

Programme: CertHE Skills for the Workplace

Module: Digital Skills and Research Methods

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Introduction

This assignment will develop all the required areas as a report format. The topic of this report is the impact of virtual learning environment-Moodle on students learning experience from the University of Wales Trinity Saint David- London Campus. This report aims to develop both primary and secondary research methods as the researcher can get the valuable information and data from both the topic. The objective of this report includes developing the particular questions in order to conduct the survey. The question will be relatable on a particular topic. Another objective of this report includes developing the secondary research by taking help from different journals, articles, and eBooks.

Primary data

Questionnaire

1. What gender do you belong to?

Male / Female / Other

2. Do you access Moodle outside the classroom?

Yes -no problem / Yes-but had problems / No

3. How often do you access Moodle to study independently?

Daily / Every other day / Twice a week / Once a week / Never

4. How effective is Moodle in supporting your independent learning?

Not at all / Exceedingly small extent / Small extent / Significant extent / Very large extent

5. To what extent is Moodle used to share good practice in learning?

Not at all / Fairley small extent / Small extent / Significant extent / Very large extent

6. Does Moodle have a positive impact in your effectiveness as a student?

No-not really / No / Yes / Definitely

7. Have Moodle resources increased your motivation to learn?

Yes / No

8. How easy do you find to navigate on Moodle?

Difficult / Not so easy / Easy / Extremely easy / Neither

9. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about the use of Moodle? Please circle the response that best characterizes how you feel about the statements, where: 1= Strongly disagree, 2=Disagree, 3=Neither agree nor disagree, 4=Agree, 5= Strongly agree

a) Moodle help increase my understanding of the subject material and expand my horizons.

1 2 3 4 5

b) The ability to access Moodle at any time and any place encourages me to study independently.

1 2 3 4 5

c) Moodle is increasing my chances of successfully finish my course.

1 2 3 4 5

d) The use of Moodle does not necessarily help me with my subjects.

1 2 3 4 5

e) Moodle is an important part of making my day-to-day learning more effective.

1 2 3 4 5

10. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about the impact of Moodle on students. (Please tick one box only)

1. Strongly disagree
2. Disagree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Agree
5. Strongly agree

Survey result

From the survey, the following facts have emerged:

6 students from University of Wales Trinity Saint David- London Campus took part in this survey.

To the question “Do you access Moodle outside the classroom?” 4 students answered that they use Moodle outside the classroom and there is no problem, 1 student answered that although he uses Moodle outside the classrooms, there are problems whereas 1 student said that they don't use Moodle outside the classroom.

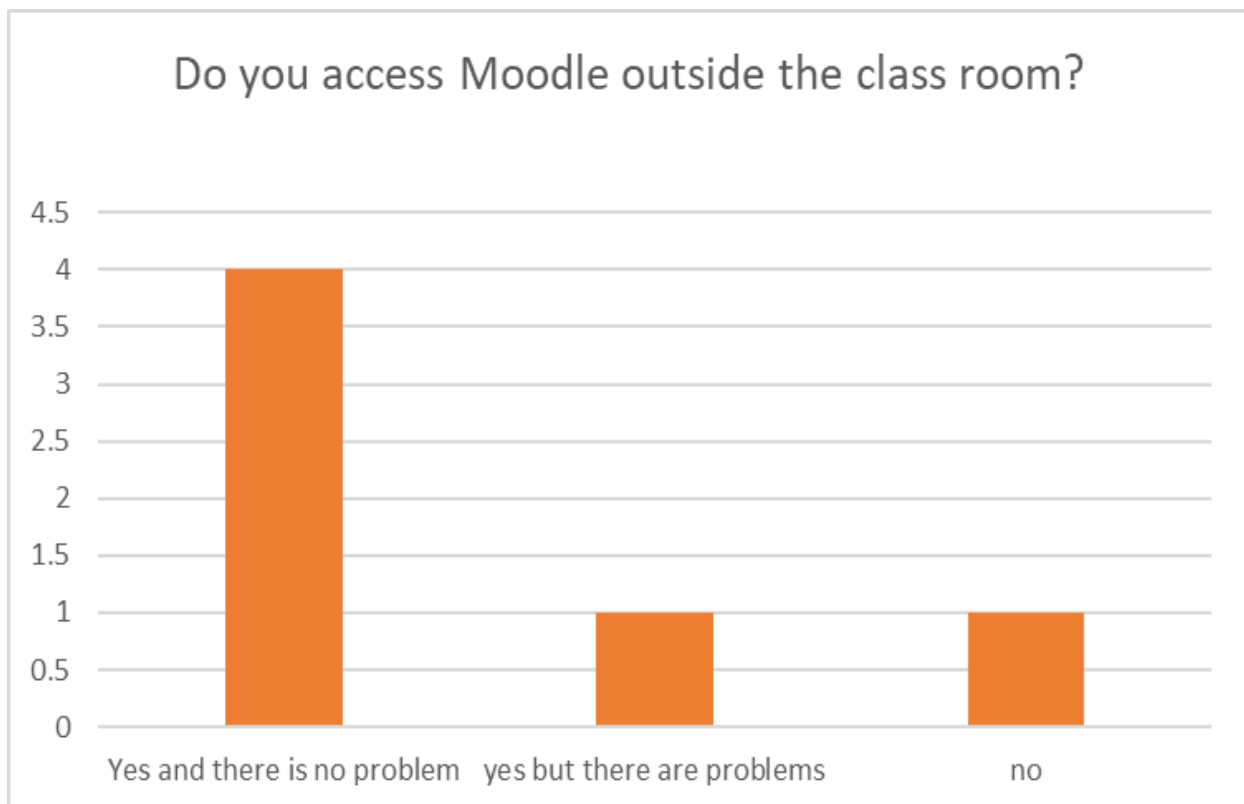


Figure1

Source - (self-developed)

To the question “How often do you access Moodle to study independently 2 students answered that they use Moodle Every other day, 4 students use Moodle twice a week.

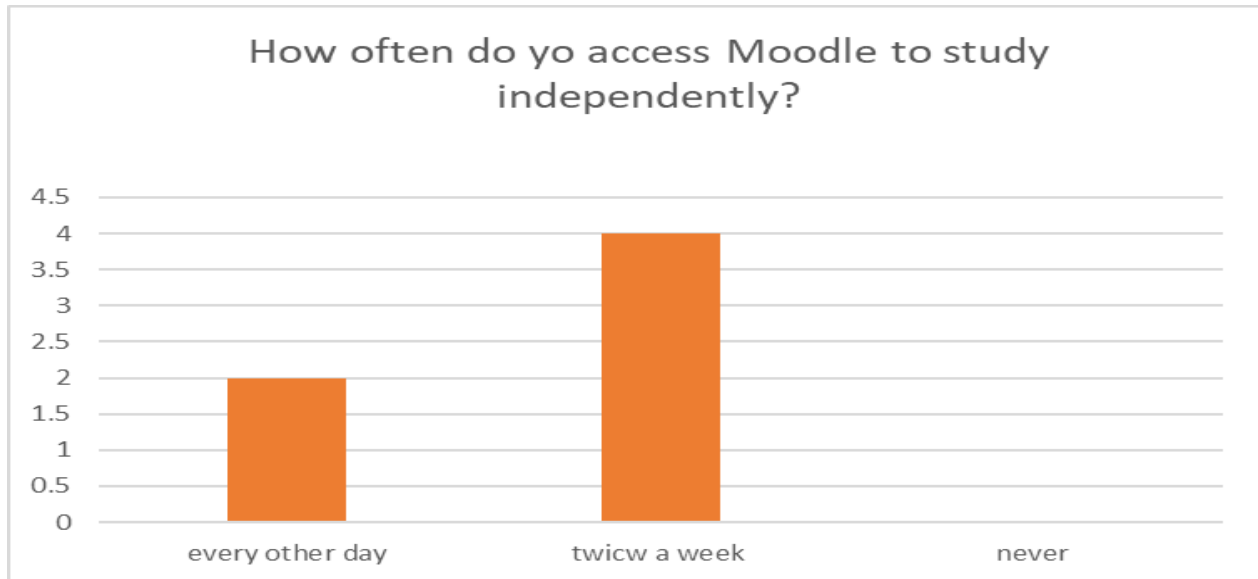


Figure 2

Source - (self-developed)

To the question “How effective is Moodle in supporting independent learning?” 0 students answered not at all, 2 said exceedingly small extent, 3 replied “significant extent” whereas 1 responded “ a very large extent”

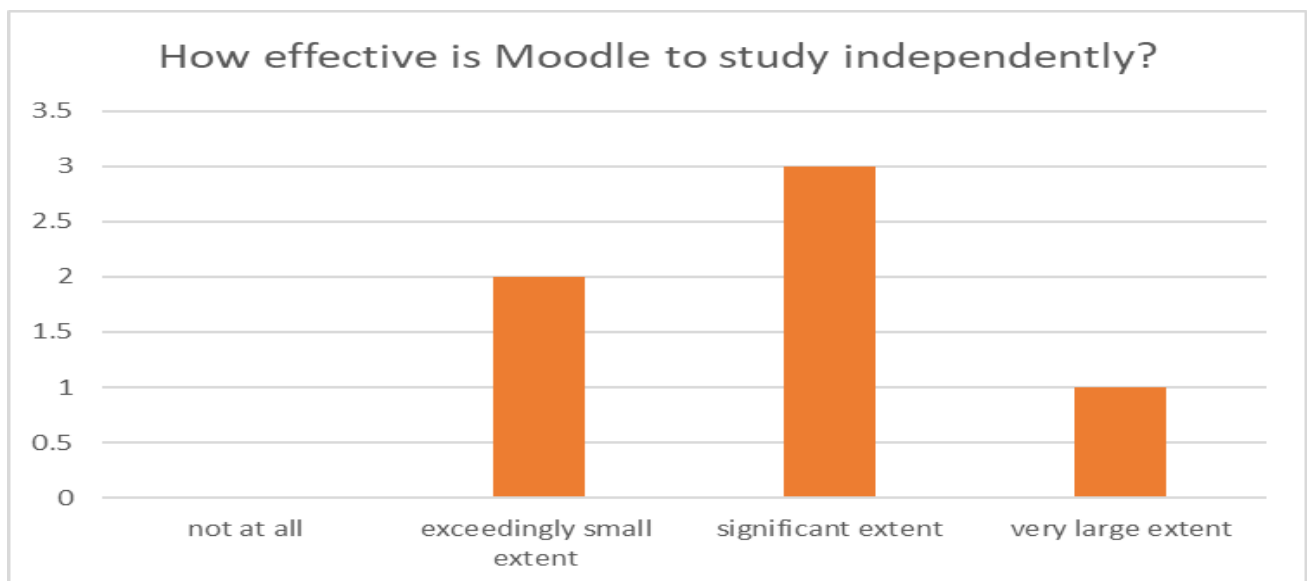


Figure 3

Source - (self-developed)

To the question “To what extent is Moodle used to share good practice in learning?” 0 students said not at all, 2 said fairly small extent, 1 said a small extent, 2 said a significant extent and 1 said very large extent.

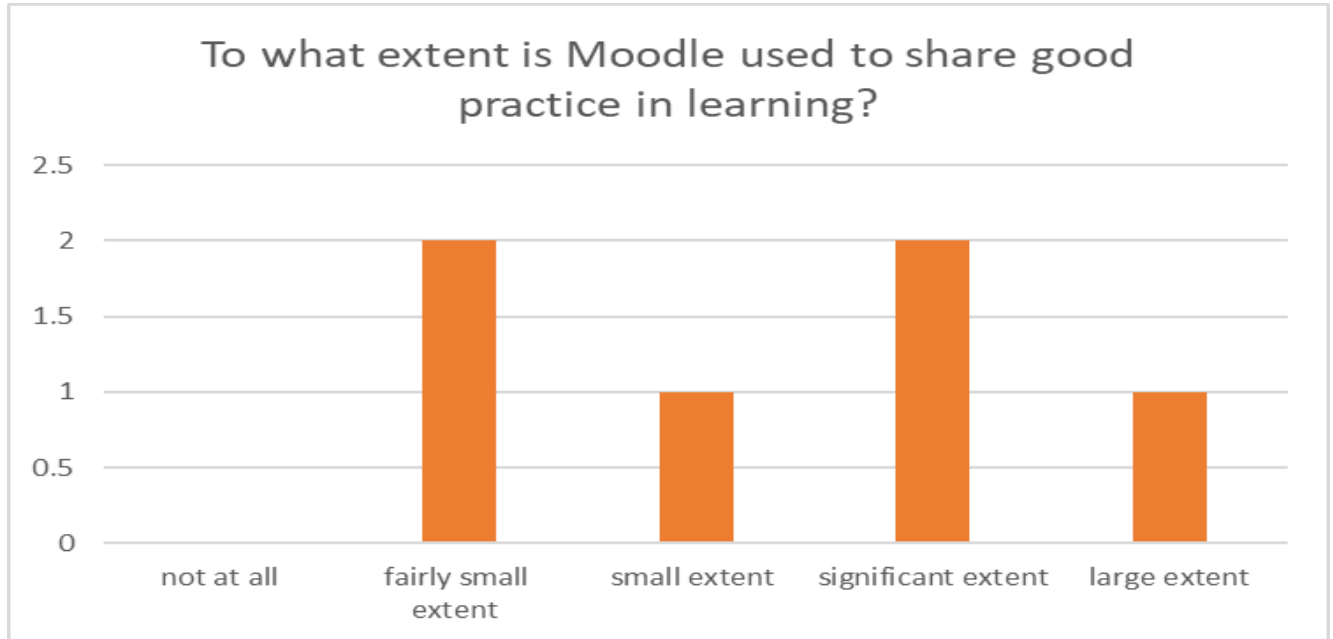


Figure 4

Source - (self-developed)

To the question “Does Moodle have a positive impact on your effectiveness as a student?” 0 students said “not really” 0 said no, 4 replied Yes and 2 said definitely.

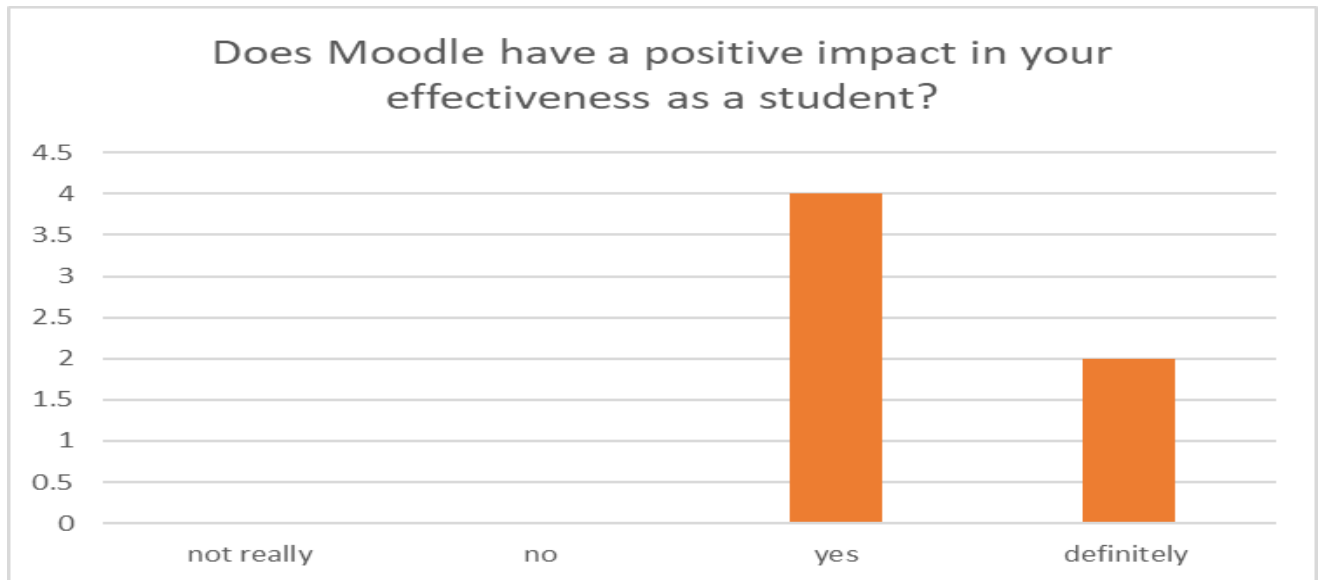


Figure 5

Source - (self-developed)

To the question “Has Moodle resources increased your motivation to learn?” 2 students said yes, and 4 respondents said no

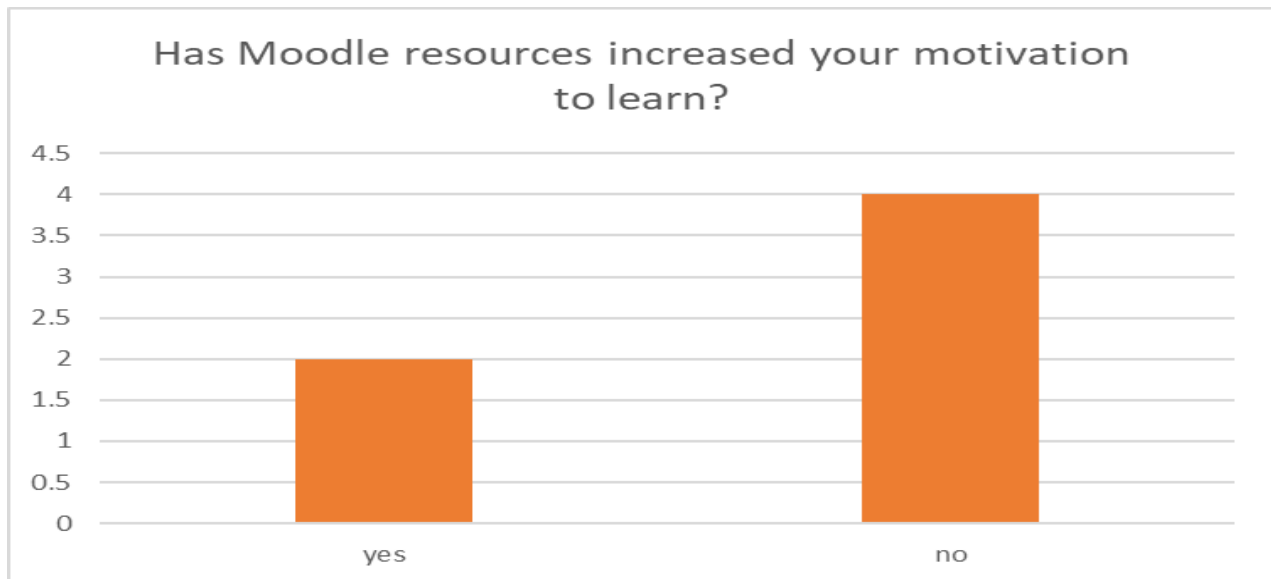
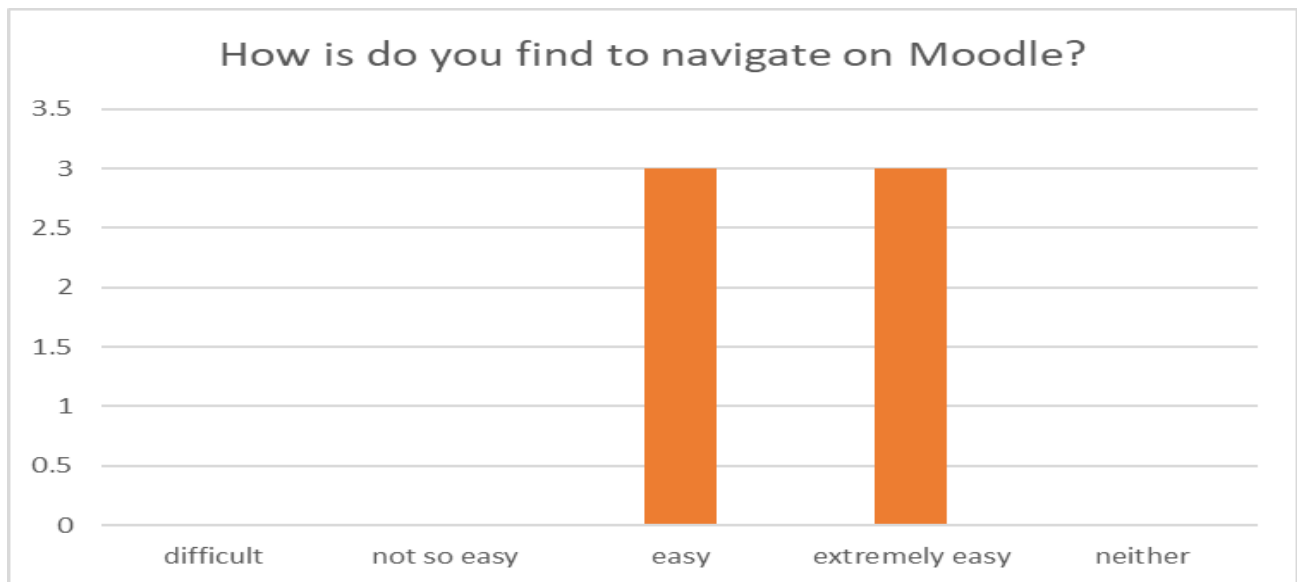


Figure 6

Source - (self developed)

To the question “how easy do you find to navigate on Moodle?” 10 respondents said it was difficult, 20 respondents said it was not so easy, 30 said it was easy, 20 said it was extremely easy and 20 replied neither.



S

Figure 7

Source - (self-developed)

To the statement “Moodle helps increase my understanding of the subject material and expand my horizons”, 0 students strongly disagreed, 0 students disagreed, 2 neither agree nor disagree, 3 agreed and 1 student strongly agreed.

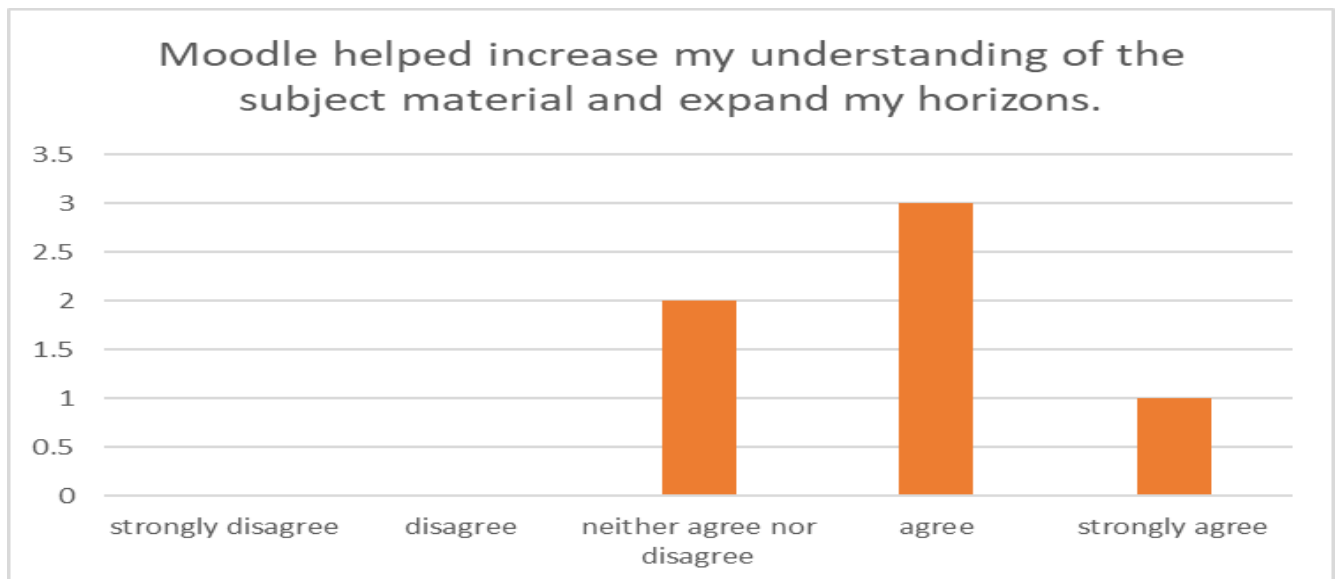


Figure 8

Source - (self-developed)

To the statement “The ability to access Moodle at anytime and anyplace encourages me to study independently.” 0 student strongly disagreed, 1 disagreed, 2 neither agree nor disagree, 2 strongly agreed and 1 agreed

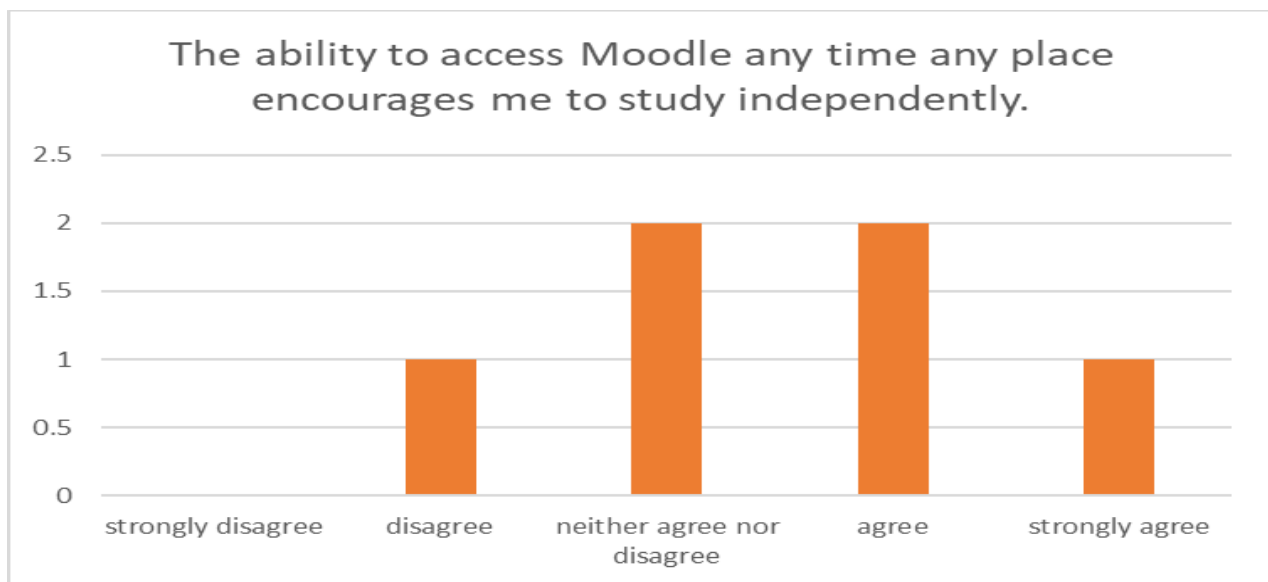


Figure 9

Source - (self-developed)

To the statement “Moodle is increasing my chances of successfully finishing my course.” 4 Students agreed and 2 students strongly agreed.

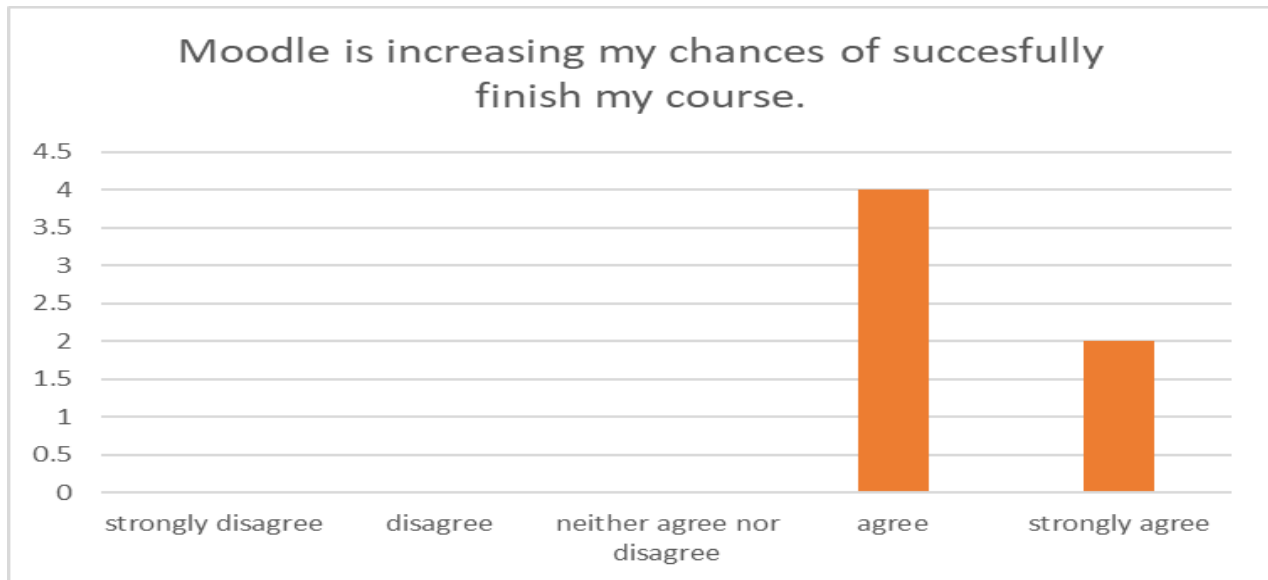


Figure10

Source - (self-developed)

To the statement “The use of Moodle does not necessarily help me with my subjects.” 1 student strongly disagreed, 1 disagreed, 2 neither agree nor disagree, 2 agreed and 0 strongly agreed.

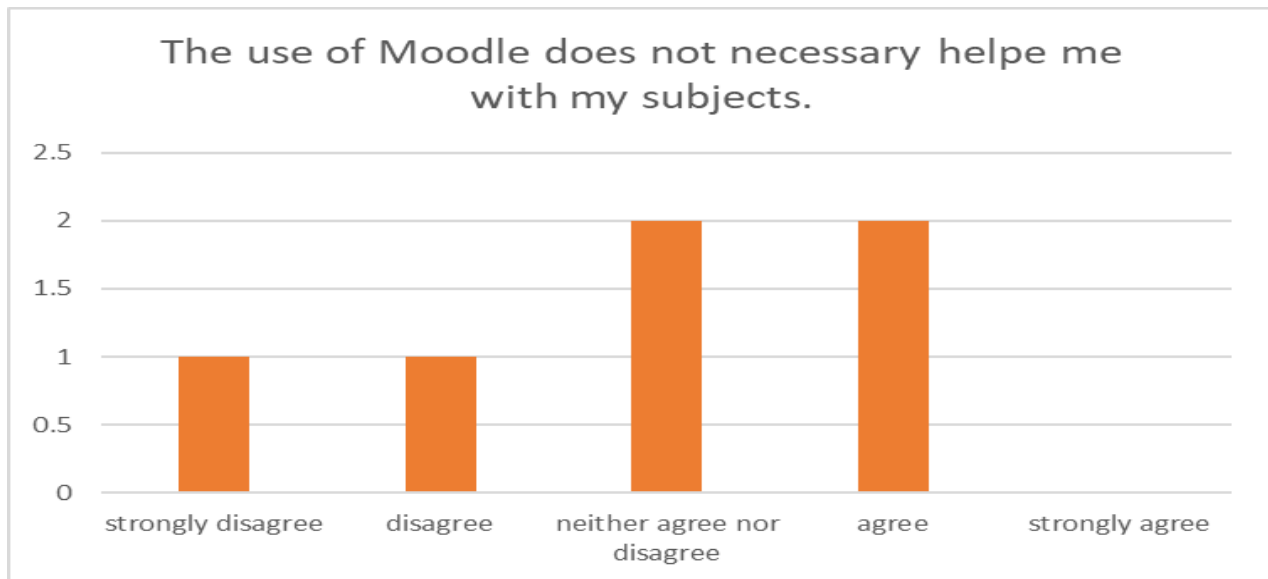


Figure 11

Source - (self-developed)

To the statement “Moodle is an important part of making my day-to-day learning more effective.” 0 students strongly disagreed, 1 disagreed, 1 neither agree nor disagree, 4 agreed and 0 strongly agreed.

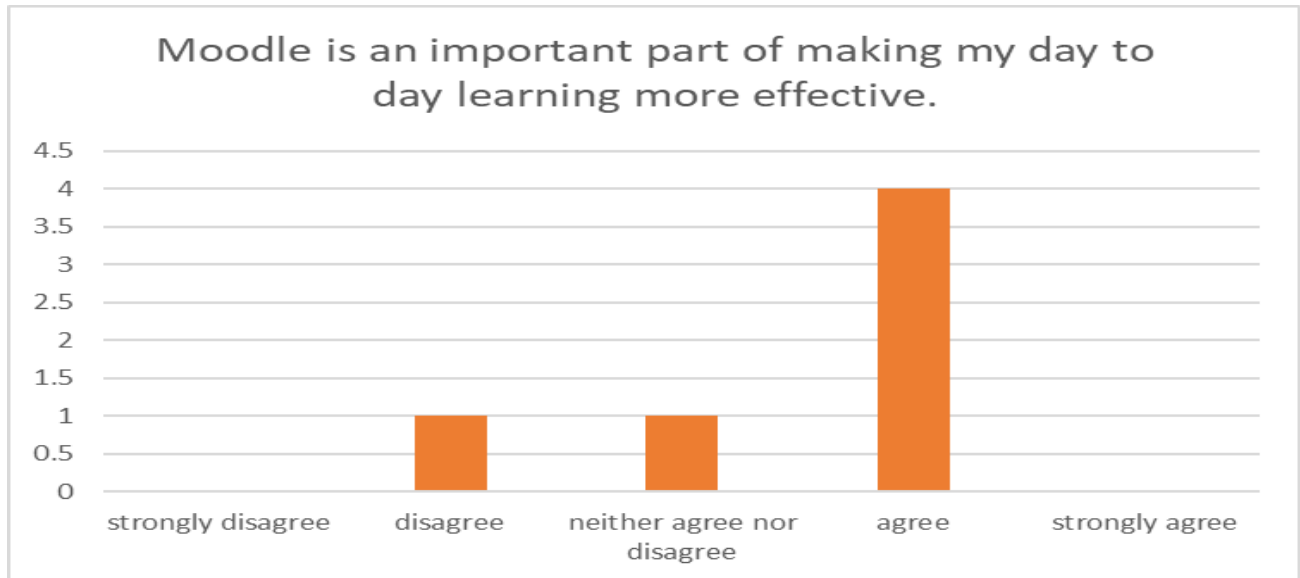


Figure 12

Source - (self-developed)

To the statement “Moodle has enabled me to increase my level of confidence, motivation and performance.” 0 respondents strongly disagreed, 1 disagreed, 1 neither agree nor disagree , 4 agree and 0 strongly agreed.

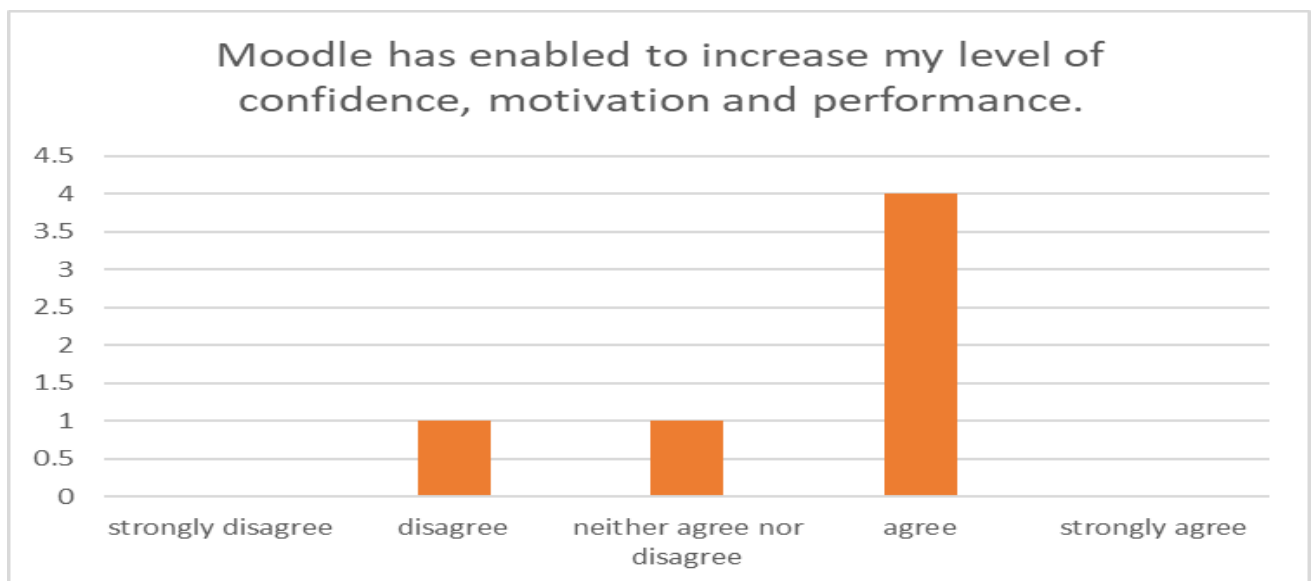


Figure 13

Source - (self-developed)

To the statement “I learn more with Moodle than without it.” 1 student neither agree nor disagree, e agreed and 1 strongly agreed.

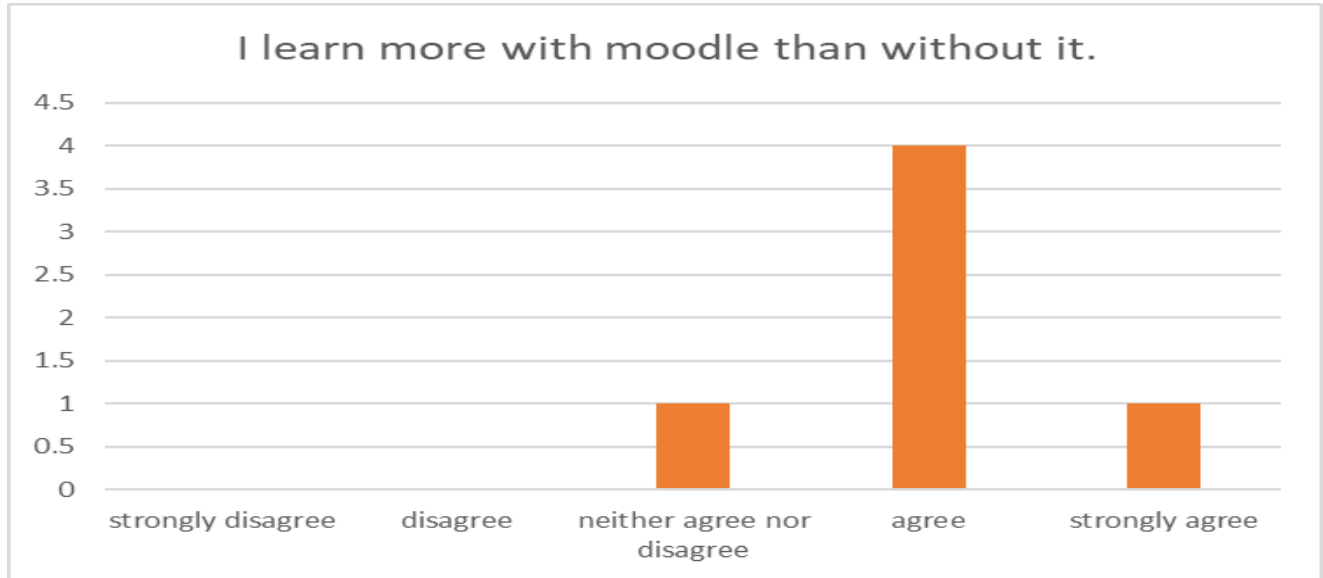


Figure 14

Source - (self-developed)

To the statement “Moodle has a positive impact in my studying approach.” 1 student neither agreed nor disagreed, 4 agreed and 2 strongly agreed.

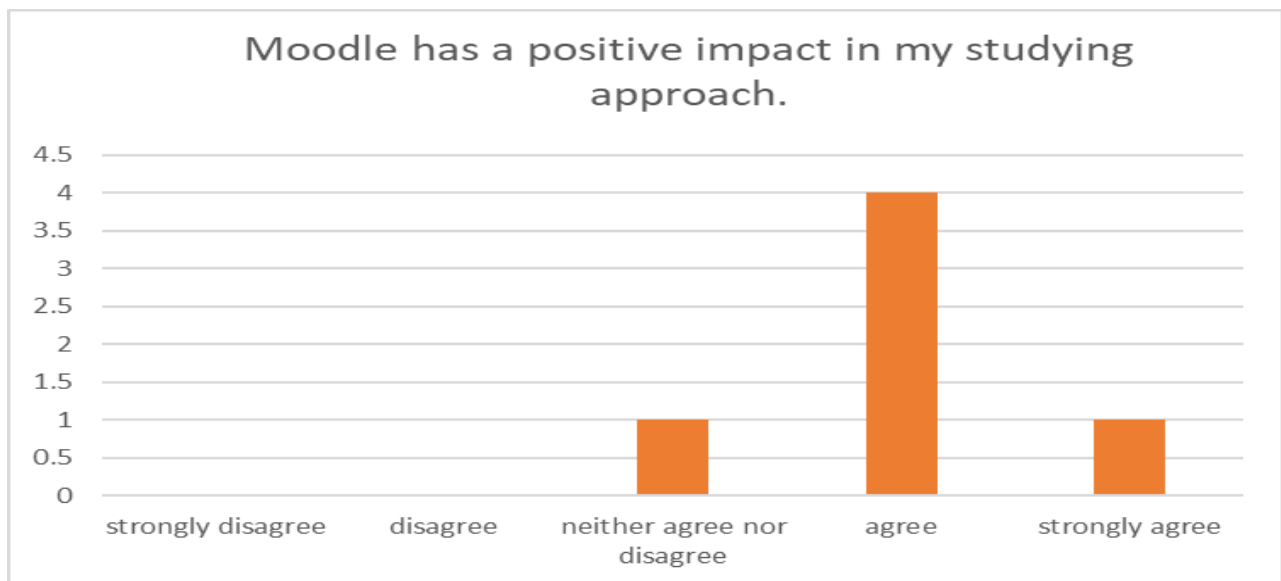


Figure 15

Source- (self-developed)

Secondary data

Advantages of Moodle for the learning process

Significant literary work has already been done to highlight the importance of Moodle for studies. According to Pertiwi et al, 2021 the studies have become more engaging due to the use of Moodle. Moodle helps in making and submitting assignments and provides a forum for discussion to the students which help in completing their assignments through a collaborative approach. The students can also participate in online quizzes and enhance their knowledge through the use of Moodle. Moodle also helps in undertaking the approach of gamification to aid the process of learning. According to Astriawati and Pratama, 2021, Moodle can be used for the clarification of the doubts of the students by availing the help of the educators. Various teachers from around the world can be reached by the students for the purpose of doubt clarification and the teachers can also suggest some useful literary sources to the students which are available over the internet. A plethora of research material can be searched and accessed by the students through the use of Moodle. The introverted and shy students who hesitate to ask questions in the classroom for clarification of doubts may use Moodle to clarify their doubts as there is a multitude of academic work on Moodle which will help the students in the clarification of their doubts and queries. Moreover, Moodle is free and thus the students who are not very strong economically can use it for educational purposes. According to Al-Ajlan and Zedan, 2008, Moodle can help the students in remote locations connect with peers and educators from all over the world and advance their studies. Also, since Moodle is open-source software, programmers from all over the world can collaborate to enhance its functions and make it better for the learners as well as the educators. Also, the students can access Moodle anytime and anywhere due to which the studies can be continued even beyond the classroom hours. Also, the students can engage in blended learning using Moodle. Moreover, the students who work while studying don't get much time for self-studies and may also not attend all the classes. For such students Moodle is a boon as they can study in their free time using Moodle and keep up with the pace of learning by studying the concepts which they could not study in the class.

Virtual learning on student satisfaction and engagement

Based on the statement of Ryan and Poole (2019), it can be written that virtual learning has the major significance to improve the student's satisfaction and engagement within their studies. In

this article the author has shown that most of the students prefer to attend the classes by virtual teaching process. According to the author's statement there are teachers who prefer the virtual learning process as they have found that students are more attentive in this new process, and they feel motivated with it more. According to the statement of the students group using the VLE process they have scored higher, and they found the process helpful which provided the retention than the didactic process. To develop this particular article, the author has taken the help of radiation theory by which they have conducted the research sessions. The VLE was used in the research sessions by developing anonymous questionnaires which were distributed among various students. 40 students have participated in this research which has helped significantly to develop the engagement of 6th research. According to the result of the research it can be stated that there are many students who have improved their engagement in the learning process by the VLE whereas, on the other hand, few have reported that they need more advantage to incorporate the process in the proper way (Bogusevski *et al.*, 2020). The result suggests that there is a main role of VLE in growing the learning assessments for students. The advanced technology and upgraded applications generally help in the process. The good internet connection plays a major role to engage the students for their participation.

Outcomes of VLE due to covid-19 and pandemic situation

Based on the statement of Torres Martín *et al.*, (2021), during the pandemic and corona virus all the teachers had to take the help of virtual learning process and despite negotiation the students also had to consider this process as the daily routine. The learning and teaching process in a digital way has benefited the students mostly as they have been able to attend the class regularly. The student has been benefited in administration and organization. In the pandemic situation the integration of the VLE system has been able to deliver significant savings to the timing and management. The behavioural aspects of this process have made all the students accept the idea as the teachers have also incorporated the direct process of VLE. According to the article it has the effect on planning and resource management. As during the pandemic, the teachers as well as learners had to take the internet access outside the classroom, so they have got to know the positive side of virtual learning process and based on the research it has been found that after the pandemic situation the students hold the choice of it which has positive impact in creating and storing lesson plans. As a result of the virtual learning process the teachers have got the chances to monitor the students in a more specific way. After the pandemic it has seen that the complex

assignment holds more accessibility for the centralized database of student's attainment and progress.

Analysis the role of digital technologies in virtual learning environment

According to the statement of Borba *et al.*, (2018), during the pandemic the upgraded application and digital technologies have played a wide role to develop the positive virtual learning environment. The effective role of digital learning tools within the virtual classes has helped the teachers as well as students to increase their engagement. For example, the good internet connection has helped to bound all the students together to attend the classes peacefully. After the development of this process the engineers have given more effort to develop the application which can help the teachers in their process. The improved digital learning tools have increased the value of lesson plans and it helps the teachers to create those by using upgraded features. The upgraded digital technologies have facilitated all the students as well as teachers in their personalized learning process. It has helped to enhance the student's skills which are essential for their further growth. In this article authors have shown that the role of digital technologies involves two specific contexts (Encalada, 2021). Those are how teachers and students have been benefited in producing interactive digital material and the way digital technologies can play a wide role in distance learning courses. According to the research there are many students who got stuck during the pandemic situation and for that particular reason they were unable to attend face to face classes. The upgraded digital technology has played a major role as a solution in this area which has helped all the students who have taken part in the distance learning process.

Conclusion

To develop the impact of the virtual learning environment this report has taken the help of both primary and secondary research. The primary research has been developed by doing surveys and conducting the specific questionnaires based on the topic. The questionnaires have been structured along with the responses from participants who hold the knowledge on the virtual learning process. Based on the responses the report has developed the result aligning with the specific context. After that the report has also illustrated the secondary research method which includes the different aspects related to the virtual learning environment.

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