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The reality and prospects of distance education and its impact on education

in Iraq

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Abstract

In recent years, distance education has emerged as a promising approach to education delivery, especially in countries with limited access to traditional educational resources. In Iraq, where the education system has been severely affected by conflict and infrastructural challenges, distance education offers new possibilities and opportunities. This article aims to explore the impact of distance education in Iraq, both in terms of its current reality and its future prospects. The main argument of this article is that distance education can transform and revolutionize the educational landscape in Iraq by providing access to quality education for all, and overcoming the barriers of time, space and resources. By examining existing research, case studies, and experiences, the article will highlight the potential benefits and challenges of distance education in Iraq. , such as its impact on access to education, the quality of learning, and the role of teachers.

Keywords : Distance Learning; Education obstacles, prospects, education reality.

ملخص: في السنوات الأخيرة، برز التعليم عن بعد باعتباره نهجا واعدا لتقديم التعليم، وخاصة في البلدان ذات الوصول المحدود إلى الموارد التعليمية التقليدية. في العراق، حيث تأثر نظام التعليم بشدة بسبب الصراع وتحديات البنية التحتية، يوفر التعليم عن بعد إمكانيات وفرصًا جديدة. يهدف هذا المقال إلى استكشاف أثر التعليم عن بعد في العراق، سواء من حيث واقعه الحالي أو آفاقه المستقبلية. الحجة الرئيسية لهذا المقال هي أن التعليم عن بعد يمكن أن يحول ويحدث ثورة في المشهد التعليمي في العراق من خلال توفير الوصول إلى التعليم الجيد للجميع، والتغلب على حواجز الوقت والمكان والموارد. ومن خلال دراسة الأبحاث الحالية ودراسات الحالة والتجارب، ستسلط المقالة الضوء على الفوائد والتحديات المحتملة للتعليم عن بعد في العراق. ، مثل تأثيره على الوصول إلى التعليم، وجودة التعلم، ودور المعلمين. الكليات المفتاحية: التعليم عن بعد؛ معوقات التعليم، آفاق التعليم، واقع التعليم.



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Introduction

Distance education has become a growing trend in the field of higher education, especially in developing countries such as Iraq. Recent advances in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) have made it possible for universities and institutions to provide high-quality education to students without actually being on campus. This article aims to explore the reality and prospects of distance education in Iraq, and its impact on the public education system by studying various sources such as international books, magazines and newspapers.

The reality of distance education in Iraq

Before discussing the prospects for distance education in Iraq, it is necessary to understand the current state of education in the country. Given that Iraq has been facing political instability, economic crisis and frequent conflicts over the past few decades, the educational infrastructure has suffered greatly. Schools and universities are often affected by these conflicts, which makes it difficult for students to continue their studies.

Despite these challenges, distance education has grown significantly in Iraq over the past few years. Universities such as the University of Baghdad and Al-Mustansiriya University have begun to offer distance learning programs in various disciplines, allowing students from remote areas or those who face movement restrictions due to security concerns to obtain a quality education. The Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research also launched the



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Virtual University Project, which aims to provide online courses to thousands of Iraqi students.

The impact of distance education on education in Iraq

Distance education holds great potential to improve the quality of education and increase access to higher education opportunities for students across Iraq. It provides many advantages Of which:

1. Accessibility: Students from rural and remote areas can access higher education without having to leave their hometowns or villages, overcoming geographical barriers that may limit their opportunities.

2. Flexibility: Distance learning programs help working professionals to pursue further studies alongside their jobs without having to leave their workplace.¹

3. Cost Effectiveness: Online courses can be less expensive than traditional on-campus education, which helps more students access higher education.

4. Inclusivity: Distance education can provide opportunities for women and other marginalized groups who may face social or cultural barriers to accessing traditional on-campus education.

Prospects of distance education in Iraq

While distance education is gradually making its way into the Iraqi educational system, there are many challenges that must be addressed to unleash its full potential. Some of these challenges include:



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1. Infrastructure: Adequate technological infrastructure, including a stable Internet connection and reliable power supply, is critical to the successful implementation of distance learning programmes.

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2. Quality Assurance: Ensuring the quality of online courses and assessment methods to meet international standards and accreditation requirements is essential to the credibility and effectiveness of distance education in Iraq.

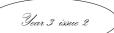
3. Teacher training: Providing appropriate training and professional development opportunities for teachers to adapt their teaching methods to the online environment can improve online course delivery and student outcomes.

4. Student support services: Providing guidance, counseling, and support systems to students participating in distance learning can help them overcome challenges and adapt to a new learning style.

A. A brief overview of distance education

Distance education, also known as online learning or e-learning, is an education method in which students can access instructions and educational resources remotely, without being physically present in a traditional classroom. This approach to education has gained immense popularity in recent years, thanks to advances in technology and the increasing accessibility of the Internet.

In the academic field, distance education has emerged as an intelligent and informative research field, which has attracted the attention of scholars and



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researchers around the world. This educational format allows students to interact with course materials, interact with instructors, and collaborate with their peers, all through virtual platforms and digital tools.²

The benefits of distance education are multiple. First, it provides flexibility and convenience, allowing learners to study at their own pace and at their own convenience. This is particularly useful for individuals with personal or professional obligations that make attending traditional face-to-face classes difficult. Distance education also expands access to education, enabling individuals in remote areas or those with physical disabilities to pursue their educational goals without the limitations of location or physical presence.

Moreover, distance education promotes lifelong learning and enhances digital literacy skills. As students navigate online platforms, they develop critical thinking and problem-solving abilities, as well as their proficiency in using cutting-edge technologies. These skills are highly sought after in today's rapidly evolving digital landscape.³

However, distance education is not without challenges. Students must have self-discipline and motivation to stay on track in their studies, as not having a structured classroom environment requires a higher level of personal responsibility. In addition, effective communication and collaboration over the Internet can sometimes present difficulties, as nonverbal cues and face-to-face interactions are limited in the default settings.

To mitigate these challenges, distance education institutions and educators use different strategies. This includes implementing robust learning



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management systems, promoting effective online communication channels, and providing comprehensive support services to ensure optimal student engagement and success. In addition, continuous research and innovations in instructional design and technology continue to improve and improve distance education practices.

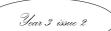
B. The importance of distance education in the modern era

Distance education has become increasingly important in the modern era. This style of education provides many benefits and opportunities to learners all over the world. It allows students to get a quality education without being restricted by geographical or time constraints.

The importance of distance education lies in its ability to provide equal opportunities for individuals who may not be able to access traditional educational institutions. With distance education, geographical barriers are no longer a barrier to learning. Students can enroll in programs offered by prestigious universities and institutions from the comfort of their homes, eliminating the need for relocation or commuting.

Furthermore, distance education encourages self-discipline and independent learning. Students who engage in distance learning have the opportunity to develop important skills such as time management, organization, and effective communication. These skills are highly valued in the modern workforce, as remote work and online collaboration become increasingly prevalent.

In addition, distance education provides flexibility and convenience. Learners are free to study at their own pace and on their own schedule. This flexibility



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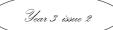
allows individuals with other responsibilities, such as a full-time job or family obligations, to pursue education without sacrificing their current commitments.

Moreover, distance education includes innovative techniques and teaching methods. Online platforms, multimedia resources and interactive content enhance the learning experience, making it engaging and dynamic. The integration of virtual classrooms and discussion forums enhances collaboration and interaction among students, creating a supportive online learning community.⁴

In the fast-paced and ever-changing world we live in, distance education has become a critical component of lifelong learning. It enables individuals to continuously update their knowledge and skills, and keep pace with progress in their fields of specialization. Distance education enables learners to adapt to new challenges and stay relevant in the evolving job market.

Distance education offers tremendous value in the modern era. Its ability to provide equal opportunity for education, promote self-discipline and independent learning, provide flexibility and convenience, embrace technology, and support lifelong learning, makes it an indispensable tool for individuals seeking to enhance their knowledge and skills. And as we move forward, distance education will continue to shape the future of education, making quality learning opportunities available to learners around the world.

C- Distance education in Iraq:



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In recent years, distance education has received a lot of attention in Iraq due to technological developments and the growing need to expand the scope of education. Distance education is a modern approach that contributes to easing the burdens on those in charge of educational institutions and ensuring that educational opportunities reach wider segments of students. The use of this approach comes to enrich the educational material smart and knowledge, by taking advantage of the capabilities of information technology.

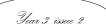
D- features education on after in the Iraq:

There are different forms of distance education. In addition to using social media platforms to deliver educational content to children, researchers are keen to search for the best methods and methods and study the feasibility of courses with the aim of discovering new horizons.

The spread of distance education in Iraq has generated many benefits for its population. As an academic researcher, I would like to address the advantages that have emerged as a result of this shift in the educational paradigm.

First and foremost, distance education in Iraq relieved many of the geographic restrictions that have traditionally impeded access to quality education, especially for individuals residing in remote or conflict-ridden areas. The advent of online learning platforms enables students who were previously denied educational opportunities to now actively participate in their intellectual pursuits, regardless of their physical location.

Secondly, distance education promotes an inclusive environment by meeting the needs of individuals with diverse learning needs and styles. For example,



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students with disabilities may find it difficult to travel or adjust to traditional classroom settings. With distance education, these barriers can be overcome through virtual environments that are tailored to achieve the best learning efficiency. Moreover, distance education facilitates the democratization of learning resources as students, regardless of their socio-economic backgrounds, can access without restrictions the lectures and courses offered by the schools. Experienced teachers and famous institutions around the world. This expansion of academic access effectively promotes the dissemination of knowledge and fosters intellectual growth among the Iraqi people.

Additionally, the flexibility inherent in distance education enables learners to balance personal obligations with academic pursuits. Asynchronous course offerings allow students to consume educational content at their convenience without being bound by rigid class schedules.

Finally, it is Important To recognize that distance education provides an opportunity to develop digital literacy and other complementary skills that are indispensable in today's competitive job market. By engaging with online platforms and taking advantage of cutting-edge technologies, Iraqi learners can acquire a well-equipped skill set to meet contemporary challenges. Among these advantages:

1- Flexibility and ease of access:

Distance education has undoubtedly given many advantages to the educational landscape in Iraq. By addressing geographic constraints,





promoting inclusivity, democratizing resources, providing flexibility and enhancing the acquisition of digital skills, they are a transformative force reshaping the future of education in the country. 5

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Distance education, also known as online learning, offers several advantages in Iraq in terms of flexibility and accessibility. This modern approach to education enables students to overcome various barriers and gain knowledge from the comfort of their homes or wherever there is access to the internet.

One of the primary advantages of distance education in Iraq is its flexibility. Traditional education often requires students to adhere to strict schedules and attend classes in person. However, with distance education, learners have the freedom to create their own study schedules, allowing them to balance their educational endeavors with other commitments, such as work or family responsibilities. This flexibility enables individuals who may not have the means or opportunity to attend a physical institution to pursue their education at their own pace.

Moreover, distance education enhances accessibility in Iraq. Many individuals in remote areas of the country may face geographic or financial constraints that make it difficult to access traditional educational institutions. Distance education removes these barriers by enabling students to access high-quality educational resources and communicate with teachers remotely. This increased accessibility ensures that no one is left behind in the pursuit of knowledge, regardless of their location or socioeconomic background.



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Another advantage of distance education is the ability to customize the learning experience. Through online platforms, students can access a wide range of digital resources, including interactive lectures, multimedia materials, and collaborative tools. This enables learners to tailor their learning experience to their individual needs and preferences, allowing them to understand concepts more effectively. In addition, distance education often provides self-learning opportunities, enabling students to review and enhance their understanding of course materials as needed.

Moreover, distance education promotes inclusivity by accommodating diverse learning styles and abilities. Online learning platforms can be designed to cater to different learning modalities, providing visual, audio and kinesthetic resources that accommodate a wide range of learners. This inclusiveness ensures that students with different learning styles can succeed and achieve their academic goals.

Distance education in Iraq offers significant advantages in terms of flexibility and accessibility. It allows individuals to pursue their educational aspirations without being hindered by geographical or financial constraints. The flexibility of online learning enables students to seize educational opportunities while balancing other commitments, and the personal nature of distance education enables learners to tailor their educational experiences to suit their unique needs. In addition, distance education promotes inclusivity by accommodating diverse learning styles and abilities. By embracing distance education, Iraq can harness the potential of technology, provide quality



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education to its citizens, and promote intellectual growth and development across the country.

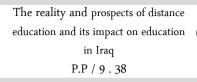
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2- Cost effectiveness:

Distance education in Iraq eliminates the need for physical infrastructure, such as classrooms and lecture halls. By using online platforms and digital resources, educational institutions can significantly reduce expenses related to building maintenance, facilities and other overhead costs. This costeffectiveness allows more funds to be allocated to enhance the quality of education by improving study materials and teaching methods.

Moreover, distance education provides access to a wide range of educational opportunities for individuals residing in remote areas or those who are unable to attend traditional institutions. For example, students in rural areas of Iraq are now able to obtain a high-quality education without the need for extensive travel and associated expenses. The democratization of education enables learners from all backgrounds to pursue their academic goals and bridge the educational gap that may exist.

Moreover, distance education provides flexibility in terms of scheduling and learning pace. Students can access study materials and lectures at their convenience, allowing them to balance their education with personal and professional commitments. This flexibility is especially helpful for working adults who may find it difficult to attend classes with a set time. By adapting to individual learning styles and preferences, distance education promotes a more engaging and personal learning experience.



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In addition, distance education promotes the effective use of technology and digital resources. Students enrolled in online courses develop valuable digital literacy skills, which are becoming increasingly necessary in a globally connected and technology-driven world. These skills not only enhance their academic pursuits, but also increase their employability and willingness to adapt to rapidly evolving work environments.

Distance education in Iraq facilitates cultural exchange and cooperation between students from diverse backgrounds. Online discussion forums and group projects encourage interaction and the exchange of ideas, which fosters a multicultural learning environment. This intercultural dialogue enables students to develop a global perspective, critical thinking skills, and empathy towards different cultures and viewpoints.

Distance education in Iraq offers many advantages, particularly in terms of cost-effectiveness. As an academic researcher, I have highlighted the benefits of this educational approach, including its potential to provide access to education in remote areas, flexibility for students, the development of digital literacy, and the promotion of cross-cultural collaboration. By harnessing the potential of distance education, Iraq can expand educational opportunities and enable learners to reach their full potential.

3- Opportunities available to the marginalized population:

In recent years, distance education has emerged as a viable and promising option for spreading knowledge in Iraq. This pedagogical method provides various benefits and opportunities to marginalized populations, enabling them



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overcome the barriers of distance, socio-economic status, political to instability, and cultural obstacles. Through a critical examination of distance education in Iraq, this discourse will explore the way in which it empowers traditionally disadvantaged groups and promotes an environment conducive to intellectual growth and social development.

One of the most notable benefits of distance education is its ability to democratize access to learning resources. In a country wracked by conflict, many Iraqis live in remote areas with limited educational facilities. Distance education offers individuals across the country the opportunity to participate in courses that might otherwise be inaccessible, thereby dismantling geographic barriers to educational attainment.

Furthermore, this method of teaching is often more cost effective than traditional alternatives. Given the financial hardships that many Iraqis face today, distance education can provide a way to acquire new skills and qualifications without further exacerbating the financial pressures on families and communities.

Distance education also plays a critical role in advancing gender equality by providing flexible educational opportunities for women who may face conservative societal norms that limit their educational mobility. Through online platforms and mobile applications, women can pursue their studies from their homes while balancing family responsibilities.⁶

By addressing another aspect of marginalization, distance learning offers significant benefits to individuals with physical disabilities or chronic health



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problems. Digital access features allow these learners to interact with course content more easily than is possible in a traditional classroom.

Finally, with regard to cultural diversity within Iraq's borders, distance education transcends linguistic and ethnic boundaries by making it possible to collaborate with fellow learners from different regions and backgrounds. This promotes a sense of inclusion and belonging while promoting cross-cultural understanding.

Distance education is a powerful equalizing force within Iraqi society because it provides marginalized populations with greater access to educational opportunities. By harnessing the transformative potential of digital technologies, Iraq has an opportunity to build.

H-hindrances Facing distance education in Iraq :It is these challenges

1- . Technological limitations:

The constraints posed by insufficient infrastructure support represent a formidable obstacle to Iraq's attempt to promote an efficient and effective distance education system. For example, the dearth of high-quality platforms has led teachers to rely on less sophisticated tools, thus compromising the range of academic activities that can be done remotely. The lack of advanced technologies such as learning management systems (LMS) and virtual classrooms puts a huge strain on both teachers and students alike, hindering collaboration, assessment, and overall coherence in curriculum delivery.

Internet connection is another major challenge in Iraq. Slow and erratic connections are endemic across the country, with rural areas in particular



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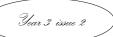
suffering from a severe lack of connectivity or access to broadband services. Students often have difficulty engaging with online resources and participating in real-time discussions due to frequent communication glitches and limited bandwidth available. Thus, the potential synergy between learners and teachers unfortunately remains unrealized.

Moreover, rates of digital literacy among students and teachers is an additional major barrier. Despite the concerted efforts of government institutions and international organizations, many individuals involved in Iraqi higher education continue to engage with digital tools essential to modern teaching methods. The absence of robust training programs to facilitate technological fluency has exacerbated this imbalance. Navigating this complex terrain requires continuous skill improvement that is adaptable and resourceful.⁷

Finally, adequate funding for distance learning initiatives is a major constraint. Inadequate budget allocations impede the development of effective digital infrastructure, which impedes the creation of comprehensive e-learning platforms capable of meeting the needs of diverse learners across Iraq. Investments in digital resources remain critical not only for enhancing access to education but also for breaking down societal barriers and promoting equitable opportunities for growth and advancement.

Resistance to change in traditional teaching methods poses a major challenge to the successful implementation and acceptance of distance education in Iraq.

2. Resistance to change in traditional teaching methods



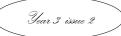
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Resistance to change stems from various factors, both cultural and institutional. In the conservative Iraqi society, ingrained values shape the mentality of both teachers and students alike, leading to skepticism towards new teaching techniques. The firm belief that classroom learning is the only path to academic success can hinder progressive transformations within the educational sector.

Another contributing factor is the lack of adequate resources to promote effective distance learning. Constraints include inconsistent access to stable internet connections, scarcity of digital content in local languages, and insufficient support for teachers transitioning from traditional classrooms to online platforms. These challenges exacerbate concerns surrounding technology-based learning and may prevent education stakeholders from adopting new approaches.

Moreover, misleading perceptions regarding the quality of distance education could hinder its widespread adoption within Iraqi society. The lack of direct interaction between teachers and students may raise concerns about an apparent lack of depth of learning or encourage academic dishonesty.

To mobilize enthusiasm for distance education in Iraq, a paradigm shift must be made. One that addresses not only infrastructural deficiencies but also deeply rooted cultural tendencies regarding teaching methodologies. This may include promoting dialogue between policy makers, educational institutions, faculty, students and parents about the capabilities and benefits offered by distance education.



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It is undeniable that systemic transformation will not happen overnight; However, continued efforts will be instrumental in overcoming these challenges. Successful integration has the potential to maximize access to education within Iraq, thus promoting personal development while contributing to national progress in this increasingly interconnected world.

Ultimately, adopting a multidisciplinary approach that includes collaboration from all stakeholders can lead to the critical acceptance of distance education in Iraq, paving the way for a brighter future.

3. Education quality and accreditation-related concerns:

The field of distance education in Iraq has witnessed great developments in recent years, thanks to the rapid spread of technology and the Internet. However, significant challenges remain, hindering the full realization of its ability to provide quality and accessible education to all. The two most significant barriers include ensuring the quality of educational content and accreditation concerns in this evolving landscape.

Education quality is undoubtedly a vital factor that determines the overall effectiveness and impact of distance learning. It is clear that there is a dearth of standards for evaluating and measuring the quality of educational materials provided through digital platforms. This shortcoming makes identifying best practices a daunting task, which in turn raises doubts about the effectiveness of distance learning. There is an urgent need to develop comprehensive guidelines that will make it easier for institutions to design sound educational curricula for their remote courses.



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Another concern that exacerbates existing skepticism about distance education is accreditation concerns. Ensuring the authenticity and legitimacy of distance learning degrees remains paramount to both students and employers. Aspirants are often reluctant to choose virtual courses over traditional courses due to concerns about potential devaluation and not being recognized by other employers or universities. Thus, establishing standardized accreditation standards that unambiguously convey trustworthiness and competence requires prompt attention.

Addressing these challenges requires a collaborative effort involving various stakeholders such as government agencies, educational institutions, accreditation agencies and the students themselves. To improve the status quo of distance learning in Iraq, it is necessary to pool resources together and formulate strategic policies capable of ensuring not only access to education but also its unquestionable quality. Through the combined efforts of all stakeholders, it is possible to create an inspiring and transformative experience that matches international standards while adapting to local requirements.

While distance education shows huge potential to revolutionize the educational landscape in Iraq, it cannot flourish unless concerted efforts are made to address pressing issues around quality assurance and accreditation. The way forward involves many players in promoting understanding and exchange

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1. The possibility of innovation in teaching methods Quantitative Methods:

There is no doubt that distance education paved the way for the liberation of traditional teaching methodologies in Iraq. This newfound academic freedom ushered in an era characterized by the exploration of diverse educational practices, which in turn led to a renaissance in the educational field. By harnessing various technological developments, teachers now have an unparalleled opportunity to reshape their teaching methods and forge new approaches to teaching.

One of the most notable aspects of this innovative horizon is the adoption of student-centered learning modules. Supported by distance learning, these modules encourage learners to interact proactively with learning materials, fostering a sense of intellectual curiosity and strength. This educational development empowers students, transforming them from passive recipients into active contributors to the learning process.

Moreover, the dynamics of asynchronous learning generated a growing sense of inclusivity in the Iraqi educational field. Students from different cultural backgrounds and socio-economic statuses can now access quality education without being restricted by geographic restrictions or time barriers. This inclusive environment fosters diversity and promotes equality among learners, providing a channel for societal growth and community development.

Moreover, the introduction of e-learning platforms and digital tools has facilitated interdisciplinary collaboration between educators coming from



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different fields. This merging of knowledge sources has stimulated scholarly discourses that make the learning experience more powerful and enriching for all stakeholders.

Distance education has stimulated a remarkable shift in the Iraqi educational paradigm by promoting countless opportunities for innovation in teaching methods. As technology continues to advance at an astonishing rate, one can only assume that these new educational practices will gain momentum – and thus revolutionize how education is viewed, promulgated, and consumed within contemporary society.

2- Qualitative methods: interviews with teachers, students, and experts

The transformative effects of distance education on the Iraqi educational system have been nothing short of remarkable, leading to a radical shift in teaching and learning paradigms and fostering greater student involvement and engagement. As we dig deeper into this phenomenon, we uncover a wealth of insights that not only highlight the benefits for Iraqi educational institutions, but also provide a blueprint for other countries striving for similar improvements in their own education landscape.

One of the noteworthy results of the implementation of distance education in Iraq has been the enhancement of student participation. Traditionally, classroom settings have relied largely on educational methods that place students in passive roles, ultimately stifling their active participation in shaping their learning experiences. At the same time, distance education has led to the emergence of a large number of tools and platforms that empower



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learners by encouraging them to actively participate and play an essential role in their educational progress. By doing so, students are now more motivated and invested in their academic pursuits - a confluence that truly enhances the best use of their abilities.

Moreover, participation rates reflect an upward trajectory in areas of the Iraqi educational system since the advent of distance learning. One factor contributing to this trend is the increased accessibility that virtual learning methods provide to students who may face geographic, financial, or logistical constraints. This phenomenon has expanded the pool of academic talent that might not have been able to be tapped in the absence of distance learning opportunities.

Furthermore, when students interact with each other in virtual environments unencumbered by social and cultural inhibitions or expectations, they are more likely to express their ideas openly—a scenario that fosters peer interactions as well as student-teacher collaboration. This dynamic promotes a richer exchange of viewpoints, thus enabling learners to develop critical thinking skills and lay the foundation for constructive discussions within academic discourse.⁸

Therefore, the adoption of distance education curricula within the Iraqi educational system has had transformative effects on traditional teaching methods - the most important of which is the amplification of student engagement and participation. As other nations wrestle.

J- Research and analysis methods:



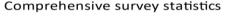
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Quantitative methods: structured questionnaires and empirical data analysis 1.

The research used the structured questionnaire as a valuable tool to collect data from the various entities concerned with distance education in Iraq. By crafting carefully designed questions, we can uncover key aspects Of which :Did the remote teaching method succeed in Iraq ?And did the distance teaching process affect the reality of education in Iraq? Has the distance teaching process developed the reality of education in Iraq? Have you achieved an increase in the number of students enrolled in the educational process? Did you leave a negative impact on the teacher? Do you prefer distance education? Through this quantitative method, we can achieve objective measures of the current landscape and identify areas for improvement.

According to the electronic survey conducted by the researcher, as indicated in the survey, which was analyzed online

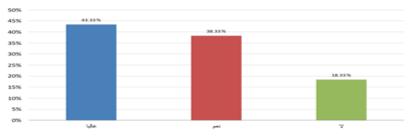
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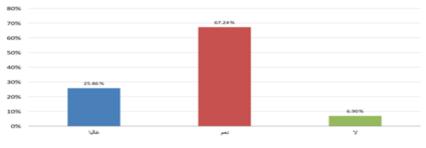




Q1. Did the remote teaching method succeed in Iraq?

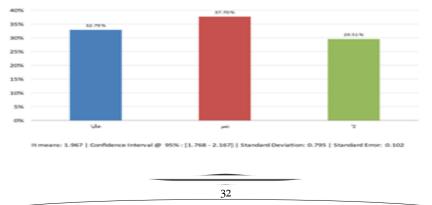
It means: 1.750 | Confidence Interval @ 95% : [1.560 - 1.940] | Standard Deviation: 0.751 | Standard Error: 0.097

Q2. Has the remote teaching process affected the reality of education in Iraq?

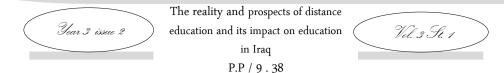


It means: 1.810 | Confidence Interval @ 95% : [1.670 - 1.951] | Standard Deviation: 0.545 | Standard Error: 0.072

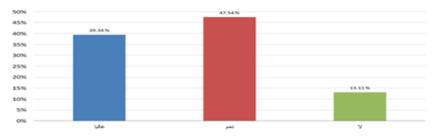




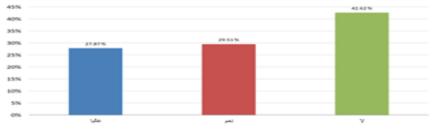
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Q4 Have you achieved an increase in the number of students enrolled in the educational process?

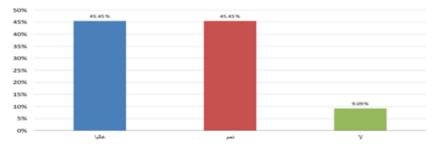


It means: 1.738 | Confidence Interval @ 95%: [1.567 - 1.909] | Standard Deviation: 0.681 | Standard Error: 0.087



Q5. Did you leave a negative impact on the teacher?

It means: 2.148 | Confidence Interval @ 95% : [1.938 - 2.357] | Standard Deviation: 0.833 | Standard Error: 0.107



Do you think that the efficiency of the Internet in Iraq is sufficient for distance learning through it?

It means: 1.636 | Confidence Interval @ 95% : [1.238 - 2.035] | Standard Deviation: 0.674 | Standard Error: 0.203

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Qualitative methods: interviews with teachers, students, and experts 2.

Educators highlighted the need for a robust technology infrastructure to support distance learning. They stressed the importance of reliable internet connectivity, access to devices, and appropriate training for teachers to effectively deliver online education. On the other hand, students appreciated the flexibility offered by distance education, allowing them to balance their studies with other responsibilities. Additionally, experts provided nuanced perspectives, recognizing the potential of distance education to bridge education gaps in Iraq and promote lifelong learning.

This research endeavor revealed that distance education in Iraq holds enormous potential to transform the educational landscape. However, it also highlights various challenges, such as the digital divide and the need for tailored pedagogical curricula that are suitable for the online learning environment. Addressing these challenges requires concerted efforts from policy makers, educators, and education stakeholders. By making use of the insights gained from this study, a strategic roadmap can be developed to effectively utilize the benefits of distance education in Iraq.⁹

The reality and prospects of distance education in Iraq are complex and multifaceted. Through qualitative methods, including interviews with teachers, students, and experts, a comprehensive understanding of the topic was achieved. This research emphasizes the importance of investing in technological infrastructure, addressing the digital divide, and improving educational methods to fully realize the potential of distance education in Iraq. With this knowledge, policy makers and educators can work to build a



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flexible and inclusive education system that empowers learners and prepares them to face the challenges of the future.

conclusion:

a. Summary of key findings on the status and potential outcomes of distance education in Iraq:

Distance education in Iraq has gained remarkable momentum in recent years, driven by advances in digital technology and the necessity imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The current situation of distance education reveals a great desire among students and teachers to adopt online learning systems. However, educational infrastructures and internet connectivity pose significant challenges to harnessing the full potential of distance learning in Iraq.¹⁰

Through a careful analysis of contemporary literature, the main findings indicate that distance education has improved access to educational opportunities for individuals living in rural or conflict-prone areas. Moreover, it promotes flexibility and accommodates diverse learning styles. However, there are many issues that need to be considered, including digital knowledge gaps, inadequate teacher training in virtual education, and inequitable distribution of educational resources.¹¹

B. the Recommendations for improving distance education in Iraq:

To promote distance education within the Iraqi educational system, policymakers must prioritize strategic investments and comprehensive reform efforts. The following recommendations identify actionable steps:



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1. Strengthening digital infrastructure by expanding broadband coverage, addressing Internet stability concerns, and supporting Internet access for disadvantaged students.

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2. Enhancing the educational capabilities of teachers through specialized training programs that focus on distance teaching methodologies, the use of digital tools, and student participation methods.

3. Developing a national e-learning platform equipped with diverse curricular content across subjects, language options, and multimedia resources.

4. Enhancing cooperation between educational institutions at various levels to exchange resources, experiences and best practices in implementing successful initiatives.

5. Active partnerships with international organizations for technical assistance, knowledge exchange and financial support. 12

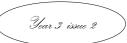
c. Future prospects for distance education within the Iraqi educational system: The future prospects for distance education remain promising as Iraq continues to invest in modernizing the education sector through innovative methods and technologies. By addressing the critical challenges posed by limited infrastructure capabilities and systemic gaps, Iraq can advance its education system into the twenty-first century.¹³

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