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## Sustaining and Enhancing the Quality of ODL

**Symbiosis Centre for Distance Learning**

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Symbiosis Centre for Distance Learning (SCDL), Pune, is one of the largest autonomous distance learning educational institutions in India. In this day and age, distance learning looks beyond traditional reference books and course-end assessments. Online and Distance Learning (ODL) is the need of the hour in a young country such as India, as it makes higher education available to aspiring youth as well as adult learners, and reaches out to the unreached in the remotest corners of this vast nation. It is one of the best modes of increasing the GER in higher education at almost one fifth the cost. ODL institutions are in a sense great contributors to the national cause of making available higher education to the physically, socially, financially and locationally challenged youth of our country. Technology is a game-changer as it has brought about a paradigm shift in the teaching-learning and evaluation pedagogies and facilitated this process.

Although distance education is considered one of the most relevant options available to us, to improve the status of higher education, there are some critical quality-related issues which need to be addressed. Therefore, the central theme of the inaugural issue of the peer-reviewed, refereed, international, interdisciplinary, bi-annual research journal of Symbiosis Centre for Distance Learning is 'Sustaining and Enhancing the Quality of ODL'.

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