
Digital Skills and Research Methods

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Impact of Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) – Moodle

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1.Introduction

The purpose of creating this report is to examine the virtual impact of learning environment, this being an application based on the courses taught in educational institutions. Through these not only I will allow the reader to find out as much about eLearning but at the same time I am gaining as much knowledge and how beneficial it is for us.

To create it I will use questionnaires that will be shared, asking people from the college where I study, teachers but also friends who use this portal, about their opinion. Also, I will use literature review to find out as much information as possible. And based on them will analyse the importance and benefits given by eLearning. I will start this essay by creating an idea about the Virtual Learning Environment and by whom this portal is most commonly used.

2.Background

Virtual Learning Environment is a platform where teachers meet with students for an online class to take lessons. Also here are the teaching materials and resources that students can use to improve their knowledge, which can help them in exams.” It is an integrated set of online tools, databases and online-managed resources that exist as a coherent system functioning collectively in support of education” (Cook & Ellaway, 2015) The virtual learning environment was created with the purpose, as many people as possible to have access to university lessons but also to the latest information. This helps those who cannot come to class or are in other countries. But even so, they will be monitored like the other students who come to study directly at the university. The virtual learning environment offers us access to different information formats, it is a very efficient way for the school materials to be sent and received by students and teachers. They can also be accessed at any time, regardless of the location.

“The use of Information and Communication Technologies in higher education has proved to be very effective in different educational environments. A less explored area is their application for evaluation on-line, since it is a different process, with specific components. This work describes a methodology that combines the

assessment with multiple choice tests through the virtual environment Moodle and the evaluation by using traditional classroom exams.”(Novo-Corti, Varela-Candamio, Ramil-Díaz 2013) This quote briefly describes the importance and Moodle function.

This educational platform is also beneficial from other points of view. One of them may be the cost of the courses, because there are people who cannot afford to pay enough money to go to the courses, so they choose to use the courses online. Thus, money is saved, and the result of the information you receive is the same, as for those who go to university, or the other educational buildings. But however, these also depend on your way of being, there are people who cannot concentrate on the lessons taught if they are at home, being distracted by different things, choosing to go to school. I can say that I am one of those people, because at home, with a small child, he will always be interested in my attention and I could not concentrate on online lessons. Also, there are many people who have health problems or paralysis, or the distance is too great, or they are in other countries, or the cost is too high, or they cannot reach a university for different reasons, however They want to learn, have a qualification, or even enrich their knowledge, they choose to use Moodle. As you can see there are countless reasons why the world prefers to access to learn the virtual environment.

Some writers said “Recent research suggests that technology mediated learning environments may improve students ‘achievement their attitudes toward learning (Schutte 1997), and their evaluation of the learning experience. “(Alavi 1994; Hiltz 1995; Makiet al. 2000; Schutte 1997; Wetzel et al. 1994) They are right because students improve their computer skills, as well as IT skills. Although with all these, McGovern and Baruca (2013) “provided evidence that students’ learning experiences are enhanced if class-specific digital videos lectures are part of class material, and this effect is higher when the professor-of-record actually appears in the videos.” There are people, who are much more confident working alone, than in a class with multiple platforms, or simply safer on them, not having teachers face to face. Being students in their comfort environment, this can help them accumulate information without stress and without being interrupted by other students. They also experience another way of learning, not the usual one, which can capture their attention and

make them more interested in lessons, the way they are taught, being a new thing. Also, the information can be accessed at any time.

The problems that can be encountered in accessing Moodle are the internet, because they are countries that do not have internet, or people who cannot afford to have internet. Or another problem may be the unknowingly, like knowing how to access Moodle, or working on a computer, following the given requirements, such as creating essays in word, or projects in power point, or even creating chart or columns in excel, this being one of the most complex. But the most common problem is not having the necessary computer skills These are essential to take online courses, to access different platforms on the Internet.

3.Aims and Objectives

The aims of creating this report are:

- to understand another way of learning
- to identify the impact given by Moodle to those who use it
- to understand this new technology.

Objectives:

- secondary research, collecting quantitative but also qualitative data
- using the Virtual Learning Environment, being the best way to find out its purpose and the way in which the educational forms are taught, and to discover the rest of the benefits but the disadvantages given by it.

4.Methods

To find out the necessary information of the case study, in first phase I conducted secondary research, to collect the necessary data in relation to VLE- Virtual Learning Environment. As a secondary research I used online journals, articles, books, but also web-sites to better understand how Moodle works all over the world, analysing the opinions given by writers or even articles written by different people, also to

understand its role, as well as the advantages and disadvantages of the virtual education system.

In the second phase I conducted primary research to understand the effectiveness of Moodle at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David. I tried to use the most efficient method to identify the opinions of my colleagues but also from the other members of the university about the Moodle, that of creating questionnaires. This portal being used by students, teachers, managements and admins. The questionnaires I created, I distributed them to colleagues but also to the teachers.

Questionnaire		
Q1. Is the Virtual Learning Environment useful?	YES	NO
Q2. Did you find the menu on the homepage user friendly?	YES	NO
Q3. Did you experience any issue with downloading from this portal?	YES	NO
Q4. Can you access Moodle if you are not a student or member of the university?	YES	NO
Q5. Are the virtual classes easily accessible, as well as the materials and resources offered by the university?	YES	NO

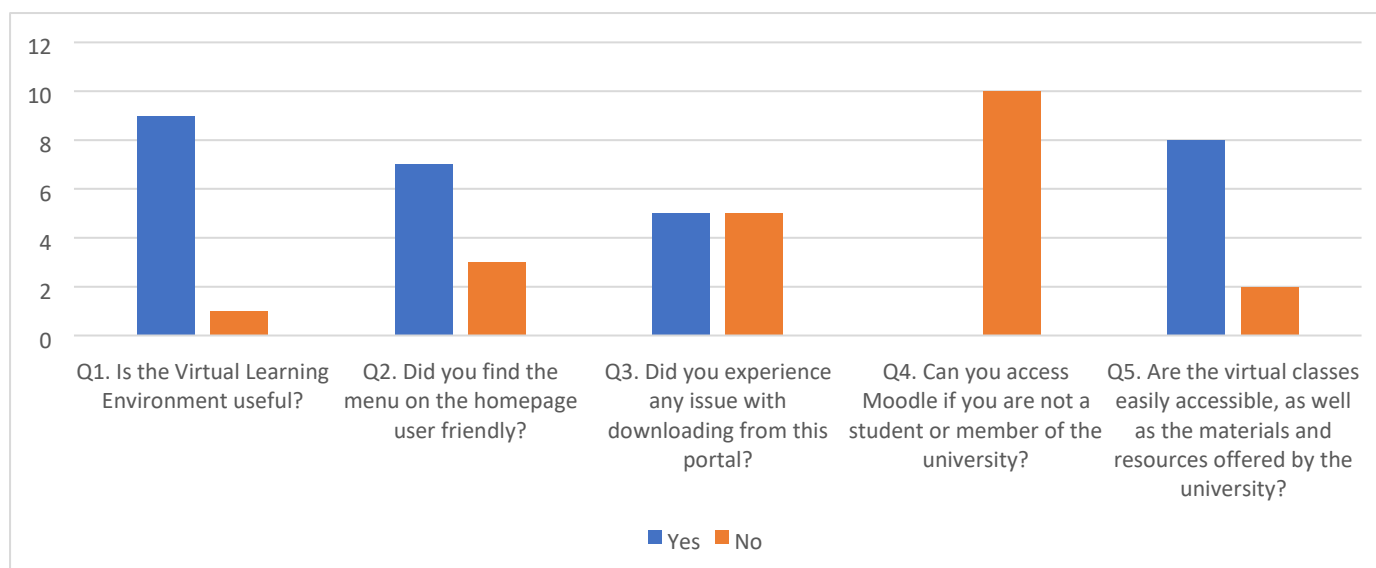
Q6. How satisfied are you with the ease of use Moodle?	Extremely Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Not so Satisfied	Not at all Satisfied
Q7. Overall, how well does Moodle meet your needs?	Extremely well	Very well	Somewhat well	Not so well	Not at all well
Q8. How easy is to understand the information on this portal?	Extremely well	Very well	Somewhat well	Not so well	Not at all well
Q9. How satisfied are you with Moodle reliability?	Extremely Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Not so Satisfied	Not at all Satisfied
Q10. How satisfied are you after using Virtual Learning Environment?	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very Satisfied

Q11. How would you rate the quality of the course materials on Moodle?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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Q12.How likely is it that you would recommend Moodle to a friend or colleague?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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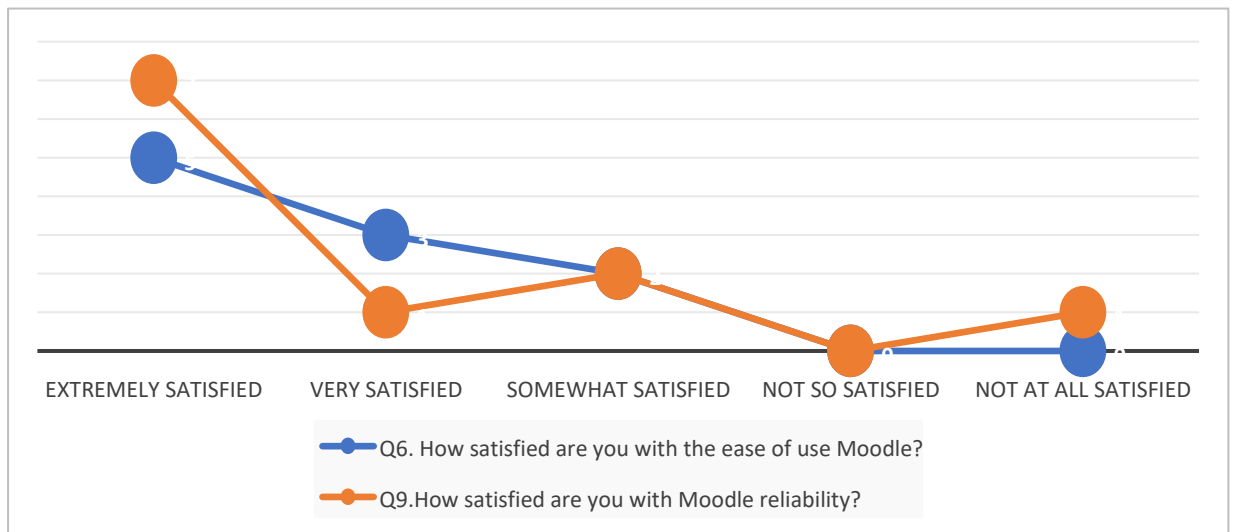
5.Results

Question	Yes	No
Q1. Is the Virtual Learning Environment useful?	9	1
Q2. Did you find the menu on the homepage user friendly?	7	3
Q3. Did you experience any issue with downloading from this portal?	5	5
Q4. Can you access Moodle if you are not a student or member of the university?	0	10
Q5. Are the virtual classes easily accessible, as well as the materials and resources offered by the university?	8	2



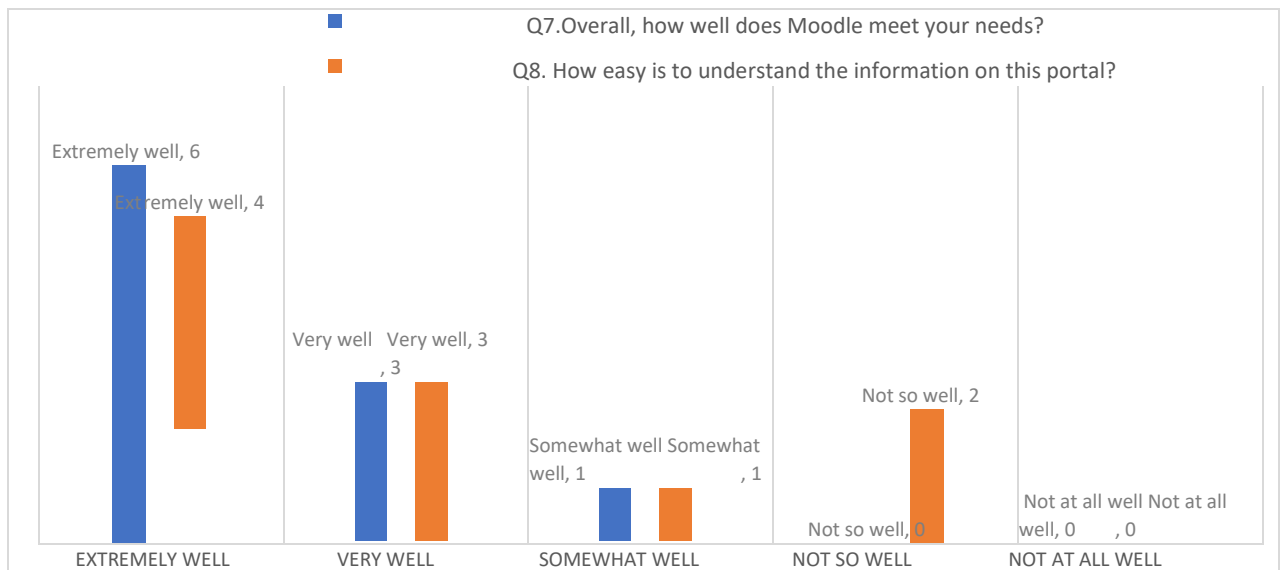
Results for questions 1 to 5 shows that, People who use Moodle are satisfied with it, experiencing only problems by downloading files. Thus, positive results predominate, it has a positive effect on its uses.

Question	Extremely Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Not so Satisfied	Not at all Satisfied
Q6. How satisfied are you with the ease of use Moodle?	5	3	2	0	0
Q9.How satisfied are you with Moodle reliability?	7	1	2	0	1



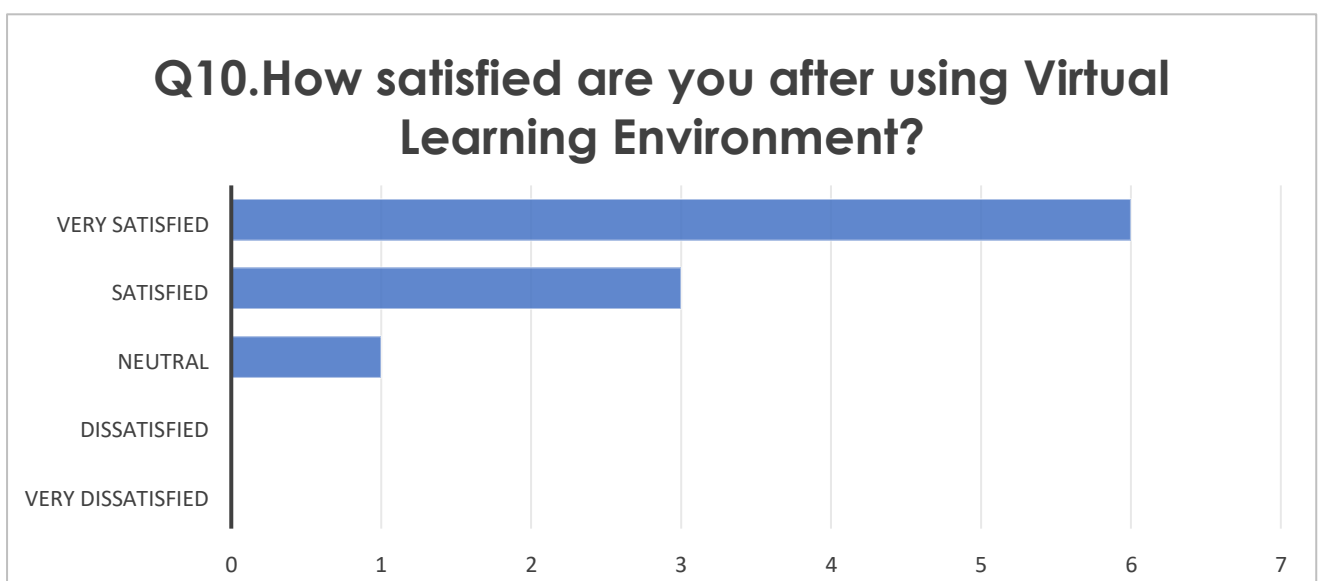
Questions 6 and 9 show us that those who use Moodle are very satisfied with its use, only one person in 10 being dissatisfied with it.

Question	Extremely well	Very well	Somewhat well	Not so well	Not at all well
Q7.Overall, how well does Moodle meet your needs?	6	3	1	0	0
Q8.How easy is to understand the information on this portal?	4	3	1	2	0



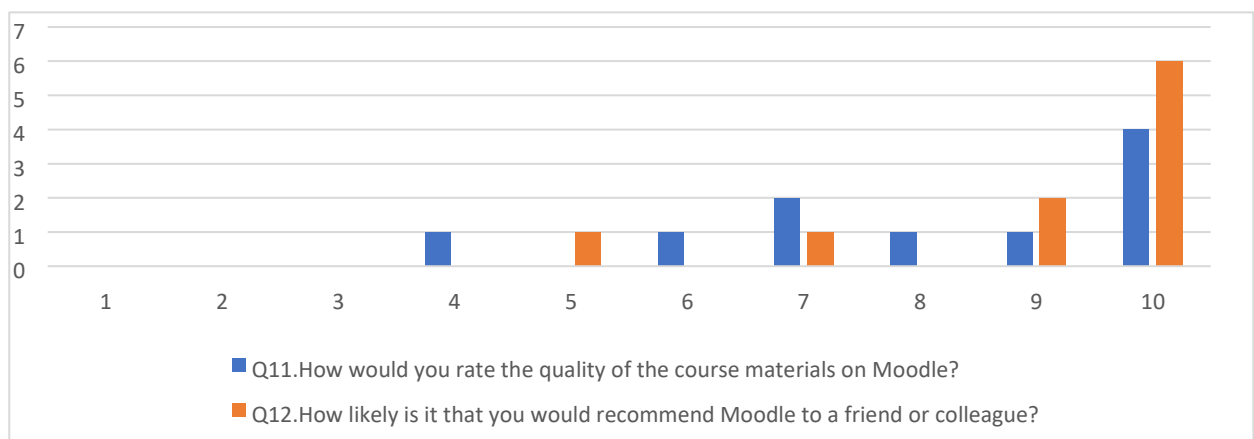
The results of this chart (q7 and q8) show us that people find the information on this portal easy to understand. Number of people answered "Not at all well" being 0 , for both questions. Understanding from this that they are satisfied with it by finding everything they need here and understanding the materials offered by it.

Question	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
Q10.How satisfied are you after using Virtual Learning Environment?	0		1	3	6



Answer for chart-q10: Nine out of 10 people are satisfied with Moodle's use, with only 1 of the answers being neutral. But it does not bring any negative answer.

Question	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Q11.How would you rate the quality of the course materials on Moodle?	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	1	1	4
Q12.How likely is it that you would recommend Moodle to a friend or colleague?	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	6



The results from this last chart show that Moodle would be recommended by most of them. Only an answer that marks with 4 for Moodle in terms of the quality of course materials, but also a person who scores 5 for the recommendation of this, these 2 being in fiddly compared to the rest of the very good results.

6.Discussion

The results received from the questionnaires are very good from my point of view because most of the people had great experiences using Moodle. The people who use it are satisfied. Virtual Learning Environment is a useful platform, easy to access. Its menu is easy to access. The materials given in the mood are useful and within the meaning of each one. Difficulties can occur at any time as few people have noticed, most of them being satisfied and recommending the Virtual Learning Environment and to other friends or colleagues. An issue that should be remedied or improved would be to download the files from the Moodle, because the results to this question

are not really good, half of the users of this platform have difficulties on this topic. The materials given on Moodle are coherent and helpful for enriching the knowledge but also for understanding the ones taught by the lecturers.

Moodle is also effective because it can be used from different parts of the world, and regardless of the age of the person using it. The people are again satisfied that because this platform is free, and they can attend different courses.

From my point of view this platform named Moodle is useful, but for me, being at home, my attention is distracted by other things when online classes are accessed. I had no problem accessing both the virtual classes and the materials used. For example, I can say that I used the Moodle platform more than I expected. Being the situation with COVID-19, the university had to be closed and the classes were some virtual ones in the Moodle, it was a little different and strange at first. I didn't know exactly how they should be used, but over time you get used to it, especially since the IT people helped me and explained how to use it, which shows that it is not so difficult to manage. Since I started using the virtual learning environment, I have encountered only one problem, I think this is the most common one, to download some files in Word. It cannot be downloaded to the laptop, but it works on the phone. I think it does not happen to everyone; I take into account the answers received.

7.Conclusion

In conclusion, the Virtual Learning Environment is a useful learning platform that can be accessed from anywhere and it is free. It has good reviews from the ones who use it, few problems being encountered. Moodle giving us the opportunity to learn regardless of environment, age and circumstances.

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