



DSR Term 2 Research Report

THE IMPACT OF VIRTUAL LEARNING ENVIROMENT

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Introduction

OVERVIEW OF VIRTUAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Virtual learning environment is when a course content is being provided on website and it is within the educational aspect. It can also be called the e-learning. It comes in several forms such as videoconferencing, internet, multimedia resources etc. Virtual learning does not change the way the teachers teaches the students, but it reduces the use of classrooms between them. Virtual learning allows students to go on it outside the teaching time, virtual learning cost cheap and lets people transfer notice, news, documents, or ideas within seconds if computer and internet connection is available. The virtual learning environment was introduced in 1999, VLE is used to monitor the students register and it allows the student to have more support and knowledge about the computer and internet. It allows people to be at their convenient places to learn or to teach. This technology is being use by teachers, students, assessments markers and even parent to support their children learning.

It is important to make research on this report to know more about the use of VLE, it is importance and to improve on it. Research is also necessary so that we can know the advantages and disadvantages of it. (Kanimozhi, 2018)

Background

There is so many learning technologies pages on internet. VLE make learning more valuable and teaching competent. VLE makes it a new world of possibilities to use the internet and computer. With VLE education goes beyond the classroom borders and it gives the learners the chances to learn more on technology. It is a new way of assessing between the teachers and students, student can assess learning resources, IT support, upload assignment and to view assignment marking and grading, to also get feedback from the tutors. VLE saves time because all materials can be transferred at once. It increases communication between the teachers and students electronically. (Kanimozhi, 2018) (TOJDE, 2013)

The benefits of VLE to students:

1. It can be opened at anytime and anyplace of their choice.
2. It gives details of course works online.
3. VLE gives instant response on plagiarism on submission of work.
4. Class can be joined at any time.
5. Saves time of travelling to and from campus.

6. It facilitates easy upload of course works.
7. It has the benefit of making students to be more confident online using technology available.
8. Students can balance between family and learning.
9. Students writing is more effective in communication.
10. VLE gives some students chances to visit website that are rarely visited.

Having listed the above benefits of VLE to students, there are benefits of VLE for the lecturers as well.

1. It helps the lecturers to manage administrative works.
2. It tracks student attendance and performances.
3. VLE provide support for the lecturers.
4. Material needed is easily uploaded.
5. Resources can be created quickly without the need to build professional skills.
6. Lessons can be taught wherever they are(flexibility).
7. Lecturers can record all the discussions and lessons in class.

Benefits of VLE to institutions

1. Institution use virtual learning environment for the sharing of information, news, and notices.
2. The VLE is use by the institution to create and mark the student's assessments

Some challenges faced by students when using VLE

1. Student finds it difficult to use at the beginning.
2. Student fail to catch up if internet connection is unavailable.
3. Learners lack self-motivation.
4. Learners may find VLE difficult if they do not understand the technology tools needed.
5. It is time exhausting for student because VLE requires lot of time and thorough work.
6. Students lack face-to-face contact with other (Kanimozhi, 2018) (Liatriri, 2017).

Challenges faced by lecturers

1. It is difficult for the lecturer to know the best learning technique of each students.
2. The lecturers need time and preparation to create the events.
3. Internet need to be accessed.
4. Knowledge of IT needed.
5. Professional duties may seem difficult.

Challenges faced by institutions

1. The institution has concerns on data protection.
2. Specific qualities and choosing of VLE is long tenure.
3. Recognized quality of the VLE shows on the institution.
4. The ability to give lecture to lots of students.

Technologies needed for VLE are

Laptop, network connection, time availability, mobile devices, and suitable environment.

Types of risk associated with this technology

We have different types of risks that is associated with the use of this technology such as Management: regular maintenance of administrative system must be in stand-by.

Practical: staff teaching, and staff progress should be put into consideration. (2) It is advisable to improve the system. (3) Academic quality needs to be guaranteed. (4) There must be good organization in operation. (5) It is important to have a suitable student support system. (6) Library resources and other learning materials must be readily available to support the students.

Legal/contractual: There must be a legal delegate to detect the important legal problems facing the campus where the VLE is. A professional guidance and support are necessary where VLE is to be established.

Technical: A concrete connectivity should be in place to avoid failure of technical issues, there should be a proper administration to give all learning materials to people involved in using the virtual learning environment.

Monetary: There need to be financial transparency between the student's institution, and any other partner involved. A monetary organization must be in place to safeguard risk evaluation and protecting of funds.

Resourcing: Partners strength need to be impacted on an alternative aspect. The size of partners needs to be considered either large or small with enough resources ({Farrir, 2008}).

Teaching Method: the programme teaching expectation must be put into consideration, is the institution founded or newly founded, the academic result, is it conveyed at apprentice or graduate level. It might be the higher the level the more notable the related dangers? ({Farrir, 2008}).

Legislation associated with VLE

The legislation associated with virtual learning environment is that it must be available to use by all students both abled and disabled.

The design of the web for VLE must be comprehensible, perceivable, healthy, and possible for student use.

Student must be directed to learning tools to help them on the web design for VLE.

Opportunity associated with VLE

It allows students to work together on a project.

Messages can be shared electronically by students and teachers.

Assignments can be uploaded on VLE and be marked by teacher.

VLE can be accessed at home or any convenient environment. (Anon., n.d.)

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aims of VLE is to support the student in their chosen career and to achieve best result at the end of the course. Some aims are listed below

- VLE improves the skills of learners e.g. personal or jobwise skills.
- to achieve a recognised qualification.
- it guides the learner to be on track.
- virtual learning environment aims to find a professional job.

The objectives are to allow learners to achieve their aims of VLE, here some of the objectives:

- to join classes regularly and on time.
- learners need to complete task and assessment.

- focused mind needed.
- computer literacy class must be attended.

The aims of this research are to:

- to know the importance VLE has got on education either positive or negative.
- to obtain more knowledge about it.
- To search the way to develop VLE services.

METHODS

There are different types of survey. We have electronic, oral, and written survey which we are using in this survey. The collection for quantitative and qualitative secondary research was done by visiting websites, reading journals, and different types of books, this has assisted to give more understanding, advantages, and the requirement about the use of VLE. Through this research the trials and disadvantages face by teachers, student, and the management was identified. The Moodle for the academy was opened and other means available on the internet was accessed to obtain necessary information needed. Later, the primary research was setup to gather qualitative and quantitative information connected to the academy Moodle. Hence a 10- 12 question survey was created through online software material which was related to the academy Moodle and the questions where been shared among the students, and tutors to get feedback. The questionnaire and screened shot pictures are attached below:

Virtual Learning Environment survey For UWTSD

This is part of my learning and it is required to participate an online survey that is related to university e-learning programme and collect feedback from the users. Please be kind to give your feedback for below questions. Your assistance concerning this survey is mostly appreciated.

Email address *

Valid email address

This form is collecting email addresses. [Change settings](#)

How frequently do you use the university moodle? *

- ☐ frequent
- ☐ often
- ☐ sometimes
- ☐ never

How do you use VLE to communicate with lecturers/student/admin *

- ☐ frequent
- ☐ often
- ☐ sometimes
- ☐ never

Do you find it irritating hearing background noises when using e-learning classes? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe

Do you learn more by using e-learning classes ? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe

Are you comfortable using e-learning classes to do group work?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe

Did understand the course using e- learning? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe

Do you have e-learning experience previously? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe

Do you really have time for e-learning classes? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe

What technical devices do you use for your e-learning? *

- ☐ Desk top
- ☐ Laptop
- ☐ Ipad
- ☐ Mobile phone
- ☐ Other...

Are you able to use e-learning classes on your own? *

- ☐ yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ maybe

Do you find any technical issues when using e-learning classes? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Maybe

Do you agree that older student find it hard to complete their assignment on moodle? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Maybe

(Anon., n.d.)

The proof of the responses

docs.google.com/forms/q/1VW4ZKCMOTATZAAUJH3IZULP~ZZU7BAAKQDUOIE1C9VMJto/edit

Apps Gmail YouTube Maps

Untitled form ☆

Questions Responses 12

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Email address *

Valid email address

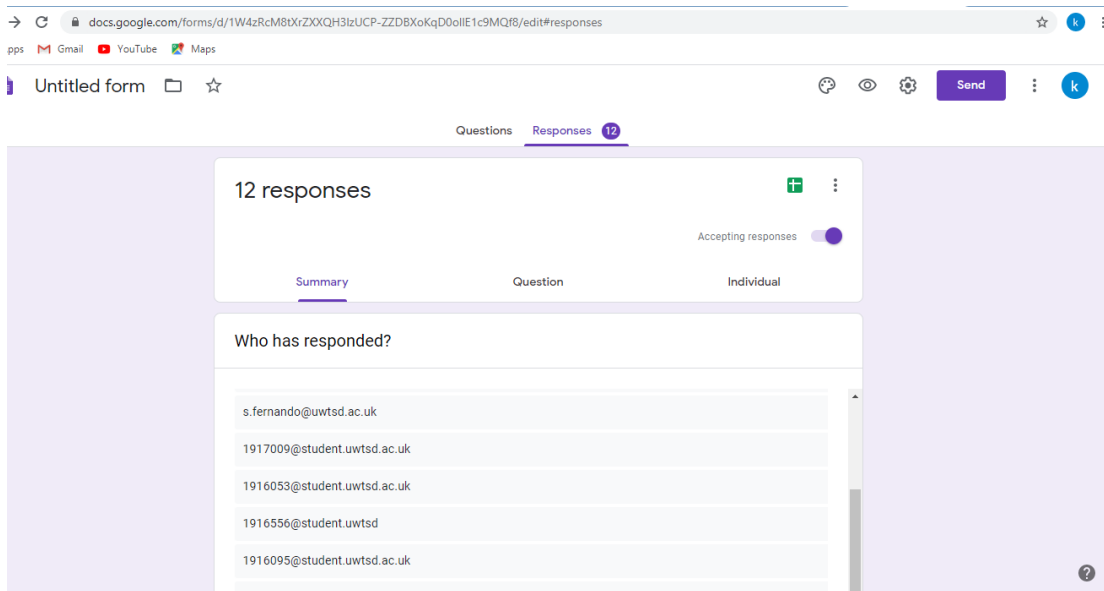
This form is collecting email addresses. [Change settings](#)

How frequently do you use the university moodle? *

☐ frequent

☐ often

☐ sometimes

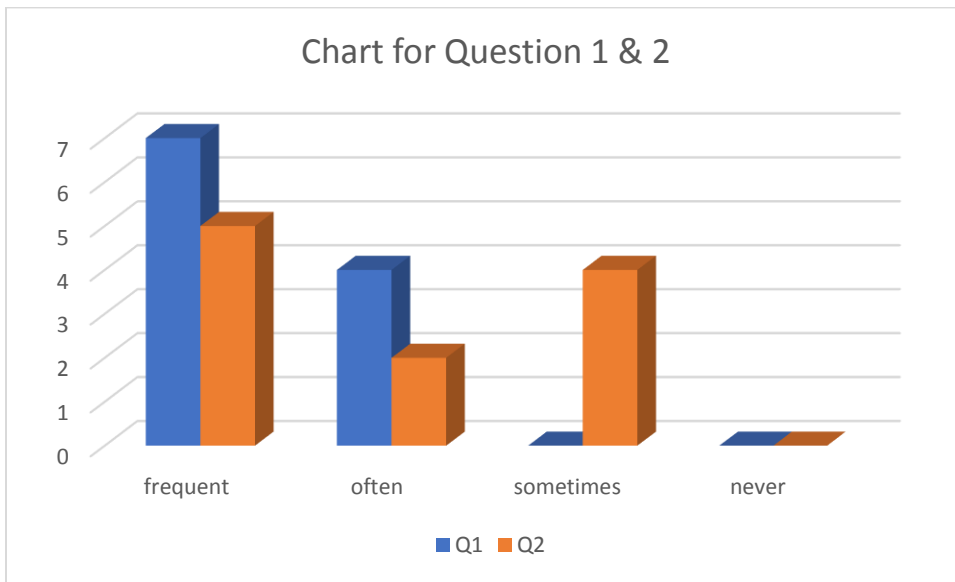


RESULTS

After the setting of the questionnaire and sharing between students, tutors, and administrations, the feedback is now been collected from the respondents.

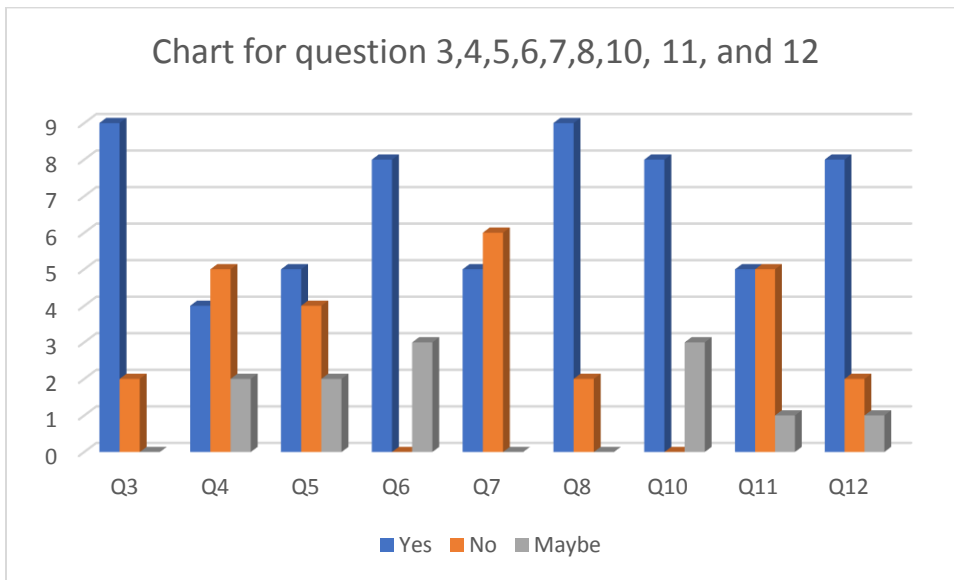
Responses for questionnaire (Q₁ and Q₂)

Questions	Frequent	Often	Sometimes	never
Q ₁	7	4	0	0
Q ₂	5	2	4	0



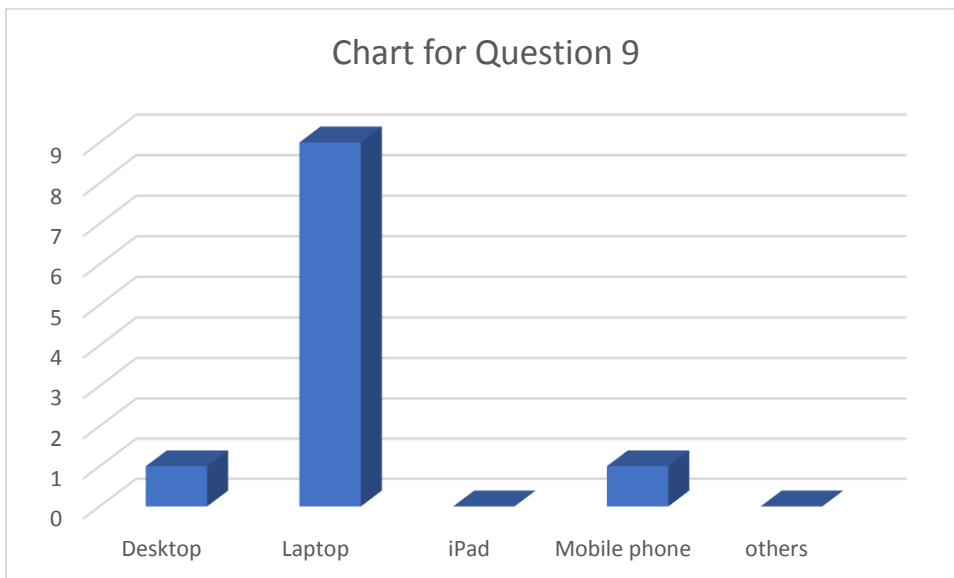
Responses for questionnaire (3 -8,10 ,11, and 12)

Questions	Yes	No	Maybe
Q3	9	2	0
Q4	4	5	2
Q5	5	4	2
Q6	8	0	3
Q7	5	6	0
Q8	9	2	0
Q10	8	0	3
Q11	5	5	1
Q12	8	2	1



Response for questionnaire (9)

Questions	Desktop	Laptop	iPad	Mobile phone	Others
Q9	1	9	0	1	0



DISCUSSION

The response from the survey above shows that the preference for virtual learning environment is greater than the usual classroom. Most people prefer VLE because it suits their availability but is not as if it replaces the usual classroom. Students use VLE frequently for their assignments. VLE is a 50/50 chance of communication between lecturer and students. Almost everyone finds it irritating listening to background noise while using VLE. Half of the classroom use VLE to carry out their group work. Three quarters of the students understand the course when using e-learning. Students encounter technical faults while on E-learning class, sometimes it might be internet failure or computer fault. More than half of the students do not have the e-learning experience previously. The older student finds it difficult to complete assignment using e-learning. According to the survey more people are using VLE for their day to day usage.

The positive and negative aspect of VLE users

It is clear to us that the positives are more than the negatives. One of the positives of VLE as earlier mentioned is that it is easily accessible to many people, they have computer or smart devices and internet availability. VLE can be studied at any place of convenience, another positive view of VLE is that anyone can learn from it at any time, VLE saves travelling cost and time. It makes assessment submission easy. Research can be done independently. New skills can be gained when in VLE.

The negatives of VLE is that someone can feel lonely because there is no other student to discuss with. There is no instant clarification on a topic when needed, an email must be sent or wait till the teacher comes back to teach. Students cannot learn from VLE lessons if they are computer illiterate. Students find it difficult if the technology they are using develops faults in the middle of learning or the internet is not working properly (TRAINING, 2018).

My experience in relation to the usage of VLE

This is my first time in e-learning class, and I find it difficult to manage with it at the beginning of the class. I have experienced many things in the usage of VLE, both positive and negative aspects. (1) My typing skills have improved. (2) I can use VLE to an extent. (3) Not able to join class discussion due to microphone fault. (4) Miss face to face group discussion with friend. (5) Problems are not dealt with as expected. (6) Lack of time management due to daily commitments.

Mentioning some of the difficulties faced by students I think some improvement can be done, like give more lessons on IT training, more time for questioning, and more guidelines on the instructions.

Lessons learnt from this research

I have learnt some lessons from this research like using the online software to create survey, how to reference my works, how to draw the survey table, how to use the MS-excel for my

survey chart and graphs, how to screenshot on computer, how to access sources for my assignments, how to use power point, and how to use some software tool for my personal usage.

CONCLUSION

Research has been done on this report and results collected on various use of VLE by the university. Appropriate tools were used to analyzed the results consequently.

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