Written Assignment Week5

University of the People

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Written Assignment Unit5

A self-directed learner can be defined as the person with a self-oriented motivation to learn what they are curious about, instead of following the order of parents or teachers to force learn what is supposed to be learned in the society. According to the experience of Ryan, he has grown up with the motivation to learn computer science when facing the dynamism of web or curiosity to create an application for smartwatch (Ryan, 2014). There are two aspects important for self-directed learning. First, as the experience of Ryan proves, it has to be based on the motivation within each individual, not driven by external factors. Second, as the research shows, the distance learning is more associated with self-learning (Réka, 2015). In this research, it is shown that the distance learners are more likely to have self-motivation. Based on this, focusing on what we are willing to do despite the geological proximity is important for self-directed learning.

Being a student is precious time in our life as it gives us two big strengths. The first one is that we are surrounded by many chances to have several questions with different background of people. The second one is that teacher can be an important role to invoke the curiosity of students with intension and find a solution to make a mess of questions to the process of learning. Those two aspects help us to become self-directed learner in a way through the active interaction between students and students, and students and teachers.

On the other hand, being a student can be also the weakness. Firstly, traditional education, such as full-time learning in school, are likely to be based on extrinsic motivation, which can damage the efficiency of learning in the end (Réka, 2015). Secondly, being a student can be easily associated to the measurement of academic success, not an original motivation. Those two can damage the readiness of self-learning in a way that changes the goal of learning from curiosity and social impact into getting high GPA in schools.

Finally, here are my three strategies to become more self-learner. First, I am going to keep in my mind the purpose of learning at University of the People. Based on my experience, when facing the hardship to keep motivation to learn, I tend to put my motivation of learning into getting degree of computer science itself. Second, I am going to make a reasonable learning schedule to make a balance between full-time job. The lack of time to learn and hard schedule can damage my motivation and confidence to keep learning. Third, I continue to appreciate the system of University of the People, which enable me to learn what I need wherever I stay. (451 words)

References

Ryan, L. [TEDx Talks] (2014, July). *Self-learning | Ryan Lee | TEDxHongKongED* [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mtYahZhsy0M>

Réka, J., Kármen, D., Susana, F., Kinga, K. J., Edit, M., & Kinga, S. (2015). Implications of Motivational Factors Regarding the Academic Success of Full-time and Distance Learning Undergraduate Students: A Self-determination Theory Perspective. *Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences*, *187*, 50–55. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sbspro.2015.03.010>