

From the Editor

Dear readers of intWOJDE

Welcome to the first issue of the year 2016, Women Online Journal of Distance Education, intWOJDE. First of all, greetings and happy New Year Wishes team to all you from intWOJDE.

As known well the first issue of the intWOJDE appeared at the begin of April, 2012¹ as Volume 1 Number: 1. intWOJDE aims to establish some more new channels of communication the for the women in distance education world in general from the entire world to its specific target.

Among these goals of the intWOJDE there are to share experiences on effective use of distance education in formal and non-formal education, to provide a communication network among distance education experts in order to able to define new strategies for dealing with the issues of distance education for women. In international scope, this scholarly e-journal will publish refereed articles, researches, case studies, book/conference reviews focusing on the women issues and challenges of providing research and information services to women learners participated or enrolled at any of level of distance education. It will particularly strive to meet the continuing education needs of practitioners by providing a forum for the discussion of extended learning policies and practices, and trends in information technologies as they impact the delivery of any kind of the student support services for distance learners and institutions. And also, intWOJDE reflects that the disciplines of Women' position, benefits, advantages and disadvantages in Distance Education/Learning, Open Learning areas which are interdependent with one another, as education and technology increasingly affects our system, students, colleagues, distance educators, administrators, researchers and our own professional practice and articles ranging from theoretical to practical studies, across a wide range of interests and topics.

Than we are giving a place to some women and DE related sections such as "Notes for Editor", "Re-published Material/s" section which is aiming to inform you by presenting earlier printed articles, reports, speeches or other documents. Other one is "Success Stories" Section inform you success stories of the women who are DE learner or graduated from DE institutions and related subjects women in DE world. Another section is "Book review/s", which aims to inform you from literature and promote women and DE related books from the DE field. With this issue, we started for publishing "Interviews" section which we are planning to give a place some women expert's thoughts in this section. These experts are mostly selected from deal with any sectors who are successful in their professional carriers such as academics, administrators, lowers, artists, engineer etc.

As we are being a intWOJDE team, we decided to dedicate this issue is to the Emeriti Prof. Dr. Christine Von PRUMMER, who was one of pioneer academics studying mostly on "the Situation of women as distance learner" subject in the distance education literature.

She strongly defended and emphasized in her writings deal with women education that *"This is especially true where gender discrimination meets discrimination based on class, race or other factors affecting equal access. Women are also more likely to live in situations which make it difficult to impossible to attend face-to-face classes and/or to afford the direct (e.g. tuition fees, books) and indirect (e.g. childcare) costs associated with attending classroom-based educational programs. It is therefore reasonable to expect that women are the larger target group of distance education."*

In this issue, is published 2 articles, by 4 authors, from 2 different countries. These published articles are arrived to intWOJDE from Nigeria and Pakistan. In addition we placed 6 re-published materials, one book review, one success story and two interviews.

Our first article, entitled as "Inaccessibility of Women Attending Open Distance Learning (ODL) in National Open University Of Nigeria (NOUN), Ekiti-State Branch", written by Adebayo Lawrence OJO, from Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC), Sheda-Abuja, NIGERIA. This paper meritoriously sets out to explore and provide an up-to-date picture on sociological impediments that lead to inaccessibility faced by women attending ODL in their quest to study, specifically at the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN) Ekiti-State, Branch. Proportionate sampling technique was used to select three hundred (300) respondents from part 1-4 based on their physical appearance at the centre premises and their claims, evidence presented (Student Identification Card) that they were students of NOUN.

Finding revealed that Institutional, Situational and ICT were significant to the sociological impediment that leads to women inaccessibility on ODL in the covered area of study, because all were big than 0.05 level of significance. The findings of the study will be utilized instrumentally and theoretically in informing policy directives by public universities presently involved in ODL programmes at large.

Second article is reached from Pakistan as join research written by Abdul Jabbar BHATTI, Nabi B. JUMANI and Samina Yasmin MALIK from an *International Islamic University Islamabad*. Their study is aimed that finding out effect of mobile phone on the participation rate of women in higher education. The objectives of the study were to find out effect of mobile phone to; encourage women to participate in higher programmes, guide the students during the course, and prevent these students from leaving the programmes uncompleted. It was expected that mobile phone would increase students' participation and decrease dropout. This experimental study consisted of two groups- experimental group and control group, each comprised of 200 women who passed the BA (14 years education) in 2007 and did not continue their further education. The women were selected by convenient sampling method. The experimental group was further divided into four sub-groups.

The study was delimited to the district Muzaffargarh of Punjab province of Pakistan. It was found that the use of mobile phones; increases the participation rate of the women into institutions of higher education, decreases the drop out ratio of enrolled students, and enhances the performance of students of the higher education institutions.

In addition, one of re-published materials is related with "usage mobile" by women in this issue. So their research should be seen an important.

In this issue "re-published" section contains 6 published materials parallel with our journal content. The first one titled as "WOMEN IN DISTANCE LEARNING: 2 ND CHANCE OR 3 RD SHIFT?", presented and written by Aggeli, A., & Vassala, P. Their paper is focusing on the female way of being a distance learner. At first to point out the crucial reasons why women attend open, distance, and flexible learning programs, as well as their objectives and their motives and then, reporting on the factors they consider when they select a distance learning program or course.

Finally, they explore the obstacles hindering women's access to distance education or impeding their successful studies and we will suggest actions that would make their attending easier.

2nd published material was relate winning women' competitive race with extended. This paper By: John Leh, CEO, Lead Analyst at Talented Learning, LLC. It introduces us to the topic(s) of extended enterprise learning and outlines the very tangible, and measurable business benefits. It is discussing tools and technology which we will need to engage the voluntary users of the extended enterprise and give you steps and advice to get going at our organization.

The 3rd published material is very interesting project with conducted ten years before and titled as "Distance Education and Women: Final Project", conducted by Rose Ann SWANSON under supervene by Dr. Gina Wong-Wylie on March 16, 2005. In this project is mention that many women are attracted to the flexibility and accessibility of DE and its potential for attainment alongside childrearing. For women who have committed to raising their children at home, pursuing their education by DE is seen as an ideal opportunity and possibility. As such, one major consideration in examining DE for women is childbearing/parenting and how women incorporate this significant time into their already existing professional goal-oriented activities. Pregnancy and motherhood affects all aspects of a woman's life including the biological, psychological, and social; finding a way to balance these factors along with educational goals is vital to their success. Many women have made a conscious decision to pursue tertiary education alongside childbearing and childrearing without prior knowledge as to what this endeavor entails.

The 4th published material was a report about gender. Summit Gender 7 Europe, Report is titled as "Report From The 2015 European Gender Summit To The European Commission and European Parliament, Research and Innovation Quality through Equality: Mastering Gender in Research Performance, Context and Outcomes, November 6-7 2015, published in Berlin, Germany. The aim of the Gender Summit platform is to help advance gender mainstreaming efforts in research and innovation by making sure that the science community and stakeholders in science endeavors are well acquainted with relevant research evidence and benefits of gender sensitive and responsive knowledge production, application and communication. Helping achieve success in delivering gender objectives in Horizon 2020 is one of the main goals of the European Gender Summit and suggest recommendations for actions, arising from the assessment by the European Commission of the first year of HORIZON 2020.

The fifth and sixth published materials belongs tor UNESCO reports. The fist on titled as "Gender and Mobile Learning", reported by UNESCO'2015. The main question is to findout satisfied answers for how this is best accomplished and what role technology can play is the starting point for Mobile Learning.

The second report Mobile Learning Week 2015 (MLW 2015) aimed to illuminate how increasingly ubiquitous, affordable and powerful mobile technology -from basic handsets to the newest tablet computers- can be leveraged to accelerate high quality education for women and girls, especially those living in disadvantaged communities. The event aims to help direct the world towards greater gender equality, both in education and beyond.

In this issue a book is reviewed by intWOJDE. This book provides valuable insights into the situation of women in distance education around the world. A wide variety of evidence from different countries supports the conclusion that open and distance learning has the potential to provide equal opportunities in higher and continuing education and that these are currently being missed. The author provides conclusive evidence that distance education, while involving a degree of risk to the stability of families and relationships, etc., nevertheless offers women a chance which, on balance, is worth taking.

One success story is placed in this issue. The story tell us Kate's Story, titling as "MY OPEN UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE" which written by Kate CRUDGINGTON. She mentioned in her story that "I have always relied on literature to help me process things. I cite Ronald Dahl's *Matilda* as one of my earliest and closest friends (I'll allow a 10 second laughing break here). She knew books weren't for 'boffins' (classic year six banter) and your mind is an immensely powerful instrument which needs to be tuned, and re-tuned with all kinds of new information. It's this desire to devour the written word which made me choose The Open University and why, despite my initial traumatic entry into higher education, I never gave up. Regardless of what was happening at work or in my personal life, I always felt I could hit the books and everything would be fine. The quiet, inner knowledge that I was consistently working towards something kept me going for six strong years. People who insist they 'don't read' don't realize what they're missing".

As I mentioned above we started a new column as "Interview". We placed two interviews here. Interviews are realized by Harun SERPIL, intWOJDE, Anadolu University, Eskisehir, TURKEY on the topic of "THE ROLE AND FUNCTION OF DISTANCE EDUCATION WORLD FROM WOMEN PESPECTIVE".

The first interview is realized with Ms. Aysel OZFIRAT who was one of the pioneer people which involved in various aspects of distance education applications of the Ministry of Education. These applications are Open High School, Vocational Open High School, Public Primary School, Vocational and Technical Open Education School, and Vocational Proficiency Certificate programs. Our "Interview" section will start with her views on distance education from the point of view of the Ministry of Education which started in the 1990s.

Our the second guest is Assistant Prof. Dr. Gülser Acar DONDURMACI from Zirve University, Gaziantep, TURKEY, Istanbul branch. She has been involved in distance education since 2002. During this time, first she worked for Ahmet Yesevi International Turkish-Kazakh University and then for Zirve University, Gaziantep, TURKEY where she is still working at.

She has worked especially in the launching and managing of such systems, so she can definitely say that she is experienced in the field of distance education based on her professional and academic experience. She is emphasized in her interview that "there is growing attention paid to distance education both by the private and the public sectors in Turkey. The private sector sees distance education as an effective way of cutting training expenses for their staff".

Dear readers, int.WOJDE wishes to add new sections in its body as "Notes for Editor" and a "Conference Review", "Success Stories", "Interviews", etc. in its future issues as soon as possible. So we are waiting materials for these sections too in due course.

You can reach us online either directly at <http://www.wojde.org> To receive further information and to send your recommendations and remarks, or to submit articles for consideration, please contact intWOJDE Secretariat at the below address or e-mail us at intwojde@gmail.com



Hope to stay in touch and wishing to meet in our next Issue, 1st of April 2016

Cordially,

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