

# Issues of distance higher education in the Arab region

## **Abstract :**

Whereas distance education has a long history in some parts of the world, the Arab region's experience with this mode of education dates back only two decades. This paper briefly highlights the current efforts in utilizing distance higher education in the Arab region, and analyzes the challenges of higher education with respect to investing reasonable efforts in this promising area. The paper also points out the key beneficiaries of adopting this mode of education. Those beneficiaries encompass three groups, include fresh secondary school graduates, adult employees, and underserved groups such as Arab females and people under political and geographic constraints. The paper concludes with some suggestions for better meeting the needs of these groups .