

THE ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY IN IMPROVING AUTONOMOUS LEARNING OF STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT

One of the important aims of any educational system is to promote and form autonomous, life-long learners who are capable of both collaboratively and independently solving life and job problems in a challenging global environment. The uncountable part of students prefers to study individually, but many students have lack self-confidence as well as they believe in their teachers. The considerable motivation for autonomous learners is to keep contact with their teachers via the internet connection, and this is a modern method of teaching which can be suitable for both customers who are in the different area. Creating distance education for autonomous learners gives the chance to increase their knowledge and confidence in their ability.

Keywords: Autonomous learner, learner independence, life - long learner, evaluating criteria, assessment, expert, tutor, moderator, distance education.

INTRODUCTION, LITERATURE REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

Current independent learning plays an important role in order to improve the quality of the teaching process. Well-done and planned taken knowledge via working independently from the courses often gives positive results rather than to get misunderstand able information or a lack of understanding of the materials by the teacher. The main task for teachers in education system is that the teachers should be responsible for developing students' independent learning various material and can analyze them, stimulating their professional growth and developing their creativity. "The instructor's responsibility is to provide continuous individual support and guidance in developing student autonomy through effective facilitation the interactions in the course." [1].

The student and the teacher must understand that independent learning is for their benefits. The students have to realize that their autonomous working not for the course teachers and not for getting good marks, it is also for ensures their future success. However, teachers are interested that the independent learning not only for the student, but also for facilitating their work, communicating with students who are able to think independently and interact with young people. At the same time, the interaction of the teacher with the students in the learning process help to build their confidence in independent learning, support for demonstrating the use of new pedagogical technologies in teaching and this interactive manner will produce positive results. It is difficult to envision effective teaching of students in higher education without activating independent learning.

"One of the ultimate goals of any educational system is to develop autonomous, life-long learners who are capable of both independently and collaboratively resolving life and job problems" [2]. The modern specialist is required to have high level of training, ability of

making decisions independently and reworking a lot of information as soon as possible for the set tasks. Currently, it is necessary to radically change the organization of the teaching process for the training of specialists who are in demand of the employer, which means that the amount of independent work of students should be increased due to the reduction of class hours. The main idea is to pay much attention to the independent work of students rather than the traditional teaching process. Independent learning is not about leaving students alone when he/she comes to educating period, but it is an independent activity of students who are regularly monitored by their teachers. It is important to keep in mind that not only does each teacher consider his or her major, but also that the amount of time a student devotes to independent learning is the same for all subjects in the curriculum.

The main objectives of independent learning can be expected from students:

- acquire new knowledge independently;
- analyze processes independently;
- learn of teaching materials independently;
- strength and expand the acquired knowledge in the class;
- develop creativity and activity of students;
- be responsible for given tasks;
- learn planning future arrangements;
- form applying the acquired knowledge in practice;
- think independently and self-development;
- select out appropriate information from a large database;
- form ability of scientific researching and developing

A key aspect of independent learning for students is to develop finding out of autonomous learning of the students and promote their gained knowledge. Besides these it can be give some inspiration to form creative approach for teaching process among students. They should be able to independently analyze the problems of the preparation of course work, course projects, final qualifying works and master's dissertations and make their own conclusions. There are a lot of scientists who worked and continue their working on this sphere. The following Russian scientists have done research on the pedagogical problems of organizing students' independent work: O.S.Gazman, Yu. A. Dubrovskaya, G.B. Kornetov, N.B.Krilova, N.N.Mihaylova, A.V.Mudrik, S.G. Rudkova I.A.Slavina, L.G.Tarita, S.N.Chistakova.

Proper organization of independent education plays an important role in education and upbringing of young generation. The main task of the teacher is to help each student find his or her own place in life, and to support the student throughout their teaching. Today, in most developed countries, especially in many European universities, students spend their time working independently in libraries. In order to achieve this, it is necessary to develop independent education as in higher education institutions of the advanced countries and to develop various effective methods. When applying for independent learning, the following should be taken into consideration:

- set clear goals for the student;
- suggest the algorithm of work to be performed;
- recommend appropriate literature;
- form tasks methods and give deadline;
- give an advice for organizing business;
- determinate of the evaluating criteria.

Students receive a huge amount of knowledge during the teaching process in class, but it is advisable to work independently to reinforce what they have learned. Therefore, a modern

teacher should be as an expert, moderator and tutor in order to support the students. The teacher takes into consideration the psychological features of the students as well as their digital literacy. Some students may not be able to work independently and they need teachers as a moderator. The teacher who has accomplished the above tasks will be able to produce an expert who will meet the demands of his specialty in the future.

The word “expert” was taken from Latin "expertus" which means being a competent expert in a particular area.

The word “tutor” comes from the English "tutor" and it means that is a person who has a teaching position, helping students who prefer to work independently.

Moderator - comes from the word "moderator" in English, which means manager or guide. Moderation is aimed at uncovering students' inner opportunities and abilities. One of the most challenging tasks moderator is to activate a student's work and identify problems. For organizing of independent work of students is necessary to pay attention to the volume, content and relevance of educational materials, which are set into self-study, as well as methodological support. Methodology is not only databases, it should also guide the students to be creative in all activity. Moreover, here we must add some words about technology, because technology has effected every aspect of our daily life and certainly to the educational system too. No one has remained untouched with this revolution, especially teaching process should be completed with technology. It is difficult to imagine the formation of students' independent activities today without information technology and Internet. In an age of rapid usage of information technology, the development and ongoing communication of students' independent activities and the implementation of various tasks over the Internet has become one of the most effective methods of modern teaching. Information technology provides a wide range of opportunities to work with students online, to send student tasks and exercises related to the subject, to receive their answers, and to provide open communication. All of these are being done through distance and taking effective results. Distance learning has also led to dramatic changes in education and step by step it has become an integral part of higher education.

“Computer networks provide an opportunity to access information resources, training courses, databases, information retrieval and information and reference systems, which initiates the search for effective didactic approaches to student learning” - Russia's candidate of pedagogical sciences E.B.Novikova gave this point of view in her dissertation on theme "Organization of sustainable development of information and communication systems, providing access to computer resources, training courses, databases, information retrieval and information systems" encourages students to look for effective didactic methods in their studies. She goes on to say "Students' self-development and the use of modern technologies as tools for teaching, based on distance learning and its design, will influence the quality of education”. The contemporary teaching shows that distance education is an important part of higher education enrolments and provision. For example, in Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, India, Russia, South Africa, Turkey and United States all higher education students are taking some online or distance education courses and programs¹.

It is worth noting that distance learning takes the learner's active part in teaching and begins to demonstrate their ability to think independently in the classroom and thus becomes a focus of

¹<http://web.worldbank.org/>.

² D.L.Rogers (2000, Spring-Summer), Educational Technology Review, 19-27

the learner. World Methodists describe the shift in teacher duties as follows: Rather than being “the sage on the stage” the instructor becomes “the guide on the side”.²[4] This can be interpreted in such a way that the teacher must be the coordinator and the consultant, who can guide the whole process. The tasks that are performed individually from a distance reveal the students' individual characteristics and shape their rich worldview and intellectual potential and creativity.

Distance learning helps to overcome student shyness and the fear of being inferior in public. This is because communication with the teacher usually takes place between them, with the results of the tasks being assigned to the student's office only if there is a defect or feedback from the teacher and the student will be able to work more on them and allows you to fill in the gaps. Exercises and tasks on the module of the module are organized in different ways, taking into account the students' knowledge, and when the exercises are updated from time to time, the evaluation of the students is also automatically triggered.

There are numerous other opportunities in online classes to offer students learning tasks and activities that foster their independence. The teacher can also incorporate each student individually or in groups, and if placed in groups, students can interact with each other, share or collaborate on news and information received from the topics. Such a position will surely give passive students an opportunity to learn science together with their classmates. It is possible to list many Russian scientists who have carried out theoretical research on the design of the educational process using distance learning technologies in education, for instance, E.V. Burminstrova, V.V.Egorov, T.N.Zyuzina, V.L.Kapilevich, E.G.Skibitskiy, V.G.Xrapchenkov and others have made a significant contribution to the development of the Russian education system. From the western countries there are BS Bloom, IJ Seeinen, S. Sorden, O. Koutsov and many others can be included into this list. However, designing the learning process through distance teaching remains a problem that has not been studied in both theoretically and methodologically sides in the higher education. From contemporary researching of such kind of issues S.P.Eremeeva emphasized that it is investigated the decision on the main contradictions between the study of problem theory and practice in her dissertation "The project of the study process of the students of the higher education establishments through distance technology"[5]:

- the high relevance and significance of the design of the educational process by means of distance technologies and the insufficient development of theoretical ideas about the essence and specificity of this phenomenon and methodological foundations in pedagogical science;
- the needs in the development of the dynamics of the quality of the educational process based on distance technologies and the lack of a scientifically based criteria-assessment paradigm.

According to S.P.Eremeeva's words the researcher Lawrence C. Ragan also refers that “Plan and implement to address the quality assurance of course content, instructional design and overall systems performance. Be creative in locating resources to serve in the quality assurance process.”[6].

Improving autonomous learning is obviously seen that it is one of the essential aims of education, particularly at the higher educational system. As the contemporary research figure out the majority of online students prefer well organized, teacher- facilitated teaching process to autonomous learning.

All research shows that proper organization of independent learning and the training of students who can effectively use information technology will present various problems for the teacher, however, it is not only the development of independent learning activities for students by

organizing these activities simultaneously through distance learning, and to enhance the knowledge and skills of the subjects, as well as the ability of the teacher to work remotely with information technology. Researches of all scientists also pointed out that online classes will help involve students of different levels and identify other critical features as well as effective methodological tools and techniques that serve as an instrument for enhancing autonomy of students.

In conclusion, it is worth noting that educated teachers with high knowledge and skills contribute to the future of our republic as a highly qualified specialist in every profession.

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