

QUALITY STANDARDS IN DISTANCE EDUCATION

Betül Tonbulođlu
Yıldız Teknik Üniversitesi
betultonbuloglu@gmail.com

Yrd. Doç. Dr. Hasan Aydın
Yıldız Teknik Üniversitesi
aydinh@yildiz.edu.tr

Abstract

Distance education programs have been steadily becoming widespread nowadays, which brings along the problem of quality. Accreditation in distance education has become indispensable for overcoming such problems. Having an international scope, addressing people from any group and allowing lifelong learning, distance education should contain certain quality standards so that its similarity to face to face education in terms of quality will be certified, and diplomas or certificates to be granted to students will be considered valid at different institutions. There are numerous studies which point out to negative aspects of the lack of organization in the current distance education programs in Turkey in frame of certain standards, and the lack of assessment of such education. Despite this situation, studies rather address accessibility and practicality than focusing upon improvement of quality in distance education. As for the current situation across the world, there are bodies accrediting institutions which carry out much more extensive studies and perform activity in field of distance education. This study examines the standards published by international accreditation bodies on distance education and gives suggestions as to how universities providing distance education can perform a quality assessment and development study in respect of the quality of their education.

Key Words: Distance education, quality standards, accreditation.