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## **Teaching During The Pandemic**

Teaching during the pandemic has been very challenging because we have had to learn how to use most of the digital tools in the shortest of time to transform our face-to-face lessons into online sessions and adapt to new rules and regulations to make sure our students can continue learning. But teachers should inspire students and the best way to do this is showing our enthusiasm for what we do. Due to this, it is essential to consider teaching during the pandemic as an opportunity for our personal and professional development, an opportunity to learn new methods and tools with the students and for the students.

Education is more than just learning how to read and write. It helps us grow personally, professionally, and socially. It is a lifelong process. As educators, we are increasingly expected to help our students develop global skills that they will need to be successful in their life and career. One of the most important skills for this is autonomy. Autonomy is a fundamental skill in both distance and face-to-face education. Being autonomous requires self-determination and decision making, creativity and critical thinking, confidence and collaboration. «Autonomy is the responsibility of being in charge of one's own learning. » [1]

A bright example of such attitude may be found in foreign language teaching, in which «autonomy grew stronger with the development of the communicative approach, once it has changed the learner's role, making him responsible for his own learning, decentralizing the teacher's role». [2]

The issue of autonomy development in the context of online distance learning can be observed in a range of specific activities:

- Distance learning autonomy depends on good search skills because requires making the most of the internet as a source of information. Students must develop the ability to analyse and evaluate various data. Since they must read a vast amount of documents on line, they must be able to develop strategies in finding, assessing and reading documents.
- In the sphere of interpersonal activity, autonomy development requires that students learn how to cope with intensive interaction with peers and teachers and develop more careful planning for successful interaction.
- Developing autonomy means performing many different complex actions and operations simultaneously, gradually building up speed and confidence. [3]

Thus, student autonomy is a significant factor affecting the students' learning process in distance education with both autonomy and technology have the potential to promote learning. But we need a special kind of autonomy and a special kind of technology-mediated activity to make the spark.

There are clearly many lessons to be learnt and changes that educators can make to move forward in a positive way since remote learning is here to stay as a component of blended learning. Surely the best and most reliable way of achieving success in distance learning is an effective digital platform that creates a virtual classroom for educators and their students.

#### References:

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3. Collins, H. 2008. Distance learning, autonomy development and language: discussing possible connections. *DELTA* vol.24 no.spe São Paulo.