DISTANCE EDUCATION IN ESSENCE

AN OVERVIEW OF THEORY AND PRACTICE IN THE EARLY TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY
Distance Education in Essence is a short overview of distance education as developed over the last century and practised today. It is highly readable, written in a somewhat conversational style. The author, well-known in the field both as a practitioner and as a researcher, looks carefully into the character and applications of distance education, and presents a revised version of his much discussed overarching theory. Particular attention is paid to the innovatory character of distance education and the role of technology in today’s practice. Technology is regarded as an auxiliary means that may serve educational purposes, not as important in itself.

Methodology, particularly as related to the empathy approach that Professor Holmberg’s theory is based on is discussed at some length and so are the new developments made possible by information and communication technologies. The consequences of the educational principles advocated for the organisation and administration of distance education are analysed and the role of this mode of education in society is briefly looked into. The book also includes a short overview of the research areas that have so far been given particular attention and a comprehensive list of references...

ISBN 3 – 8142 – 0799 -8
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