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In this report I will be discussing the advantages and disadvantages of virtual learning environment, and the impact virtual learning environment has on the students learning at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David London Campus. Firstly, the university has students from diverse backgrounds and helps them to gain the skills and academic qualification to thrive in the real world. Due to the current pandemic the whole world and the UK went into a Lockdown. This meant that learning had to move from classrooms to online. This had its advantages and disadvantages. For example, a difficulty may include, being unable to focus on lessons. This is because for some individual's online lessons is something they have never experienced before.

Students at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David at the beginning found it difficult to adapt to an online learning environment as there are many differences between an online lesson and in class setting. Main difference being able to communicate directly to teachers and peers. Due to the sudden change because of the pandemic, some students found it exceedingly difficult to adjust to computerised learning, due to lack of human contact. This meant that it took some time before students were able to get used to virtual learning and find ways to help them retain information from the virtual learning session. A way which helped students through this problem is by organising group breakout rooms. This is where the teacher put a group of students into a breakout room where they are able to discuss and complete group work together.

Some online learning sessions at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David requires students to have their face camera on. This is so teachers can see if the student is participating in the tasks that has been given by the teacher. A lot of students were extremely uncomfortable with that idea as some students did not want to show their living situation to their classmates. As they felt it is confidential and they did not want to expose their family members. This is due to the fact a few students are sharing their room with a family member and they do not want them to be exposed on camera during online lessons as there is a lack of privacy at home. The impact this has on students is that Professors will not be able to know if the student is engaging with the learning. It will be up to the individual to engage with the class and to learn as much information they possibly could from the online lesson. This means that students have complete freedom over how they would like to spend their lessons. They could either engage with the lesson and complete given tasks and assignments or they could not participate due to the lack of a working environment. Sadly, some students tend to not engage in the lesson this means that they would struggle with assignments. This might make the student feel isolated and unsatisfied with the course. Students might think about dropping out or give Professor work that does not meet the standard of the course.

The students that are sharing living space with a family member may lose focus quicker. This is because their room mate also might be doing online lessons. this will not allow them to be fully focused on what is being said in his/her lesson, due to the background noise of another lesson taking place in the same room. If the roommate does not have online lesson the students still can become easily distracted by having another person in the same room as them. This will reduce information being taken in by the students and harm their academic skill in the long run. This means that if the student were to turn on their audio to engage with the virtual learning environment, they will not be able to do so as their will be background noises which might distract other students that are in the lesson.

Some students at University of Wales Trinity Saint David did not own a computer or laptop. Previously, they would use public libraries to complete their work. Due to lockdown all public libraries were closed. This meant students could not access public libraries to complete their work. The impact this had on students is that this meant students were missing out on valuable information and learning, as they would have to find funds to purchase the device. This means within the time they were searching to access a computer to join virtual learning, they would have missed out on the learning and the students would have feel behind on their work. Due to this situation, some students who did not have a computer or laptop would have to purchase one. This would have put a strain on their financial situation. However, the advantage is if you own a computer or a laptop you could join lessons from any location which means you would not be missing out on any lesson and learning that was taking place. This would increase attendance from students. Attending lesson would have increased interaction and engagement from students.

Another impact virtual learning environment had on students at University of Wales Trinity Saint David is that many students at times felt they were not given the support they were required. What this means is that if they were struggling with a task and required clarification or assistance, they would not get the help they would if the lesson were based in classroom. Students could still ask for help during virtual learning, but it will not be instant, it would be delayed due to the fact the student would have to wait for the teacher to become available. However, the teachers can put information on Moodle for the students to access at all times. This means if they require guidance on assignments the information will be able for them on Moodle. This means students will not need to wait for a teacher to become available in order for guidance, they can access relevant information online, virtually. However, if the student require assistance with specific task and the information is not available on Moodle, they will have to wait for the Professor to become available.

The positive impact virtual learning environment had on students is that they can study conveniently, from any locations. This means that students can fulfil other duties while being on top of their study. For example, looking after families, or other commitment such as work. Students can do all those things while maintaining a healthy relationship with their academic study. However, having too many commitments at once can sometimes stress out students and make them fall behind on work. Time management is not something that comes easy to some students. This means that students need to find ways to manage their time effectively as many assignments require extensive research. Having a schedule in place will help those individual to manage their time with learning and other commitments.

There are many disruptions that can take place while a student is participation in a virtual learning environment. Sometimes, students can experience disruption through technological problems. For example, while being in the lesson the WIFI cuts off, this is extremely disrupt full to the learning of the student. This means that students will spend a great deal of time trying to find the issue then trying to fix the issue. During that time students will miss out on valuable learning and possibility of missing the register, that will not be taught again. The student will have to learn the material on their own. Students who have WIFI might have slow WIFI connections. This means they would find it difficult to download content or carry out research that is related to the subject. This will impact the duration of time students takes to carry out research for the subject. This means that the student will have to find high speed connection from the location they are joining the virtual learning environment or find places where they provide WIFI connection and other technical support near them.

One major negative impact virtual learning environment has had on students is that students cannot connect and engage with their peers the same way they would do in a classroom setting. There are many benefits to virtual learning environment. A major setback for students will have to be the lack of human contact. Having no teacher and being unable to discuss materials with their classmates can leave students feeling demotivated and leaving them feeling like they cannot engage in the session. In classroom if students need help instead of waiting for a teacher to become available, they will have the option to ask their peers. Having students to engage with in classroom increases their satisfaction rate and students become more willing to go through the struggles of learning. Online learning does not offer this option to as a classmate for help unless students are put into breakout rooms. If a student requires guidance, they will have to wait for a teacher to become available and guide them on the work they need guidance on.

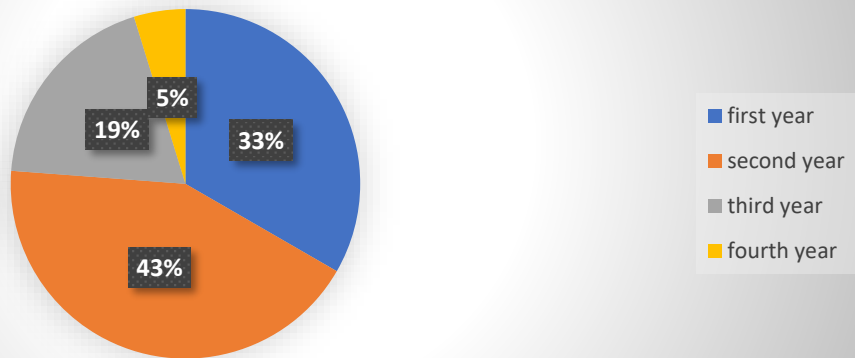
As I mentioned earlier with online learning there are a lot of flexibility. Students can join from any location under any circumstance as long as they have WIFI and all the necessary

equipment to join the virtual learning environment. This also means that students at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David can become easily distracted. Students can join the lesson and not pay attention to the class. This means that they will not retain any information that Professors are giving out during the virtual learning session. Plus, there is no way of knowing if students are doing the work that is being given out unless students turn on their camera or turn in the work at the end of the lesson. Even then at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David students get taught content which is then used to complete assignments which completes modules. This means that it is extremely hard for Professors to ensure during online lessons that all students are retaining information from the virtual learning session. One-way Professors can increase engagement during virtual learning environment is having students turn on their audio to ask or answer questions. This means that Professors will be able to identify which students are retaining information and which students require guidance. By asking questions they will be able to figure out which students have been engaging with the content of the lesson. However, some student might not turn on their audio depending on their living situation or the location they joined the virtual learning session from.

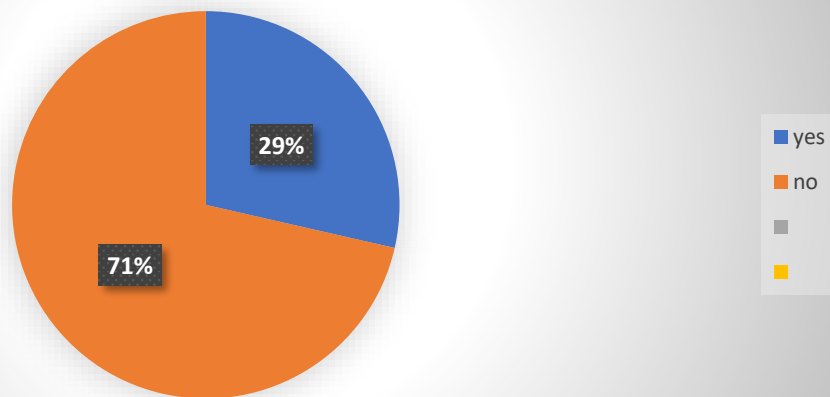
Virtual learning requires students to engage with lesson other ways student will fall behind on work and assignment. This is when difficulty arises. Once virtual learning becomes difficult many students begin to become demotivated and some will have thoughts of dropping out. This will impact students learning difficulty. If this happens, students will need to make sure they are engaging with the lesson and if they do not understand any of the content, they ask for clarification straight away. If students plan out and manage their time correctly, this will reduce dissatisfaction and increase motivation towards learning for students.

The positive aspect of online learning is that if a student does not understand the topic the teacher is teaching. The Professor can put up materials on the classroom stream which is available for students to access seven days a week twenty-four hours a day. Students can complete work and create a schedule to complete that work in a way that is convenient for them, so they do not need to feel rushed and is able to complete the work in a pace they are comfortable with. Online learning environment allows students to think about the responses students are giving, with classroom-based learning students would have to think of answer on the spot. If they do not, they would miss out on engaging with learning. All students are able to engage with the virtual learning environment through the comment section which is available for students to view and can see all the responses their classmates are giving.

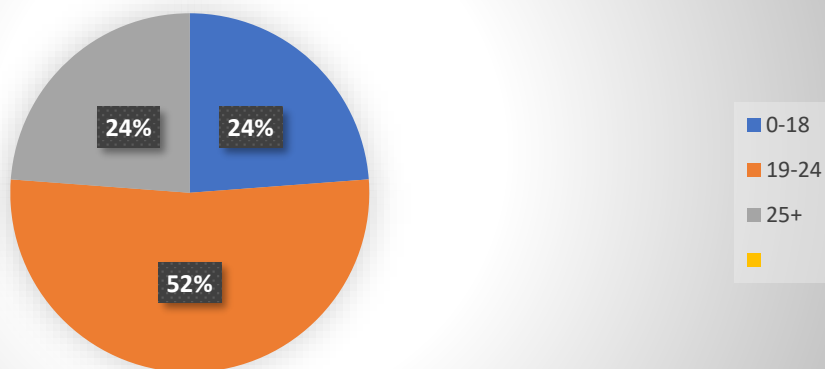
year of study



previously experienced VLE



age



Was it difficult adjusting to VLE



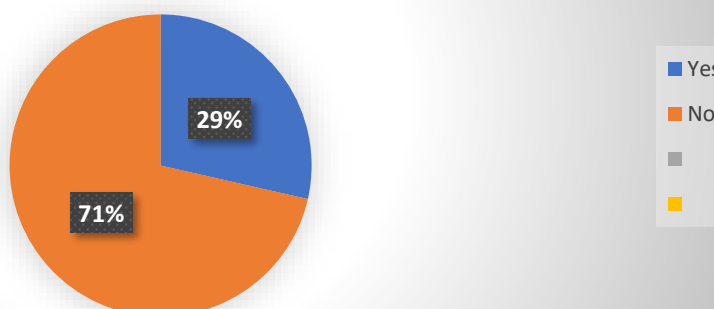
Having no human contact during virtual learning, does it affect your motivation level?



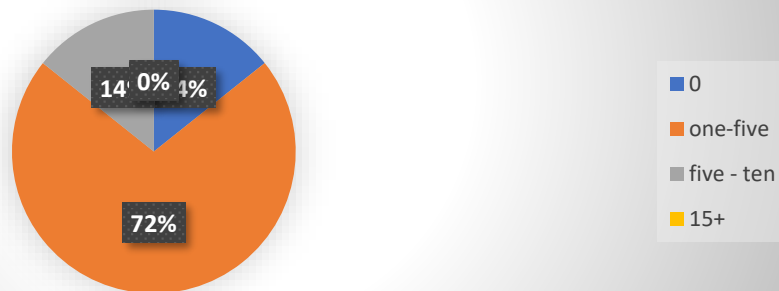
Is classroom-based learning more effective?



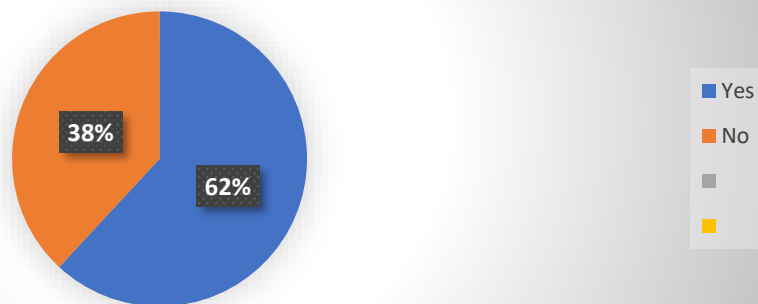
Is virtual learning environment engaging?



How many times have you experience technological issue during an online lesson?



is VLE beneficial for students?



Would you prefer VLE to continue after the pandemic?



From my research I gathered that students at the university of University of Wales Trinity Saint David 27% of the students did not previously experience VLE. Majority of the students found it difficult to adjust to VLE at the beginning of the pandemic. During virtual lessons many of the students experienced networking issue that effected their engagement in the lesson. Everyone experienced technological issues during virtual learning environment. The survey also showed that students motivation level dropped due to not having classroom-based learning experience.

In conclusion the virtual learning environment has impacted students in many ways one of the major setbacks being lack of human contact, which effects students motivation level.

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