

**FACTORS AFFECTING THE SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS, IN THE USE OF DISTANCE LEARNING
FOR IN-SERVICE TRAINING AS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN PAKISTAN**

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to investigate the factors which affect the school teachers in getting the further professional qualifications through the distance mode of Allama Iqbal Open University. For this purpose, 300 in-service secondary school teachers who completed M.Ed from Allama Iqbal Open University and 100 heads of secondary schools were taken as the sample of the study. The main objectives of the study were,

- to explain the status of teacher educations through distance-learning in Pakistan,
- to identify the obstacles in getting in-service professional training through distance education.

The major recommendations of the study were;

- Allama Iqbal Open University should design fee-concessions and scholarship polices for the experienced teachers,
- the promotion policy of teachers should be made professional based not seniority based and M.Ed qualified teachers should be given propriety for the next scale,
- facilities and support services should be provided to the students so that objectives of M.Ed program be fully achieved,
- the departmental obstacles and restrictions be eradicated by reshaping the policies and advance increments should be reinstated after the completion of M.Ed program,
- Higher Education Commission (HEC) which is the body of preparing policy for Higher studies scholarship, so M.Ed level programs should be included in the policies of HEC, and
- the admission criteria of AIOU should be changed; experience teachers should be given priority in the admission.

Keywords: Distance Education, Advantages of Distance Education, Distance Education in Pakistan, Distance Education for Professional Development in Pakistan, Factors Affecting the Distance Learners.