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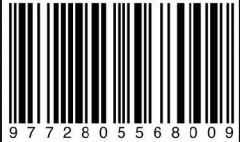
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AUTONOMOUS LEARNING

Empowering Learners:

Cultivating Autonomy for Future Success



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Developing autonomous skills in education is of the utmost importance for nurturing students who own a comprehensive set of abilities and are capable of making constructive contributions to society.

Autonomy cultivates lifelong learning, critical thinking, resilience, personal responsibility, and leadership by empowering students to take control of their own learning journey. These qualities are essential for constructing a prosperous and forward-thinking society. Students must be made aware of the need of this talent for success in a rapidly changing world. It is now important to recognise the significance of implementing strategies and practices in education that promote autonomy in learners. This involves emphasising the importance of self-directed learning, critical thinking, and personal responsibility in developing confident and capable individuals. These skills are crucial for societal benefits, as they contribute to innovation, leadership, and lifelong learning.

The Melaka campus incorporates autonomous learning skills for our 4th semester students pursuing a diploma in English for Professional Communication. A total of 62 fourth-semester students studying English Language are being monitored as they implement a plans, problems, and progress report. This analysis

assesses the abilities of learners to remain engaged with their learning process, thereby fostering lifelong learning in formal education. It will ultimately benefit language programme learners in the future and contribute to the sustainability of their learning. The Autonomous Learning Model (ALM) is used as it defines individual growth as developing responsibility, positive self-esteem, decision-making and problem-solving skills, interpersonal skills, critical and creative thinking skills, and a passion for learning. Encouraging autonomy in education develops a proactive mindset in students, inspiring them to actively seek knowledge and develop abilities beyond the limits of the conventional classroom environment. Granting students autonomy over their learning instils in them a stronger drive to establish a consistent pattern of ongoing development throughout their adult years. It will subsequently lead to a culture that highly esteems knowledge, innovation, and adaptability, which are currently seen as crucial in transforming lives and strengthening humanity.

Over a period of 14 weeks, students were given autonomy, which has resulted in favourable outcomes as it cultivates the development of critical thinking and problem-solving abilities in students, increasing their ability to independently address issues,



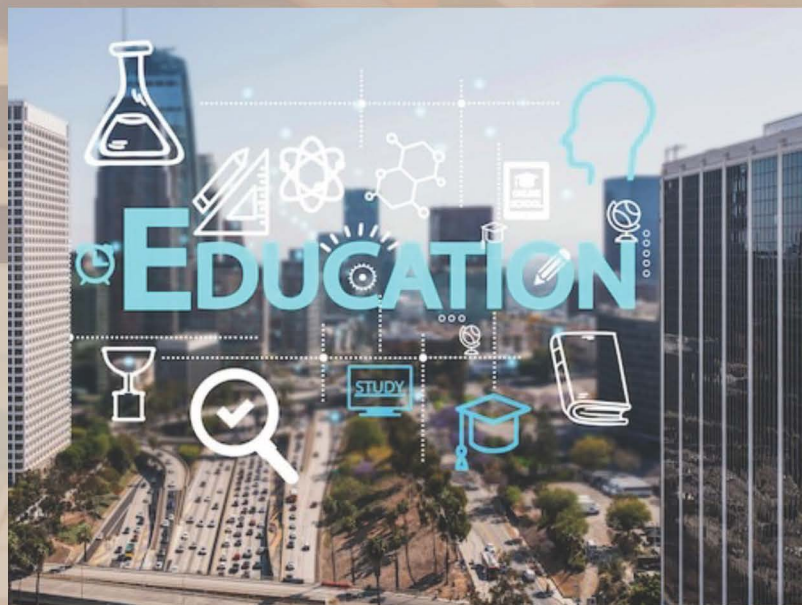
sense of ownership over their actions and decisions thus creates a society where individuals understand the repercussions of their choices and take responsibility for their actions.

Developing independent skills is considered crucial for achieving success in today's workplace, which is characterised by its dynamic and fast-paced nature. Employers strongly value individuals who have the capacity to work independently, exhibit initiative, and adapt quickly to changing circumstances. Students with strong autonomous abilities are better prepared to thrive in diverse professional environments and make significant contributions to the workforce. The investigation conducted within this cohort of students has revealed that autonomy promotes the growth of creative ideas and nurtures leadership skills. When students are driven to explore their interests and actively pursue their own ideas, they are more likely to come up with innovative solutions and assume significant roles in their communities. This will then cultivate a society that actively encourages and sustains creativity, entrepreneurship, and social responsibility. Nevertheless, collaborating closely with industry panels is deemed crucial to provide our students a hands-on introduction to the workplace, so enhancing their job prospects. Ensuring the validity and reliability of these crucial generic skills are regarded as a significant element.

On the other hand, instructor autonomy support is also necessary. This is to ensure that learning behaviours are promoted, and students are able to complete learning tasks in

assess information, and provide innovative solutions. The diversity of skills is extremely essential in a culture that challenges complicated difficulties demanding innovative approaches. In addition, autonomy increases students' confidence in being able to acquire knowledge and achieve success. Through embracing responsibility for their education, students acquire the skills needed to overcome challenges, handle setbacks, and persevere in the presence of hardships. This resilience translates into a more confident and empowered society where individuals are equipped to navigate life's challenges.

It is also observed that autonomy in education instils in students the importance of personal responsibility and accountability. When students assume responsibility for their learning outcomes, they cultivate a feeling of control over their actions and decisions. This develops a culture in which individuals fully understand the consequences of their choices and willingly take responsibility for their actions. Individuals who are learning are more likely to actively search for new viewpoints and actively participate in discussions involving diverse concepts. A societal culture is then developed to promote inclusivity and tolerance, where individuals appreciate and honour all viewpoints and experiences, allowing students to cultivate a profound comprehension of the importance of personal responsibility and accountability. By assuming responsibility for their learning outcomes, students cultivate a



their own way, it is necessary for instructors to promote active participation in classroom activities and provide cognitive autonomy support. It aims to encourage students to think deeply about the content of their learning and maintain long-lasting engagement. In addition, students will not experience a sense of abandonment and will have the guidance from instructors whenever they require it along as they learn. At this stage, it is crucial to provide guidance and have a strong presence of instructors so that students can feel supported and develop confidence by the end of the semester.

Surprisingly, during this process, students demonstrated a strong capacity to learn autonomously. Initially, students may find it challenging to develop and incorporate independent skills. However, over time, they make progress and evidence of their improvement becomes apparent through their continuous assignments and evaluations. They successfully understood the concept of autonomous learning and cultivated a strong sense of ownership in their studies while yet acknowledging their instructor's presence. Are they the necessary talents for our younger generation to become more successful leaders in the future? A leader who possesses the ability to assume greater responsibility in decision-making and cultivate a persistent attitude to become a more formidable candidate for leading the country. This question is worth exploring.



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