# Transcription of interview MMII VT19

[**SEMI STRUCTURED INTERVIEW-FACE TO FACE. RECORDING WAS AGREED BEFORE START. CONDUCTED 2019-04-10 IN- D1-AT DSV-KISTA, 14:00.02**]

Hi how are you?

**IP:** **Yeah.. I am fine…**

I'm Soher Alghibar, I am a student of masters in Information System Management. And I have a research course that required semi structured interviews for qualitative analysis.

**IP: Okay…**

And I have to ask you some questions about distance learning courses and their pros and cons.

## IP: Okay… Fine

This is good. First I should tell you about my topic It is about the students’ experiences of distance learning. You know that it is very common these days that the universities apply the online learning on some of the courses in their programs for both Bachler and Master. Besides they have many programs which students can take on distance. I mean that the students can interact with teachers and other students online without meeting face to face. And as you know this kind of learning is applied on DSV.

**IP: Yes it is right**

And this is type of education can effect with negative or positive way. So now the main idea of our research to describe the user's perception of distance learning. Is your experience of distance courses negative or positive? Have you any suggestions which make the distance learning better?

**IP: Yes, it is good topic**

So are you ready?

**IP: yes, sure**

Good. My first question is in your opinion, what are the positive experiences of distance learning? I mean both previous and current experiences.

**IP:** the most prominent benefit that distance learning has is that it provides flexibility. We can study when we it suits us and manage our study schedule as per our needs. We are free to choose when to complete a certain topic and decide at what pace the learning should be carried out. Distance learning is also good for working professional, they can study whenever they have free time.

OK, now my question is In your opinion, please explain what are the negative experiences of distance learning for both previous and current experiences?

**IP:** Sometimes I feel, distance courses provide too much flexibility that a student stops taking the essence of time seriously. They become relaxed and leave the learning part of the course to the end. And if the course is quite complex, the student can even panic because of this. Right now I have 2 distance courses, however, we have periodic deadlines, one drawback I experience is the interaction with teachers, it gets reduced. And we cannot explain everything to them on online learning platforms.

So from your opinion, how can these negative experiences you have described above be remedied?

**IP:** There should be assignments at certain intervals throughout the course. Assignments can help students to stay on track while covering the courses. And active participation of teachers with the students. As I said earlier it’s difficult to interact and explain our doubts clearly through mail or forum posts, to counter this problem, other ways of communication should also be included, such as voice and video chats.

Yes, if you chose to study before or think to study in future, tell me, why do you choose to study through distance learning instead of the conventional way of attending day classes?

**IP:** I would not like to choose distance study over conventional way. I personally feel that it’s always better to study on campus and interact with peers and teachers rather than studying courses from distance.

So you prefer conventional learning?

**IP:** Yes

Ok, I suppose that you will study online, How have you benefited by choosing to study through distance learning?

**IP:** Not exactly, I don’t have any experience which somewhat stands out from that of conventional method of teaching.

Ok, I got it. So in your opinion, what are you missing by studying through distance learning than conventional way?

**IP:** The thing I miss the most is the interaction with teachers and other students. Knowledge increases when it’s shared, if we are not sharing or receiving knowledge from our peers, then it’s a loss for us.

Ok, do you have any concerns at all regarding the qualifications obtained through online (e.g., quality issues, acceptability, etc.)?

**IP:** Not really, as long the value and knowledge of the course being taught is relevant, I don’t think there is any concern with the qualification received through online courses.

What other things come to your mind when thinking about distance course?

**IP:** Can’t really relate distance learning with any other thing. Maybe one thing that comes to my mind when I think about distance learning is online courses. Lectures are recorded

Yes, do you find any difference between instruction delivered during distance learning and on campus courses.

**IP:** If I take the example of DSV, then the instructions are delivered in almost the same way for both distance courses and on campus courses. Apart from DSV I don’t have any other experience where I have studied distance courses.

Good, what are the reasons in your opinion for distance learning courses to be not so popular among students?

**IP:** In my opinion, I think maybe students like to come to the campus and meet with teachers, hang out with their friends, collaborate and study together, that is why they prefer on campus courses over distance courses. But this is completely my opinion; I am not sure what exactly other students feel.

Yes, I can see. Now my last question is what do you recommend about actions taken by institutes and universities to promote distance learning?

**IP:** Universities need to provide a special channel for the students to contact with teachers. Also they should make all the proper resources available to the student at all time in a reliable manner.

Great! We finish now, I already have sent you study guide and that includes consent form.

**IP: yes.**

So if you like, you can sign this. This interview is purely about the research and study purposes or you can be as anonymous.

**IP: it is ok to be anonymous**

No problem, it is ok. Thank you so much for your time.

**IP: you welcome.**

Good luck with your study. By by

**IP: Goodby**