

# ATTITUDE AND PERCEPTION OF POST GRADUATE STUDENTS TOWARDS DISTANCE LEARNING

**Dr. Mamta Sharma**

*Assistant Professor,  
Noida College of Physical Education,  
G.B.Nagar, Dadri.*

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## ABSTRACT

*In the present study the investigator has attempted to study the attitude of post graduate students towards distance learning. The sample consisted of 120 students, who were getting education from distance mode through Ignou. Purposive survey method. The findings are there is no significant difference in attitude and perception between the male and female post graduate students towards distance learning. It indicated that both male and female students' post graduate students had same attitude towards distance learning and Urban and rural post graduate students had different attitude towards distance learning.*

## INTRODUCTION

As a force contributing to social and economic development, *open and distance learning* is fast becoming an accepted and indispensable part of the mainstream of educational systems in both developed and developing countries, with particular emphasis for the latter. This growth has been stimulated in part by the interest among educators and trainers in the use of new, Internet based and multimedia technologies, and also by the recognition that traditional ways of organizing education need to be reinforced by innovative methods, if the *fundamental right* of all people to *learning* is to be realized. The globalization of distance education provides many opportunities for developing countries for the realization of their education; and the technological system-wide goals. Two main factors have led to an explosion of interest in distance learning: the growing need for continual skills upgrading and retraining advances that have made it possible to teach more and more subjects at a distance. The development of computers and the internet have made distance learning distribution easier and faster and have given rise to the 'virtual university, the entire educational offerings of which are conducted online. In 1996 Jones International University was launched and claims to be the first fully online university accredited by a regional accrediting association in the US.

In particular open and distance learning has the potential to enhance a more student-centered and consumer-oriented approach to education, leading in turn to more extensive contact between educational institutions on the one hand and community-based organizations, business and industry on the other. For the successful implementation of the program for target population, it is necessary

to study the attitude of the students. So the present study was to study the attitude and perception of post graduate students towards open and distance learning.

**An attitude** is a favorable or unfavorable evaluation of something. Attitudes are generally positive or negative views of a person, place, thing, or event. People can also be conflicted or ambivalent toward an object, meaning that they simultaneously possess both positive and negative attitudes toward that particular thing, place, and person for the present study.

**Perception** is the process of attaining awareness or understanding of the environment by organizing and interpreting sensory information. For the present study perception means that awareness of distance education among students.

Distance learning systems can usually be described as made up of a range of components such as: the mission or goal of a particular system, programmes and curricula, teaching/learning strategies and techniques, learning material and resources, communication and interaction, support and delivery systems, students, tutors, staff and other experts, management, housing and equipment, and evaluation.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To compare the attitude and perception of post graduate students towards distance learning on the bases of gender.
2. To investigate the attitude and perception of post graduate students towards distance learning on the bases of their residential status i.e. rural & urban.
3. To study the attitude and perception of students towards distance learning between professional and general stream post graduate students.

## HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

1. There exists no significant difference in attitude and perception between male and female post graduate students towards distance learning.
2. There exists no significant difference in attitude and perception learning.
3. There exists no significant difference in attitude and perception between professional and general stream post graduate students towards distance learning

## METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

In this study exploratory descriptive survey method was used.

## POPULATION OF THE STUDY

Keeping in mind the above stated criteria, the researcher went in for the purposive sampling techniques was used to select the sample 120 students. Data was collected from the different IGNOU study centers & directorate distance education of Uttar Pradesh.

## TOOL USED

The questionnaire may be regarded as a form of interview in paper .A questionnaire is a form which is prepared and distributed for the purpose of securing responses.

## ANALYSIS OF DATA

**TABLE-1**

### SIGNIFICANCE OF DIFFERENCE IN ATTITUDE AND PERCEPTION BETWEEN MALE AND FEMALE POST GRADUATE STUDENTS TOWARDS DISTANCE LEARNING

Variables	Groups	N	Mean	SD	S.Ed.	't'	Level of significance
Perception of Distance Learning	Male	60	33.64	5.68	1.34	0.5	NS
	Female	60	30.20	5.69			

It is revealed from the table -1 that the mean scores of male and female post graduate students regarding attitude and perception towards distance learning are 33.64 and 30.20 with S.D. 5.68 and 8.69 respectively. The t ratio comes out to be 1.34, which is not significant at any level of significance. That means there is no significant difference in attitude and perception between the male and female post graduate students towards distance learning. Thus the hypothesis (Hp-1) that 'there exists no significant difference in attitude and perception between male and female post graduate students towards distance learning' is accepted.

The mean score of male and female post graduate students as presented in table 4.1 is depicted in figure 4.1

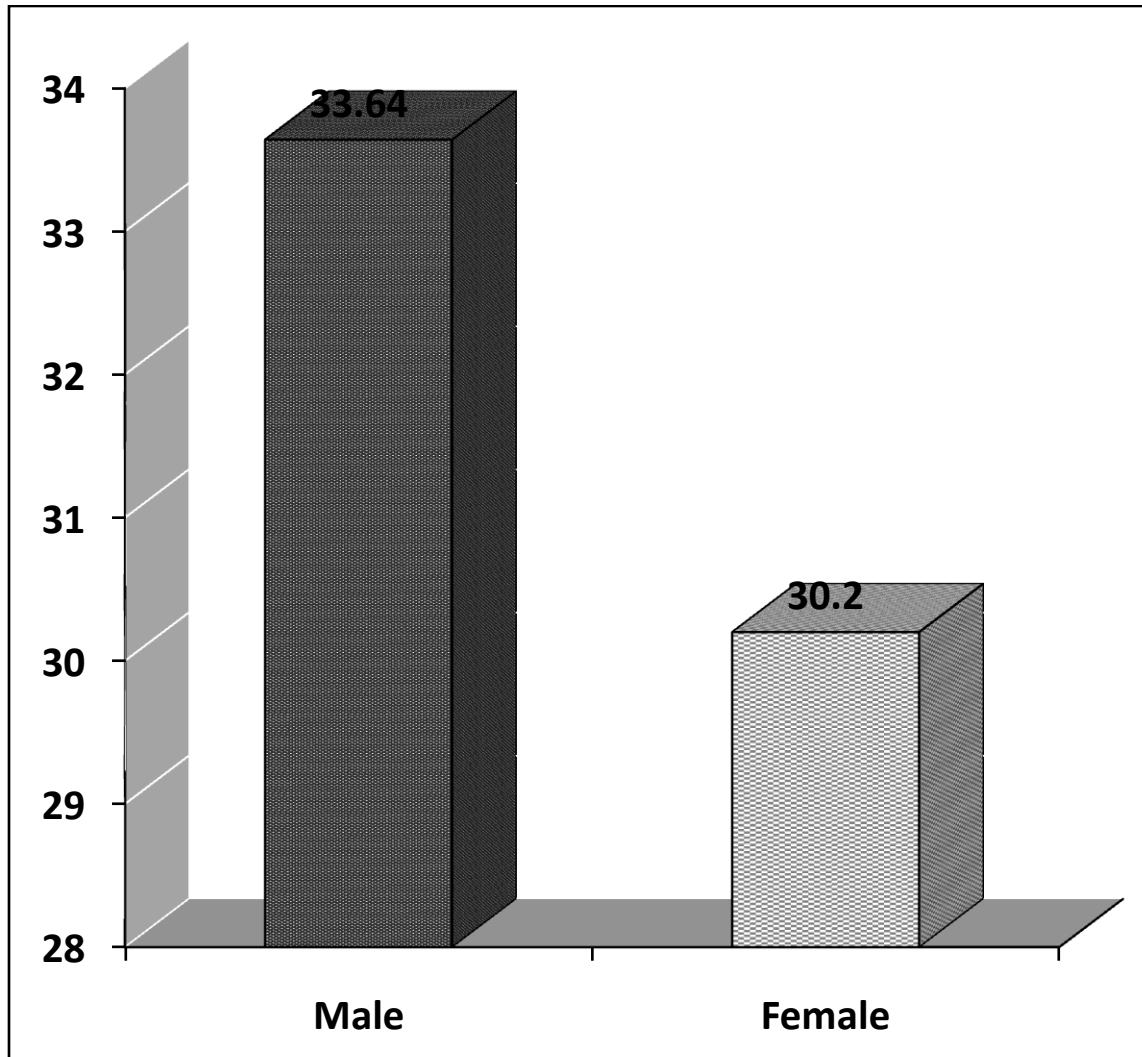


Fig. - 4.1 Showing the Mean score of Male and Female Post graduate Students Regarding Attitude and Perception of Students towards Distance Learning.

**Table - 2**

**SIGNIFICANCE OF DIFFERENCE IN ATTITUDE AND PERCEPTION BETWEEN RURAL AND URBAN POST GRADUATE STUDENTS TOWARDS DISTANCE LEARNING**

Variables	Groups	N	Mean	SD	S.Ed.	't'	Level of significance
Perception of Distance Learning	Urban	60	37.44	5.59	1.40	0.05	NS
	Rural	60	30.8	9.36			

It is revealed from the table -2 that the mean scores of urban and rural post graduate students regarding attitude and perception towards distance learning are 37.44 and 30.8 with SD 5.59 and 9.36 respectively.

The t ratio comes out to be 2.55 which is significant at 0.05 level of significance. That difference between the urban and rural post graduate students towards open and distance learning. Thus the hypothesis (Hp-2) that 'there exists no significant difference in attitude and perception between urban and rural post graduate students towards distance learning' is rejected.

The mean score of post graduate students of urban and rural as presented in table-2 is depicted in figure 2

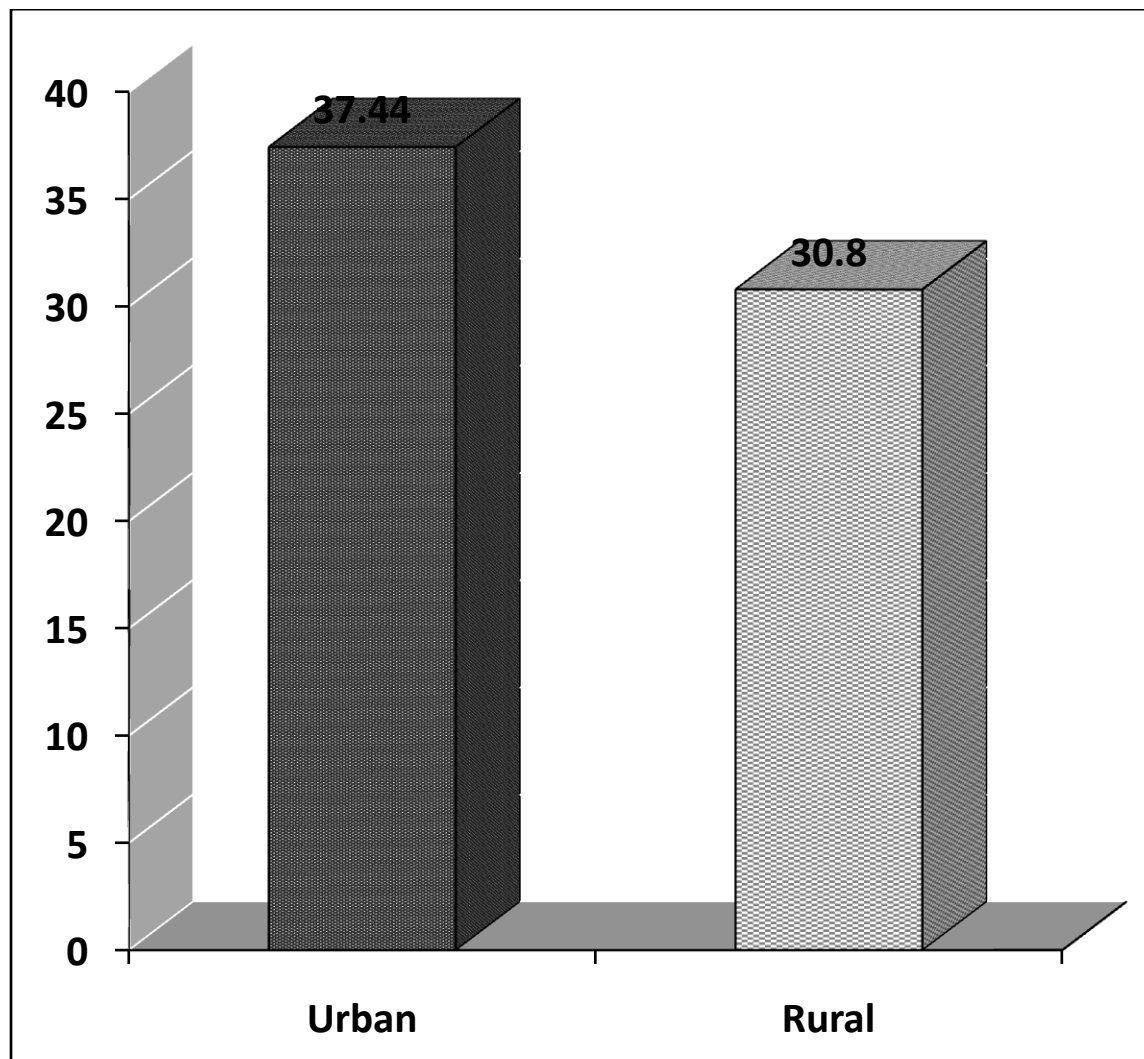


Fig- 2 Showing the Mean score of Urban and Rural Post graduate Students Regarding Attitude and Perception of Students Towards Distance Learning

**TABLE-3****SIGNIFICANCE OF DIFFERENCE IN ATTITUDE AND PERCEPTION BETWEEN PROFESSIONAL AND GENERAL STREAM POST GRADUATE STUDENTS TOWARDS DISTANCE LEARNING**

Variables	Groups	N	Mean	SD	S.Ed.	't'	Level of significance
Perception of Distance Learning	Professional	60	33.00	6.5	3.64	4.2	NS
	Academic	60	27.98	8.7			

It is revealed from the table-3 that the mean scores of professional and general stream post graduate students regarding attitude and perception of towards distance learning are 33.00 and 27.98 with S.D. 6.5 and 8.7 respectively. The t ratio comes out to be 3.64, which is significant at .01 level of significance. That means there is significant difference between the Professional and general stream post graduate students towards distance learning. Thus the hypothesis (Hp-3) that 'there exists no significant difference in attitude and perception between professional and general stream post graduate students towards distance learning' is rejected.

The mean score of post graduate students of professional and general stream as presented on table -3 is depicted in figure .3

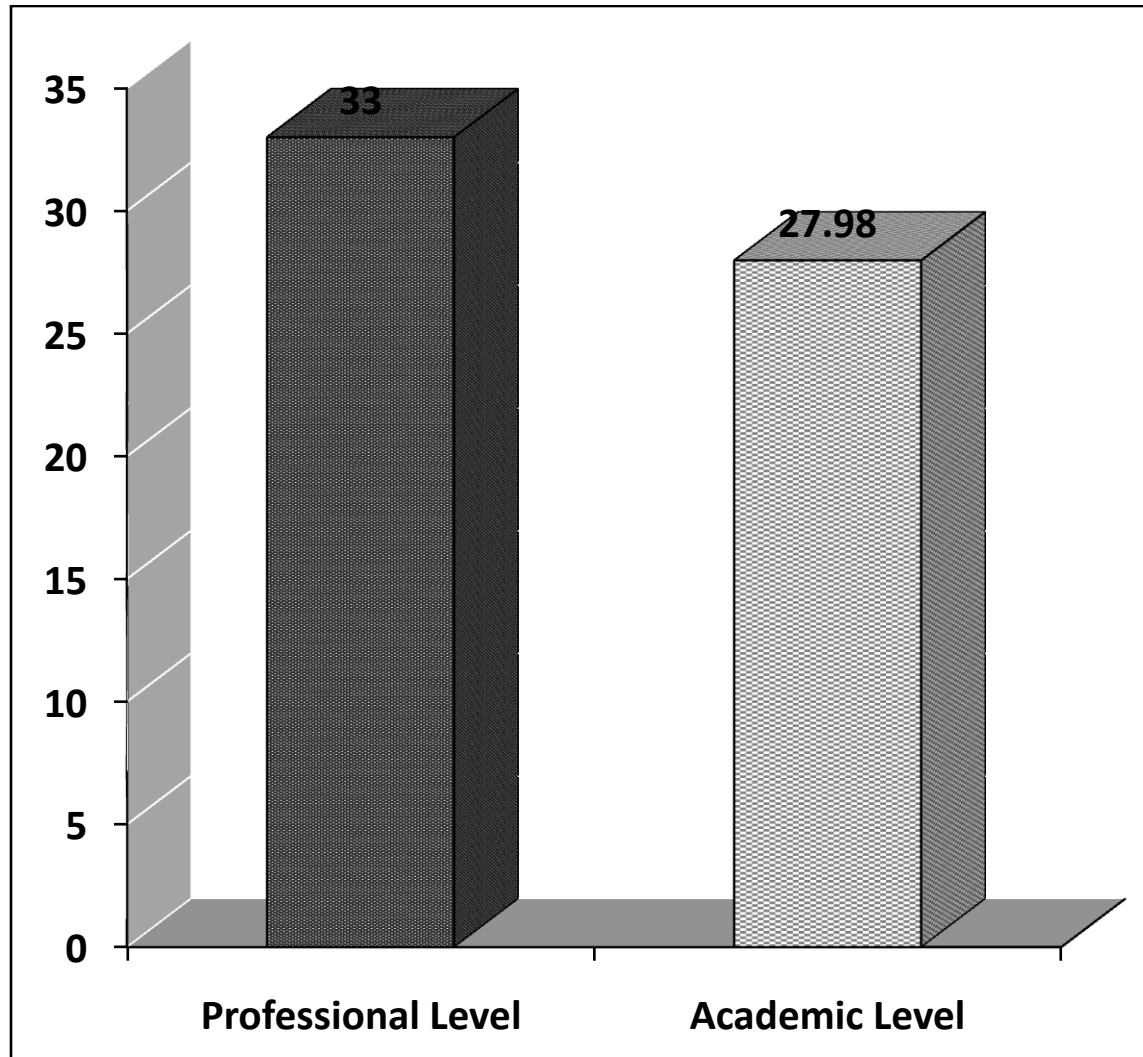


Fig.-3 Showing the Mean score of Professional and Academic Level Students Regarding Attitude and Perception of Students Towards Distance Learning

## MAIN FINDINGS

- There is no significant difference in attitude and perception between the male and female post graduate students towards distance learning. It indicated that both male and female students' post graduate students had same attitude towards distance learning
- There is a significant difference in attitude and perception between the urban and rural post graduate students towards distance learning. It indicated that both Urban and rural post graduate students had different attitude towards distance learning.
- There is a significant difference in attitude and perception between the professional and general post graduate students towards distance learning. It indicated that both professional

and general stream post graduate students had different attitude towards distance learning.

## **EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATION**

With the delivery of distance learning in today's society, the changing roles of both the teacher and the learner need to be seriously considered. This is particularly relevant with the use of new technologies to deliver courses in locations with entirely different cultural and academic traditions. International education of this kind currently faces difficulties in facilitating cross-cultural learning. While problems of limited communications technologies, lack of teacher training, inadequate competence of university administration and general cultural differences may be known, global changes call for the development of new pedagogies with new communication technologies in ways, which are sensitive to issues of cultural diversity. The result of the present study indicated that there is no significant difference in attitude between male and female post graduate students towards distance learning, the findings implicated to the all the students of higher education to enrolled more and more in different course of distance education.

Further the findings of the present study also reveals that there is a significant difference between urban and rural post graduate students in their attitude towards distance learning and rural students have not so good attitude towards the distance education, so awareness programme should be given to the rural areas students. Following suggestion may be give for making positive attitude towards distance education.

- The students have to be motivated for the extensive use of internet.
- The teacher can help the student with extra study material and time while sitting at home.
- Proper training programme have to be conducted in outside the colleges for training the teacher. The extensive use of interne in instruction and its application for personalized instruction should be taught to them periodically.

The attitude towards post graduate students for open and distance learning to developed among colleges by designing special curriculum and this deserves attention in view of the educational need of the country.

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