
Distance Training Centre at the Institute of Public Administration: A Suggestive Model

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The spectacular development in the broad domain of information-communication technology renders it imperative to spell out new developmentable strategies that should be compatible to the rapid changes of the world today. No wonder, advanced countries have taken lead in this respect. These countries have evolved national plans to gain from contemporary information technology. The most decisive gains achieved fall in the broad spectrum of education and training.

The Institute of Public Administration at Riyadh is known for its distinctive services in the broad area of training and research. It provides such services to both governmental and non-governmental personnel. Currently, the Institute is encountering some major problems. First and foremost, it finds no easy access to permit all three essentials — trainers, trainees and information — in one location. In turn, it foments new dilemmas — administrative, financial and geographic. Second and equally important, in-service training is becoming deficient.

The resultant settings have prompted the decision-makers at the Institute of Public Administration to explore for new avenues and new alternatives. The establishment of *Distance Training Centre at the Institute of Public Administration* seems in sight a most feasible solution. Many explanations are cited in its rationale. The most salient are in order:

- First it is compatible to the modern age that depends on recent technology. This age requires no personal presence of trainees. Nor does it require punctuality observation.
- Second, it provides trainee freedom on the selection of courses pursuant to his interest, job and specialization.

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- Third, the prospective trainee is not required to discontinue his regular job. He can stay in his job or service and needs not to resign.
 - Fourth, recent developments — increasing demands to join training courses conducted at the Institute; exigencies of new age; changing variables in the broad domain of training and continuous education — render it difficult for the Institute to accommodate all incoming applicants. That is why the Institute is impelled to explore a new alternative. Fifth, distance training is both essential and useful for persons dwelling in remote and undeveloped areas.
 - Last but not the least, distance training provides most conducive solution to the female personnel who are unable to travel outside the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for advanced training and education.

All the above-cited explanations represent social factors. Taken together, the latter support the new model — *Distance Training Centre at the Institute of Public Administration*. The Administration of the Institute, on its part, is its vocal proponent. It states, in candid words, that the Institute is equipped with all kinds of facilities — closed televised set to teach female students, satellite channels, and audio-visual televisions — that are essential to run the idealized Centre.

The present research is divided into various sections. The following summation provides some details:

- Section One: Philosophy of Distance Training
- Section Two: Distance Training at the Institute of Public Administration
- Section Three: Contribution of Distance Training Centre in Providing Education to the Trainees.

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- Section Four: Contribution of Distance Training Centre in Educating Women
 - Section Five: Contributing Distance Training in Social Development
 - Section Six: Previous Studies and the Suggestive Model
 - Section Seven: Obstacles Impeding the Establishment of *Distance Training Centre at the Institute of Public Administration*

The present research, in its conclusive passages, offers some findings. The most salient are in order:

- The Institute of Public Administration and its present Administration is serious in operationalizing the idealized model — *Distance Training Centre at the Institute of Public Administration*.
- The Institute is fully equipped with technical devices to employ staff able to provide distance training.
- Institute of Public Administration is in dire need to establish *Distance Training Centre*. It needs legal sanction and legal protection.
- Institute of Public Administration is in need of devising action strategies pursuant to the given project in the future plans.