

THE INDEPENDENT STUDY FUTURES AND SIGNIFICANCE

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Annotation: *This article discusses the concept of independent learning, highlighting its significance in fostering self-motivation and responsibility for one's learning process. It explores different learning styles, such as visual, auditory, and kinesthetic, and emphasizes the importance of teacher support through strategies like scaffolding and feedback.*

Key words: *Independent learning, self-regulation, motivation, learning styles, visual learners, auditory learners, kinesthetic learners, scaffolding, self-directed learning, time management, student engagement, self-assessment.*

What is independent learning?

Independent learning is a way or process of learning in which learners have control and ownership of their learning, and is a form of educational activity undertaken by an individual student with little to no supervision. Each person is unique: they have their own temperament, character. Their learning and perception of knowledge are in accordance with this. That is why there are different learning styles. Some students learn best through seeing. They are visual learners. Some learn best through hearing, they are called auditory learners. Kinesthetic learners - they learn by touching, experimenting, and using.

Visual learners prefer to sit somewhere in the classroom where no obstructions hinder their view of the lesson. They rely on the teacher's facial expressions and body language to aid their learning. They learn based from a blend of visual displays and presentations, such as colorful videos, diagrams, and flip charts. Often, these learners think in pictures and may even close their eyes

to visualize or remember something. When they are bored, they look around for something to watch. Many visual learners lack confidence in their auditory memory skills and so may take detailed notes during classroom discussions and lectures.

Auditory learners sit where they can hear well. They enjoy listening and talking, so discussions and verbal lectures stimulate them. Listening to what others have to say and then talking the subject through helps them process new information. These learners may be heard reading to themselves out loud because they can absorb written information better in this way. Sounding out spelling words, reciting mathematical theories, or talking their way across a map are examples of the types of activities that improve their understanding.

Kinesthetic learners may find it difficult to sit still in a conventional classroom. They need to be physically active and take frequent breaks. When they are bored, they fidget in their seats. They prefer to sit someplace where there is room to move about. They benefit from manipulating materials and learn between classroom subjects, such as math, science, and reading are processed through hands-on experiences. Incorporating arts-and- crafts activities, building projects, and sports into lessons helps kinesthetic learners process new information. Physical expressions of encouragement, such as a pat on the back, are often appreciated.

Self-directed learning has many positives, but we also need to acknowledge the challenges of self-directed learning. During independent learning, a student may encounter difficulties by choosing the wrong learning method without knowing which learning method is more developed in them or without knowing which learning method will be effective for them.

5 disadvantages of self-directed learning we cannot ignore.

There are some of the key problems with self-directed learning:

1. Not knowing what to learn

If you are new to a subject, then it is often challenging to decide what to begin learning. Which documents should I read? Which course should I complete?

What is going to be relevant to my job, and what is simply noise? Many self-directed training courses put it on the individual to figure out what they need to learn. But this means that they could potentially spend a lot of time learning irrelevant information while missing the most important concepts.

2. Lack of time

Research shows that a lack of time is by far and away the greatest obstacle to self-directed learning. If you've got deadlines, meetings, and projects to complete, how many people are going to set aside time each day to learn new things?

3. Self-motivation and interest

As any learning and development professional will know, there are different personality types in your organization. Some people are highly engaged and are continually seeking out ways to improve their skill sets. However, others are less motivated or ambitious - they are good at what they do but lack the drive to continually learn new techniques. In many ways, self-directed learning is a little idealistic! The fact is that many employees just aren't going to go out of their way to do extra training when they don't have to.

4. Too much choice

An LMS that is packed with interesting and useful resources would be highly beneficial to the organization. However, sometimes there is just too much choice. If an employee logs into your LMS and is faced with hundreds of courses, videos, and training documents it can simply be overwhelming. This can be mentally frustrating and leave people demotivated too. It is as if they are being shown all the things that they don't know!

5. Learning only what they are interested in

A final drawback of self-directed learning is that most people opt for the path of least resistance. Even people who are motivated to learn will generally be drawn to topics that they personally find interesting or engaging. For example, someone who has a personal interest in sports will spend their free time outside

of work reading about sports. Few of them will dedicate their spare time to reading about gardening just for the sake of it!

And the same goes for self-directed learning at work. If you are interested in management topics, you will naturally gravitate toward learning management techniques. This is fine, but it means you won't actively seek out information about how to use the new IT system if you're not personally interested in tech.

On the other hand, independent learning has a lot of *benefits*.

It helps learners:

- a. Improved academic performance.
- b. Increased motivation and confidence.
- c. Greater student awareness of their limitations and their ability to manage them.
- d. Enabling teachers to provide differentiated tasks for students.
- e. Fostering social inclusion by countering alienation.

What skills did students need?

The review identified a number of skills that students needed to acquire to engage successfully in independent learning:

Cognitive skills: Such as constructing informal rules for problem-solving, classifying objects, forming hypotheses, and logical reasoning.

Metacognitive skills: Including the ability to reflect on learning, monitor progress, and use self-assessment.

Affective skills: Related to managing emotions and maintaining motivation.

Independent learning is one of the useful and effective methods of learning, so it is necessary to strengthen it and encourage learners to study independently. Many learners are in need of motivation when it comes to learning independently.

Motivations to Encourage Learners to Study Independently:

1. **Encourage Reading for Pleasure:** Inspire learners to explore reading beyond academic requirements. Reading for enjoyment fosters curiosity

and a love for learning, motivating students to engage more deeply with their studies.

2. Focus on Time Management: Teach learners how to manage their time effectively. Using timers and setting clear time limits helps students stay focused and avoid distractions, increasing productivity and motivation for independent learning.

3. Set Clear Goals: Help learners establish specific, achievable goals to give them direction and purpose in their learning journey.

4. Provide Resources: Ensure learners have access to materials such as books, websites, and tools to support their independent exploration of topics.

5. Offer Choices: Give learners the freedom to choose topics or projects that interest them, increasing engagement and motivation.

6. Incorporate Technology: Use educational apps, online resources, and interactive platforms to make learning more engaging and accessible.

7. Foster Peer Support: Encourage collaboration and peer learning through group activities or study sessions, creating a sense of community and shared motivation.

Conclusion:

Independent learning is a valuable and effective approach to education, fostering self-reliance and personal growth among learners. By allowing students to take ownership of their learning process, it enhances motivation, confidence, and academic performance. However, for independent learning to be successful, it requires a balance of internal and external factors, including motivation, clear goals, time management, and strong teacher support. Teachers play a crucial role in guiding students, providing resources, and creating a conducive environment for learning. While challenges such as time management and motivation can arise, the benefits of independent learning, such as improved problem-solving and self-regulation skills, are significant. Encouraging students to engage in independent learning, offering them choices, and fostering a supportive learning environment are essential steps to ensure long-term academic and personal success.

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