

## ROLE OF ASSIGNMENT WORK IN DISTANCE AND NON-FORMAL MODE OF EDUCATION

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### ABSTRACT

The research article deals with the evaluation of the role of assignments in learning through distance and non-formal mode of education. The study was delimited to the students enrolled in M. Ed and M. A. Education programs (with the specialization of Teacher education, Distance and non-formal education, Science education, and Special Education) during semesters, spring 2006 to spring 2008 in Rawalpindi region of Allama Iqbal Open University Islamabad, Pakistan. The sample of the study consisted of 300 students of Rawalpindi district. A five-point Likert type rating scale was administered to collect the views about the role of assignments in learning through Open Distance Learning System. The four parts (22 items) of the instruments focused on learning through assignment work, beforehand instruction regarding assignments, evaluation and checking of assignments, provision of proper guidelines for writing the assignments by the tutors or the university.

The data were analyzed with mean score and SD, and the recommendations were made from the findings of the study. The study shows the dissatisfactory performance of tutors in most of the aspects.

For the purpose it looks imperative to introduce a separate new course entitled "Study skills" containing different units on study, reading, writing, evaluation skills etc. by the University which may be compulsory but non-credit for all levels of distance learning. It should be offered in the first semester of the program and all tutors should be bound to study and qualify the same course with all respects by writing the assignments and passing the exams etc. before getting the appointment as part time tutors.

**Keywords:** Assignment work, distance education, evaluation.