

Promotion of Self-Directed Learning

- A. Definition:** Self-directed learning is the form of learning initiated by the individual learner's needs, goals and interests.
This category deals with approaches the teacher can use to influence motivation and use of resources, thereby fostering self-directed learning.

B. Educational Purpose of This Category

C. Characteristics

1. Less reliance on teacher for direction
2. Learner treated as active participant
3. Learner's experience provides internal motivation for learning

D. Key Components & Specific Teaching Behaviors

1. Motivation for Self-Directed Learning

- a. Types of motivation:
- need-oriented
 - goal-oriented
 - learning-oriented
- b. Obstacles (e.g., burnout, daily workload, peers, teachers)

Teaching behaviors:

- Ask learners to identify goals, needs, interests (Evaluation / Communication of Goals)
- Ask learners how they want to address needs (Feedback - Interactive)
- Explicitly reinforce evidence of self-directed learning (Feedback)
- Use controversy / doubt / curiosity
- Brainstorm with learners
- Record topics for further consideration
- Provide opportunities for learners to pursue their chosen topics
- Model motivating SDL behaviors

2. Resources
- a. Outside reading
 - b. Consultation with peers, experts, learners, or patients
 - c. Computer resources

Teaching behaviors:

- Discuss approaches to using resources for lifelong learning
- Inform learners about resources for lifelong learning (e.g., reading, consultation, computer resources)
- Model use of resources for lifelong learning