USE OF ONLINE PLATFORMS TO ORGANISE STUDENTS' INDEPENDENT WORK

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Annotation. This article is devoted to the study of the effectiveness of using online platforms to organise students' independent work. In the modern educational space digital technologies play an increasingly important role, providing new opportunities for learning. Online platforms offer a variety of tools and resources that can significantly improve the quality and efficiency of students' independent work.

Key words: online platforms, independent work of students, e-learning, digital technologies, educational resources.

INTRODUCTION

Modern higher education is increasingly introducing information technologies into the educational process.One of the most promising directions is the use of online platforms to organise students' independent work. This approach allows to significantly expand the possibilities of traditional learning, increase its efficiency and flexibility.

The relevance of the topic is due to a number of factors. Firstly, the rapid development of information technologies provides educational institutions with a wide range of tools for creating interactive and personalised learning materials. Secondly, modern students are increasingly accustomed to using digital technologies in their daily lives, which makes online platforms an attractive tool for learning. Thirdly, the transition to distance learning in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the need to develop online education and improve tools for organising students' independent work.

MAIN PART

Modern educational process is increasingly moving to the online environment, and independent work of students is becoming an integral part of learning. There are many different online platforms for organising such work, each of which has its own unique features and functionality. Conventionally, online platforms can be divided into several categories:

Corporate LMS (Learning Management Systems). These are large-scale platforms designed specifically for educational institutions. They provide a wide range of tools for creating and managing training courses, including:

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Moodle. One of the most popular LMSs, characterised by flexibility of customisation and open source code.

Canvas. A powerful platform with an intuitive interface and a wide range of possibilities for creating interactive courses.

Blackboard. A classic LMS widely used in higher education institutions.

Specialised platforms for online learning. These platforms focus on specific disciplines or types of learning. For example:

Codecademy. A platform for learning programming.

Duolingo. A platform for learning languages.

Khan Academy. A platform for free education in a wide range of subjects.

Social media for learning. Such platforms allow students to interact with each other and teachers, share knowledge and materials:

Google Classroom. A platform for organising the learning process, integrated with other Google services.

Microsoft Teams. A collaboration platform that can also be used to organise online learning.

Platforms for content creation and publishing. These platforms allow you to create interactive learning materials such as presentations, video lessons, tests, etc...:

Prezi. A platform for creating non-linear presentations.

Edpuzzle. A platform for creating video lessons with interactive elements.

Kahoot! A platform for creating game quizzes. Functionality of online platforms. Most online platforms provide the following features:

Posting of learning materials: Text documents, presentations, videos, audio files and other materials.

Creating assignments and tests: Different types of assignments (essays, tests, projects) with automatic checking.

Discussions: Forums for student and faculty communication.

Progress Tracking: Tools to track student activity and assess student progress.

Individualised feedback: The ability to provide individualised feedback to each student.

Platform Selection. The choice of online platform depends on a number of factors: Learning objectives: What skills and knowledge should students acquire?

Group size: For smaller groups, simpler platforms will do, for larger groups, more functional platforms will do.

Resource availability: Budget, technical capacity.

Teacher requirements: What tools and functions do teachers need to organise training?

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The variety of online platforms allows you to choose the best solution for organising independent work of students in each specific case. When choosing a platform it is necessary to take into account both its functionality and the needs of students and teachers.

Advantages and disadvantages of using online platforms in the learning process. The use of online platforms in education has become an integral part of the modern learning process. It offers many opportunities to optimise learning, but it also has its limitations. Let's take a closer look at the advantages and disadvantages of this approach.

Advantages of online platforms. 1. Accessibility and flexibility. Online platforms allow students to study anytime and anywhere with access to the internet. This is especially true for working students and those living in remote areas. 2. Personalisation of learning. Many platforms allow you to create personalised learning trajectories, taking into account the individual characteristics and pace of learning of each student. 3. Variety of learning formats. Online platforms offer a wide range of learning tools: video lectures, interactive assignments, tests, discussion forums, and much more. 4. A large number of learning materials. There is a huge amount of learning materials available on online platforms, including video courses, e-books, presentations and articles. 5. Opportunities for collaboration. Online platforms foster collaboration and communication skills through collaborative tools such as forums, chat rooms and joint projects. 6. Cost-effectiveness. The use of online platforms reduces the cost of printing training materials and space rental.

Disadvantages of online platforms. Technical equipment is required, to work effectively with online platforms a computer or mobile device with internet access is required, which is not always available to all students. Lack of face-to-face interaction, online learning can limit opportunities for students to interact directly with instructors and each other, which can have a negative impact on social skills development. Motivation, independent learning requires a high degree of self-organisation and motivation, which may be difficult for some students. Technical issues, internet connection or platform failures can interrupt the learning process and can be annoying for students. Digital literacy, not all students have sufficient digital skills to work effectively with online platforms.

The use of online platforms in the learning process has both advantages and disadvantages. For successful implementation of online learning, it is necessary to take into account the individual characteristics of students, provide technical support and create conditions for effective interaction between teachers and students.

In order to maximise the use of online platforms, it is recommended to: combine online learning with traditional forms of learning, ensure that technology tools are accessible to all students, develop interactive and engaging learning materials, provide students with regular feedback, and support active interaction between students and

instructors.

Examples of successful use of online platforms to organise independent work of students. The use of online platforms to organise students' independent work is becoming more and more common in modern education. Let us consider a few successful examples:

1. Modular online courses (MOOCs). Structure, offer structured learning material divided into small modules. Interactivity, use various interactive elements such as video lectures, tests, discussion forums. Example, Coursera, edX. Advantages, flexibility in learning, accessibility, opportunity to learn from the world's leading experts.

2. Virtual learning environments (LMS). Functionality, allow to create virtual classrooms where teachers can place teaching materials, conduct online tests, organise forums for discussion. Example, Moodle, Canvas. Advantages, integration of various tools, ability to track student progress, flexible customisation.

3. Social media for learning. Interaction, allow students to interact with each other and instructors, discuss learning material, share resources. Example, Google Classroom, Microsoft Teams. Benefits, building community, developing communication skills, increasing motivation.

4. Collaboration platforms. Collaboration, allow students to work on projects together, share files, discuss ideas. Example, Google Docs, Trello. Benefits, development of co-operation skills, increased creativity.

5. Platforms for creating interactive content. Interactivity, allow you to create interactive presentations, videos, simulations. Example, Prezi, Genially. Benefits, increased student engagement, better visualisation of information. Examples of specific applications:

Language courses, use of virtual language labs for pronunciation practice, online dictionaries, interactive exercises.

Technical disciplines, creation of virtual laboratories for experiments, use of online simulators.

Humanities, creating interactive maps, time lines, galleries to explore historical events and cultural phenomena.

Advantages of using online platforms:

Flexible, students can study at a time and pace that suits them.

Interactivity, learning becomes more interesting and engaging.

Accessibility, learning materials are available anytime and anywhere.

Personalisation, the possibility of creating individual learning trajectories.

Feedback, the instructor can provide feedback to students promptly.

However, there are some limitations to consider:

Internet access is required.

Additional technical support may be required.

Not all students have equal opportunity to access technology.

Online platforms provide a wide range of opportunities for organising independent work of students. However, in order to use these platforms effectively, it is necessary to carefully plan the learning process, take into account individual characteristics of students and provide the necessary technical support.

The introduction of online platforms into the educational process undoubtedly opens up new opportunities for learning, but it also poses a number of problems and challenges for educational institutions.

Technical issues. Internet availability. Uneven access to quality internet in different regions can limit the use of online platforms. Technical glitches: Equipment breakdowns, software problems can interrupt the learning process. Digital Divide. Lack of necessary technical equipment (computers, tablets, stable internet) for some students creates barriers to participation in online learning.

Pedagogical challenges. Lack of digital competence of teachers. Many teachers need additional training to use online platforms effectively. Difficulties in organising interaction. Maintaining active interaction in an online environment requires new skills and abilities for the instructor. Limitations in knowledge assessment. Assessing learning outcomes in an online format can be difficult, especially with practical assignments and projects.

Psychological Issues. Student motivation: Not all students are sufficiently motivated to work independently in an online environment. Isolation and loneliness. Lack of face-to-face interaction with instructors and classmates can cause feelings of isolation. Information overload. The large amount of information available in an online environment can lead to information overload and reduced learning efficiency.

Organisational challenges. Developing quality content. Creating quality learning materials for online platforms requires significant time and resources. Providing technical support. The need for ongoing technical support for online platforms can place an additional burden on administrative staff. Alignment with traditional forms of learning. Integrating online platforms into the existing education system requires careful planning and coordination.

Social problems. Social inequalities. Online learning can reinforce existing social inequalities if some students do not have access to the necessary resources. Lack of control over the learning process. Parents and teachers may have difficulty controlling how students spend their time on the computer. Issues related to COVID-19. Massive shift to online learning. The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the adoption of online platforms, resulting in overloaded systems and insufficient resources. Technical challenges. Many educational institutions were not prepared for such a rapid transition to distance learning, leading to various technical problems.

Solving these problems requires a comprehensive approach that includes: improving digital literacy of teachers and students, ensuring equal access to quality Internet and technical equipment, developing flexible and adaptive online courses, creating a support system for students who have difficulties with online learning, and ensuring information security. Online platforms have already become an integral part of modern higher education. Their potential is far from exhausted, and we can expect even more significant changes in the near future. Let us consider some of the key areas of development:

1. individualisation of learning. Adaptive algorithms. Platforms will increasingly pinpoint the individual needs of each student and offer personalised learning trajectories. Microlearning. Short, modular courses will allow students to master material at a pace and in an order that suits them. Artificial Intelligence. AI will be used to create deeper personalisation by analysing not only academic performance, but also a student's learning style, preferences and even emotional state.

2. Expanding the possibilities of interaction. Virtual and augmented reality. These technologies will enable more immersive learning experiences, such as virtual labs, museums or historical events. Collaborative learning: Online platforms will foster greater student interaction with each other and with instructors through forums, chat rooms, collaborative projects and virtual rooms. Gamification. Game elements will make learning more engaging and motivating.

3. integration with other technologies. Blockchain. Blockchain technology will enable the secure and transparent storage of academic records and the creation of decentralised learning management systems. Internet of Things. Integration with IoT devices will enable the creation of smart learning environments where student data is collected and analysed in real time.

4. New formats for online courses. Hybrid formats. Combining online and offline learning to create more flexible and effective educational programmes. Microcredentials. Short courses culminating in digital certificates will allow students to quickly learn new skills and upgrade their qualifications. Project-based learning. Students will work on real projects, collaborating with companies and organisations.

5. Growth of accessibility of education. Open Educational Resources (OER). The number of free online courses and materials will grow, making education more accessible to everyone. Mobile applications. Learning will become available anytime and anywhere through mobile applications. Challenges and Prospects:

Digital Divide. There is a need to ensure that all students have access to quality internet and devices. Quality of online learning. It is important to develop effective online learning methodologies and to ensure the high quality of learning materials.

The role of the teacher. Teachers need to adapt to the new environment and become facilitators of learning, not just transmitters of information.

In conclusion, online platforms have great potential to transform higher education. They make learning more flexible, personalised and accessible. However, in order to realise this potential, a number of challenges related to technological development, pedagogical methods and the organisation of the educational process need to be addressed.

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