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### Vol. 26 No. 3 (2017): Indian Journal of Open Learning

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Sutapa Bose

10 p.

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e-Readiness of State Open Universities towards Online Learning: A Study of BRAOU and UOU

ିର. Lakshmi, Manjari Agarwal

25 p.

PDF

Tagore's Innovation in Open and Distance Learning System: Lok Siksha Samsad

Moumita Das

12 p.

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## e-Readiness of State Open Universities towards Online Learning: A Study of BRAOU and UOU

#### <sup>1</sup>LAKSHMI GADE <sup>2</sup>MANJARI AGARWAL

<sup>1</sup>Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University, Hyderabad, Telangana, India <sup>2</sup>Uttarakhand Open University, Haldwani, Uttarakhand, India

Abstract: An understanding of the institutional policy and faculty members' attitudinal predispositions plays a crucial role in making an effective paradigm shift from traditional distance education teachinglearning process to web-enabled education in open universities. This study attempts to explore the faculty members' e-readiness in two state-level open and distance learning institutions in India, namely Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar Open University, Hyderabad, and Uttarakhand Open University, Haldwani, in terms of institutional capacity and faculty readiness. The study is limited to assessing the e-readiness of these two universities with different cultures and topography. It was expected that these two universities will be able to highlight the fundamental ICT competencies and resources of state-level open universities for implementing online educational programmes. The study explored two broad research questions: 1) Are the faculty members capable and ready for adopting online learning in the teaching-learning process? 2) To what extent are the state open universities capable of adopting e-Learning for knowledge dissemination and research? An Observation Schedule was administered for identifying institutional capacity and an e-Survey was conducted to assess the levels of e-Learning readiness in adopting online learning. The results of the study explain the dimensions that can make online education effective. sustainable and replicable in the ODL system in India.

**Keywords:** e-Learning, e-Readiness, Online education, State Open Universities, Open and Distance education

#### Introduction

The advent of the internet as a world wide web, high-speed and multimedia communication platform has enabled e-Learning to be an effective teaching and learning tool, especially in open and distance learning (ODL) institutions. With e-Learning, ODL institutions can use available technologies to enhance learning and expand access to education. As e-Learning becomes useful to learning institutions worldwide, an assessment of e-Learning readiness in Indian State Open Universities



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#### Dr G. Lakshmi\*

The UN Response to COVID-19

[This article focuses on the United Nations' role as a contributor to contemporary global health governance. The novel corona virus, named, COVID-19 is a new kind of crisis, one that involves the public health, economic, political, social, psychological and cultural dimensions of billions of people across the world. In a networked world, new forms of cooperation will be needed with the involvement of State and non-State actors to tackle and curb corona virus. As it did in the past, the UN needs to adopt a security-oriented approach or any other means to public health policy in order overcome the current pandemic.]

oday, the world is confronted with the worst crisis since the Second World War, in the form of novel corona virus pandemic, named COVID-19, virtually akin to as the Third World War with unprecedented political, economic, social and humanitarian consequences.

In the past, general crises have led to major multilateral systems and the United Nations Organisation (UN) was created in the wake of Second World War in 1945. Its objective is to prevent international conflict and to facilitate cooperation among States. Furthermore, the UN was intended to bring countries together to improve the prospects of social and economic development all over the world. The UN will soon be celebrating its 75th anniversary. There have been vast changes in human society in the last 74 years. Today, the UN, besides maintaining international peace and security, has to devise means in tackling complex global problems. With the end of the Cold War and the complexities of emerging global agenda, the UN has a different role to play in fulfilling its responsibilities toward peace, security, health and socio-economic development of the world community.

In the light of current corona pandemic, the next one or two decades a prospect of world economic instability is very much dreaded. According to a World Bank analyst, economic indicators suggest a deep recession, like nothing seen "since the Second World War" [Security Council Report 2020]. In an interdependent world society, people are increasingly inter-connected. Most things that happen, in some way or the other, have repercussions for the other parts of the world. Today no government can manage to solve its problems, as the emerging issues are of global ramifications.

There are issues that are so challenging which can only be dealt with when everyone works together. Disease is an example. An international organisation can help provide mechanisms, rules and a bureaucracy to meet international challenges. The UN is the only organization having the mandate with a truly international character. Restructuring the UN to enhance its capabilities (by giving the necessary weight and muscle) is an immediate task.

#### The Novel Corona Virus Impact

On December 30, 2019, the world first learned that the novel corona virus had emerged weeks before in China's Wuhan province. The virus has since January 2020 (until April 30) already claimed many globally and has had an impact on more than 212 countries and territories (WHO Report). On 11 February 2020, the World Health Organisation (WHO) announced a name for the new corona virus disease, COVID-19.

Corona virus is the greatest peacetime challenge that the UN and humanity as a whole has ever faced. The pandemic is not just as a global health and biosafety issue but potentially a global security challenge which might have implications for international peace and security. Concerns have been raised over

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#### Woman Prime Ministers of South Asia – A Brief Study

Dr. G. Lakshmi\*

[The present paper attempts to make a brief comparative analysis of the phenomenon of South Asian women assuming top political positions from a historical perspective and their socio-political contexts. Women's emergence to power in this region, overcoming entrenched conservatism, sets as an exemplary lead for the future generations of the world.]

South Asia has a distinction in terms of having the world's largest number of women leaders who have attained top political positions. In spite of the region being characterized by strongly patriarchal societies, Sirimavo Bandaranaike in Sri Lanka, Indira Gandhi in India, Benazir Bhutto in Pakistan, Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina Wazed in Bangladesh, Chandrika Kumaratunga, Sirimavo Bandaranaike's daughter in Sri Lanka — have held positions as Prime Ministers.

While Sri Lanka and India had woman Prime Ministers as early as the 1960s, Pakistan and Bangladesh had woman Prime Ministers by the 1980s and the 1990s. Unlike the Western democracies, woman leaders of South Asia were inexperienced as politicians. They all are either daughters or widows of former Prime Ministers of their respective nations. Besides political inheritance, life stories of women leaders in South Asia exhibit several similarities — in the process of their emergence to power, style of functioning, personal hardships even death of some of them. They faced great family tragedies prior to their ascendancy to political power.

Sheik Hasina experienced assassination of her father, mother, brothers, and other members of her family; Benazir witnessed execution of her father and tragic death of brothers; Chandrika faced the assassination of her father and husband; Khaleda faced the assassination of her husband and death of her son; Sirimavo faced the assassination of her husband; while Indira faced the death of her son. Benazir, Hasina and Khaleda experienced imprisonment, too, in their lives. Sirimavo, Benazir, Hasina and Chandrika survived assassination

Asst Prof., Dept of Pol. Sc., Dr B.R. Ambedkar Open

attempts. Indira Gandhi was assassinated in 1984 and Benazir was assassinated in December 2007.

It appears family background is a prerequisite to attain political leadership in South Asia, especially for women. As a matter of fact, family ties, preferably a male relative — who might be a former Prime Minister or President — helped woman leaders' entry into politics, thereby their access to power. The woman leaders rose to top political positions with an instinctive, massive sympathy wave consequent to a deceased male leader (of their family) and people voting in their favour. However, family background did not assure any hereditary position which is evident from their lives.

#### Indira Gandhi - Benazir Bhutto

Two most prominent woman Prime Ministers of South Asia, Indira Gandhi and Benazir Bhutto had many similarities in their socio-political lives. Both were daughters of former prime ministers of their respective nations who had political socialization with their fathers. Both had excellent education in the West. Indira did her schooling in Switzerland, France and Oxford and Benazir pursued her higher education at Oxford and Harvard. They had association with great world leaders of their times. Indira toured with her father in all his official visits, although Nehru did not groom her as his political successor. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto purposely promoted and politically tutored his daughter, Benazir into politics which was best seen in her presence during the 1972 Shimla Conference.

However, both had different experiences regarding people and democracy. Indira had political life experience right from her childhood. She became the Congress Party president in 1959 and Minister of Information and Broadcasting in Lal Bahadur

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NO-WAR PACT PROPOSALS IN INDIA-PAKISTAN RELATIONS



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# NO-WAR PACT PROPOSALS IN INDIA-PAKISTAN RELATIONS

G. LAKSHMI

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