

# **STUDENTS' SELF-EDUCATION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE MODERN INFORMATION SOCIETY**

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## **Abstract**

This article discusses the role and significance of students' self-education in the context of the modern information society. It is noted that the rapid development of digital technologies and access to global information resources create favorable conditions for the independent acquisition of knowledge. Particular attention is paid to motivational aspects, the difficulties students face in the process of self-education, and ways to overcome them. The importance of developing digital literacy, critical thinking skills, and self-discipline is emphasized. Self-education is considered an essential tool for preparing students for successful professional and personal fulfillment in a constantly changing world requiring continuous knowledge renewal.

**Keywords:** Self-education, society, motivation, thinking, process.

## **Introduction**

The modern information society is characterized by the rapid development of technology, globalization of information flows, and increased demands on specialists' competencies. Under these conditions, the role of traditional education is changing: the ability for continuous self-development and lifelong learning is becoming a priority. One of the key factors for successful adaptation to contemporary realities is self-education. This is especially relevant for students — a group actively forming their professional and personal qualities.

## **The Concept and Features of Self-Education**

Self-education is the process of independently acquiring knowledge, skills, and competencies outside the framework of formal education, aimed at satisfying cognitive interests, developing competencies, and solving specific tasks. Unlike

traditional learning, self-education is based on internal motivation, initiative, and the learner's own responsibility.

For a student, self-education is not only a way to deepen knowledge in studied disciplines but also an opportunity to broaden their horizons, master related fields, and prepare for professional activity. It becomes a vital component of personal and professional growth, especially in a world where knowledge quickly becomes outdated and competence requires constant renewal.

### **The Role of the Information Society in the Development of Self-Education**

The information society offers unique opportunities for students' self-education. The Internet, electronic libraries, educational platforms (such as Coursera, EdX, Stepik), video lectures, podcasts, scientific journals, and databases — all provide access to virtually unlimited knowledge.

One of the key features of the information society is the openness of information and freedom of access. Any student can find resources on topics of interest, create an individual educational trajectory, and choose the most convenient format and pace of learning. This approach allows for consideration of personal characteristics and preferences and increases the efficiency of the educational process.

At the same time, the information environment requires students to have strong critical thinking skills, the ability to filter information, distinguish reliable sources, and apply knowledge in practice. Therefore, self-education in the information society demands not only motivation but also digital literacy.

### **Motivational Aspects and Barriers to Self-Education**

Successful self-education depends on internal motivation — the desire for self-fulfillment, learning new things, and professional growth. Motivation can be internal (interest in a subject, the desire to achieve specific goals) or external (the need to prepare for an exam, employer requirements, competition in the labor market).

However, there are obstacles along the self-education path. These include a lack of self-discipline, poor time management, information overload, and fatigue from traditional educational formats. Additionally, not all students possess the necessary skills for independent information processing and may require mentor support.

Overcoming these barriers involves developing metacognitive skills, fostering the habit of reflection and self-analysis, using digital planning tools (such as time-management apps), and participating in interest-based communities where knowledge can be shared and feedback received.

### **The Role of Universities and Educators in Supporting Self-Education**

Although self-education is based on individual initiative, educational institutions and teachers play a significant role in supporting it. Universities can create conditions that encourage independent cognitive activity in students: providing access to digital resources, organizing online courses, incorporating elements of blended learning, and promoting a research culture. Educators, in turn, can act as tutors — mentors helping students set self-education goals, select resources, build learning paths, and assess outcomes. It is also important to instill in students a mindset of lifelong learning by demonstrating their own examples of professional development.

### **Conclusion**

Self-education of students in the modern information society becomes an integral part of successful professional training. It requires not only a desire for knowledge but also developed personal qualities such as responsibility, perseverance, and self-organization. The information society offers all the means for effective self-learning but also imposes high demands on independence and critical thinking. Under such conditions, it is essential to cultivate motivation for lifelong learning, enhance students' digital literacy, and support their initiative through modern pedagogical approaches and technologies.

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