

## AN APPROACH FOR STRUCTURING DISTANCE EDUCATION PROGRAMS: SOCIAL NETWORK SYNTHESIS

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### Abstract

Developments in information and communication technologies has led both the Distance Education be more preferred and the teaching-learning and communication processes to change. In this regard, one form of this process can be considered as social networking. Social networks have the potential of providing access to more resources and improving the quality of communication and interaction and this potential can be used to structure distance education programs. For this purpose, based on Social Network Theory, synthesis process can be carried out. The so-called Social Network Synthesis approach is thought to allow for the establishment of optimum relations between the concerned individuals, institutions, resources and tools. In this study, this approach which can be summarized as '*determining actors which should take place and relationships between them in a social network to be developed for a certain purpose*' has been introduced, then an illustrative framework that can be used for structuring Distance Education programs is presented.

**Key Words:** Distance Education Programs, Social Network Theory, Social Network Synthesis.