

PEDAGOGY

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Students' autonomy in distance learning

Moscow region state university has been transforming the form of education from class training to a variety of distance learning models. The effectiveness of the process depends on the development of learners' autonomy. The research has pursued two goals: first, evaluate students' contribution to self-education and define challenges students face under the condition of distance learning format; second, offer preventive measures to expand students' autonomy to increase their motivation and enhance standards of education with the use of network technologies. Quantitative and qualitative methods were employed in the study. First and second-year students were surveyed through questionnaires and interviews with them were conducted. The study highlighted three groups of factors which have a significant impact on distance learning effectiveness: students' acquired skills to operate autonomously, role of the educator and mobility of the educational course.

Key words: higher education, foreign language, students' autonomy, survey, forms of education, distance learning.

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