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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES IN DISTANT LEARNING

In my opinion education must always correspond to the requirements of the time and society. Today's urgent need is a new learning environment connected with both innovative learning technologies and innovative technical means. Distance learning can be defined as a result of rapid contemporary changes in education; it is learning via computer network. It was designed for those ones who, due to various reasons, such as lack of time, financial difficulties etc., do not have an opportunity to learn directly at school under the supervision of a teacher, but seek to study independently. Psychologists are sure that only independent work with textbooks, manuals, reference books results in knowledge. Distance education develops skills of independent thinking, teaches to work systematically, to assess a learning situation, draw conclusions, and forecast.

The technology of distant study is an interactive educational technology: a teacher and a pupil are only involved. The instructor takes into account the individual abilities and skills of the student. It affects the quality of education.

The teacher is a tutor who represents learning courses. The teacher should take into account the individual characteristics of both the student and his / her sphere of activity, practical knowledge. The instructor of a course prepares learning material, answers letters and questions if any, provides advice, answers, controls assessment, if necessary, provides additional materials for the development of specific skills. On the whole, the teacher creates an active learning environment.

Students work independently with the learning material, complete assignments; consult with the teacher to participate in an e-forum or a chat. Training materials as usual involve course books, electronic libraries, and variety of on-line resources. Forms

of communication involved are lectures, tutorials, electronic forums, videoconferences.

The training process is carried out on the basis of distance learning technologies; it includes both classroom training and self-study activity. Participation of teachers in educational process is determined by need to implement constant support of educational and cognitive activity of students through the organization of current control.

Informational technologies applied in distance learning can be divided into three groups:

1) presentation of educational information;

2) transmission of educational information;

3) storage technology and processing educational information.

The basis of learning process is the transmission of information from a teacher to a student. It means that any technology used in education can be called information.

Educational information encompasses knowledge that is to be transferred to the student in order that he / she could competently comprehend and perform any learning activity.

The main point in educational technology is to represent ideas by means of visualization. The most adapted forms in distance learning include:

- video lectures;

- multimedia lectures and laboratory courses;

- multimedia electronic textbooks; - computer training and testing system;

- simulation models and computer simulators;

- online tests;

- video conference.

References

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