economics (2 hours Theoretical, 2. Semester), Seamanship (2 hours Theoretical, 1. Semester), Dynamics (3 hours Theoretical, 1. Semester), Physics II (3 hours Theoretical, 2. Semester), Statistics (2 hours Theoretical), Electronics (2 hours Theoretical), Linear Algebra (3 hours Theoretical), Electronic Navigation - I (2 hours Theoretical), Maritime Management I (2 hours Theoretical), Differential Equations (4 hours Theoretical), Maritime Law-I (3 hours Theoretical), etc.

But most of graduate course are theoretical which are suitable for distance learning, such as, International Maritime Conventions (3 hours Theoretical), Advance Port Management (3 hours Theoretical), Meteorological Navigation (3 hours Theoretical), Electronic Navigation Systems (3 hours Theoretical), Human Resources Management (3 hours Theoretical), National and International Maritime Law (3 hours Theoretical), Maritime Risk Management (3 hours Theoretical), Engineering Mathematics (3 hours Theoretical), Advanced Ship Management (3 hours Theoretical), Safety and Reliability in Ship Operations (3 hours Theoretical), Analysis of Maritime Insurance Law (3 hours Theoretical), Environmental Management in Marine Operations (3 hours Theoretical), etc.

6. Result and Discussions

All selected courses are theoretical so suitable distance/online courses, other undergraduate courses have lab and simulations hours so there are not suitable for distance/online courses, Undergraduate students also must finish 12 months commercial vessel cadet. Distance courses are suitable some courses for undergraduate. Graduate courses are more suitable for distance/online courses, all courses are theoretical, most of graduate students are working maritime sector, and some of them freeze their programme because of their busy work.

ITU Maritime Faculty has not distance/online learning courses both undergraduate and graduate programs, Distance/online course is only suitable for some undergraduate courses but undergraduate students are wearing uniform and must go to ships for cadet, First year is most convenient for undergraduate students, Distance/online course is most suitable for graduate students because all courses theoretical and they are working maritime sector. This paper is first study for ITU

Maritime Faculty and also maritime school in the Turkey. But it need more and detail study for distance/online study.

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