

**“Access and Success, Is Open Schooling An Answer?
A Feed-back Study of Open School Students in
Chhattisgarh State”**

**Summary
Of
Research Project Submitted**

TO

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Introduction

Open learning serves as a source of education for the marginalized and disadvantaged sectors of the society, besides being desirable due to its innate relation with human psyche and psychological development. Its benefactors include the physically and mentally handicapped, the female population, school dropouts, residents of rural areas and remote regions. Open schooling is also preferred by students pursuing careers, which require them to devote more time than what the stringent formal school systems with its time-bound structure and attendance compulsions can permit. Students who wish to choose specific combinations of subjects, which may not be possible under the formal system, also turn to open schools. The system also contributes to the cause of adult literacy.

Role of Open and Distance Learning

The Open and Distance Education is a new paradigm with some elements of shift such as:

- From classroom to anywhere
- From teacher centric to learner centric
- From teacher as an instructor to teacher as a facilitator
- From mainly oral instructions to technology aided instruction
- From fixed time to anytime learning
- From “you learn what we offer” to “we offer what you want to learn”.
- From education as one time activity to education as life long activity.

Open Schooling involves "the physical separation of the school-level learner from the teacher, and the use of unconventional teaching methodologies, and information and communications technologies (ICTs) to bridge the separation and provide the education and training". "Open Schooling is not called open/distance schooling for a reason. Open Schooling may follow different patterns, but the most common scenario is that the learners study specially designed open learning materials on their own - at home, in their workplace, wherever it is convenient for them - and then they meet together with a facilitator on a regular basis. The "open" in Open Schooling refers to the openness of the system - seldom are there rules dictating student ages, prerequisites, content of courses to be taken or number of courses in which students must enroll. For example, Youth that missed out on schooling in their childhood can enroll in courses which will provide them with the equivalence of secondary education without their having to endure the embarrassment of being in classrooms with children much younger than themselves.

- Young mothers can take secondary level education through studying at home, and attending tutorials only when necessary and their responsibilities permit.
- Working adults can enroll in one or two courses at a time, and study whenever their personal and work commitments permit.
- Young adults can acquire skill training coupled with academic subjects while self employed or working as non-skilled labour.

Statement of the Problem

“Access and Success, Is Open Schooling an answer? A Feed-back Study of Open School Students in Chhattisgarh State”

Objectives of the study

1. To get feedback on convenience in admission procedure of open school.
2. To get feedback of students about the existing curriculum and text-books of open school.
3. To find out the reasons of dropping out from previous school among students of open schools.
4. To know about the feedback of the open school students regarding face to face contact program.

5. To review the total enrolment and pass percentage of students of open school.

Hypotheses of the study

1. There will be no difference in satisfaction level of boys and girls regarding admission procedure of open schools.
2. There will be no difference in satisfaction level of boys and girls regarding curriculum of open schools.
3. There will be no difference in the opinion of boys and girls regarding text books.
4. There will be difference in the reasons of dropping out from the school among boys and girls of open schools.
5. There will be difference in opinion of boys and girls regarding significance of curriculum of open schools in their vocations.
6. There will be no difference in opinion of boys and girls of open school regarding face to face contact programme.

Limitations

- The study was limited to Chhattisgarh State.
- The work was delimited to the rural and urban areas of Chhattisgarh State.
- Data was gathered from 232 Study Centers of Open Schools of Chhattisgarh.

Methodology

Survey method was applied in this research. A questionnaire was constructed including a series of questions and will be administered on about one thousand students. The questionnaire is basically a three point scale. A few items contain only two alternatives. The scale has been approved by few experts.

Sample and sampling technique

It is virtually impossible to study every individual in the target population. In most cases, the target population, such as students, is simply too large for the researcher to plan a quality research study. Collecting millions of questionnaires from every student would present the several challenges. This therefore means that the target population has to be restricted to a small group to smoothen the path of journey of research work. In the present study **Random sampling method** has been applied in order to select sample from the population. A total number of 975 students from **secondary level of all streams** are targeted as sample of the study, out of which number of boys is 570 and number of girls is 405. The data has been collected from the students of session 2012-13.

SAMPLE CHART

Sample	Number of Students
Boys	575
Girls	405
Total	975

Major Findings

- It was found from the data available that the students are quite satisfied with the curriculum of open school. But there is difference in opinion of girls and boys, as there seems significant difference in opinions on the basis of gender. Boys are more in numbers saying yes and are satisfied with the curriculum.
- For evaluating the curriculum, one of the aspect considered is to ask students whether there is need to bring reform in curriculum of open school or not. In context of gender, there is no significant effect of it on satisfaction level of students regarding necessity of any reform curriculum. Thus all the students are quite satisfied with the existing curriculum.
- There is difference in the opinions of boys and girls regarding text books. A good number of boys replied that the text material is up to the mark. Bur overall evaluation

shows that there is significant effect of gender in the opinions of students in case of curriculum of open school.

- There is significant effect of gender in open school in the matter of taking admission in school prior to open school. Most of the boys were studying in school before taking admission in open schools.
- There is significant effect of gender in status of open school students in context to last exam appeared. Most of the students left school in sixth standard and there is difference in the number of boys and girls. On observing the data obtained it can be concluded that boys completed at least tenth standard while less number of girls reached to tenth standard, this may be because of inferior status of girl child in the society and less preference of study to them.
- There is significant effect of gender in status of open school students in context of selection of subject in class 12th. Most of the boys opted science stream in their twelfth standard. The variation in selection of subjects between boys and girls is shown in table no.14.
- There is significant effect of gender in the reasons of dropping out from the previous school in the mid of schooling.
- There is significant effect of gender in the reasons of dropping out from the previous school. The main reason of dropping out the schools is mainly personal.
- There is significant effect of gender in working status of students of open schools.
- There is no significant effect of gender in working status of students of open schools. Most of them are engaged in their business.
- Of course there is difference in the opinion of boys and girls with respect to pursue any course in future, but on observing the data gathered it is clearly seen that a good percentage of students is interested in doing graduation course. It is the success of the open school that those students who had left studies in past are having keen interest in pursuing graduation course in future.
- About 85% students are in favour of the statement that the curriculum of open school is sufficient enough to improve their proficiency in their respective vocations. Successful Access of the course to the ultimate need of students is thus proved here as it is helpful in enhancing their vocational skills.

- Observing the usefulness of the curriculum in vocational front, students are in opinion of adding vocational training in curriculum. It would definitely be helpful in raising their vocational skill. Thus the open school is proved to be an effective access and approach for success of its students.
- There is significant effect of gender in opinion of open school students regarding promotion of open schools among their friends.
- There is difference in opinions of boys and girls regarding face to face contact programme, yet it is found that the students are getting benefit from face to face contact programme.

Conclusions

The study was focused on the students of open schools of Chhattisgarh. From various co-ordination centers data has been gathered through questionnaire and analyzed further to evaluate the status of students from different perspectives. It was observed that most of hypotheses are approved after data analysis except in few cases. There found effect of gender in opinions of students regarding various facet concerned to open schools. There is significant effect of gender in satisfaction level of students regarding curriculum, the matter of taking admission in school prior to open school, in context to last exam appeared, in context of selection of subject in class 12th, in the reasons of dropping out from the previous school, in working status of students of open schools, in future planning of open school students, among open school students in selection of course after higher secondary school, in opinion of students of open school regarding usefulness of its curriculum in their respective Vocations.

After studying and analyzing the opinions of students of open school, following conclusions are drawn; the students find the formalities to be done while taking admission similarly suitable and satisfactory. The students are quite satisfied with the curriculum of open school. But there is difference in opinion of girls and boys. A good number of boys are saying yes and are satisfied with the curriculum. For evaluating the curriculum further, students are asked whether there is need to bring reform in curriculum of open school or not. In context of gender, there is no significant effect of it on satisfaction level of students regarding necessity of any reform curriculum. Thus all the students are quite satisfied with the existing curriculum. The access of open school is hence acceptable here and it is proved to be suitable for the students'

progress. Students replied that the text material is up to the mark. But overall evaluation shows that there is significant effect of gender in the opinions of students in case of curriculum of open school. There is significant effect of gender in status of open school students in context to last exam appeared. Most of the students left school in sixth standard. On observing the data obtained it can be concluded that boys completed at least tenth standard while less number of girls reached to tenth standard, this may be because of inferior status of girl child in the society and less preference of study for them. There is variation in selection of subject in class 12th. Most of the boys opted science stream in their twelfth standard. There is significant effect of gender in the reasons of dropping out from the previous school in the mid of schooling. The main reason of dropping out the schools is mainly personal. On observing the data gathered it is clearly seen that a good percentage of students is interested in doing graduation course. It is the success of the open school that those students who had left studies in past are having keen interest in pursuing graduation course in future. About 85% students are in favour of the statement that the curriculum of open school is sufficient enough to improve their proficiency in their respective vocations. Successful Access of the course to the ultimate need of students is thus proved here as it is helpful in enhancing their vocational skills. Observing the usefulness of the curriculum in vocational front, students are in opinion of adding vocational training in curriculum. It would definitely be helpful in lifting up their vocational skill. Thus the open school is proved to be an effective access and approach for success for its students. Finally it is also found that the students are getting benefit from face to face contact programme.

Hence, it can be said that Open Schooling is an answer as 'Access and Success' of Open School Students in Chhattisgarh State.

Educational Implications and suggestions for further study

Present study is an analysis of feedback of students of open schools regarding its admission procedure, curriculum, current working status of students, future planning with respect to course, and effectiveness of curriculum in context to their vocation and their opinion in favour of including vocational training in curriculum and the various field of vocational training. Information is also gathered with reference to implementation and advantage of face to face programme conducted during the course of open school.

The study is to observe the effect of gender on the opinions regarding all the above mentioned perspectives of open school. It is now well accepted fact that higher education shall be equally accessible to all. Open schools are definitely proving itself as an effective access to those students who have been compelled to leave schools in the midst. Effect of Gender difference on opinions of students is also found prevalent. The concerned authorities need to work in this area of eradicating gap among the students'.