



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
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The Impacts of VLE

Assessment 2: Individual Report

Student: Md Ashiqur Rahman | ID-2110938

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Lecturer: Riaz Bhatti

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Abstract

This report was created by conducting a survey to determine the impacts of Virtual Learning Environment on students at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David's London campus. The researcher chose 60 random students at the institute by contacting them through the application and virtual learning platform Microsoft Teams and explained the details regarding the contents of the survey. Out of the 60 pupils, a total of 28 replied to the surveyor and agreed to take part in the study. The questionnaire for the project was created by using Google Forms and distributed to every student. The questions style ranged from Likert scale to open ended and close ended. It is concluded that the implementation of VLE in the educational institutes has mostly had a positive impact on the student's learning experience.

Introduction

There are many usages of VLE, and it has significantly changed the way we perceive education and learning. As the Covid 19 pandemic began to spread around the world, many large and small companies went permanently out of business. In addition, for security and safety reasons of the staffs and students, countless schools, colleges, and universities have been temporarily closed. The learning mode usually relies on traditional face-to-face education, however, in the spring of 2020, the people started adopting the usage of the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) to tackle the issue. The concept and technologies to use online platforms for virtual learning was already present way before the pandemic hit the globe but it wasn't as common as after the phenomenon. Today, VLE has vastly expanded and changed the way educational institutions offer their courses. Online education is more widespread in distance learning.

Literature review

INVESTIGATING THE IMPACTS OF VIRTUAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT (VLE) ON EFL LEARNERS AT ENGLISH DEPARTMENT IAIN ANTASARI BANJARMASIN

This research study devised by Rahmila Murtiana, S.S., M.A. (2015) delves into the impacts of VLE on the English as a Foreign Language learners (EFL). They study the benefits, constraints and autonomy the students face while using VLE. The area of the survey was located at the State Institute for Islamic Studies (IAIN) Antasari Banjarmasin in English Department Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training. Rahmila (2015) states that they used

a mixed method, specifically the triangulation method coined by Creswell by analysing the qualitative and quantitative data from the primary research. The study was concluded stating that VLE has mostly had a positive impact on the students and had contributed to the improvements of their usage of the English language. As for the student's autonomy, most are passive learners and rely on the lecturer's guidance to engage in learning. It is also noted that many pupils prefer face to face learning or blended learning since the VLE requires to have a good internet connection.

The Learning Impact of a Virtual Learning Environment: Students' views

The study provides with a snapshot of student's views on the use of VLE (Moodle) and its impact on learning and provides recommendations for the educators. This article reports an online survey of 248 sophomores at Sixth Form College (SFC) in the United Kingdom on the use of VLE. The study investigated reported learning effects when using university VLE (Moodle). The research took the form of a questionnaire called Survey Monkey and later analysed by utilizing Microsoft Excel. The survey consisted of and were grouped around the three questions. All students were required to participate. After half a month, the primary data acquired determined that overall Moodle has had a positive impact on the students. The data confirms that VLE provides independent learning and gives learners enough flexibility and opportunity to learn whenever they want in their own pace and adapt to their busy schedule.

The Influence of Virtual Learning Environments in Students' Performance

The main point of the research is to obtain insights that helps to understand the relationship with the use of VLE and students' grades. The survey also tries to determine whether the faculty and the students experience any issues and challenges using VLE. This will also lead in developing better strategies to improve and suite the student's learning experience. The survey was located at the Polytechnic Institute of Bragança, Campus de S. Apolónia, University of Minho, Portugal. The research data was extracted from 6347 undergraduates by using "VLE and student registration system databases using learning analytics procedures" (Paulo, A. Luisa, M. Carlos, M., 2017). The study also shows that VLE has had a positive impact on the undergraduates.

Methodology

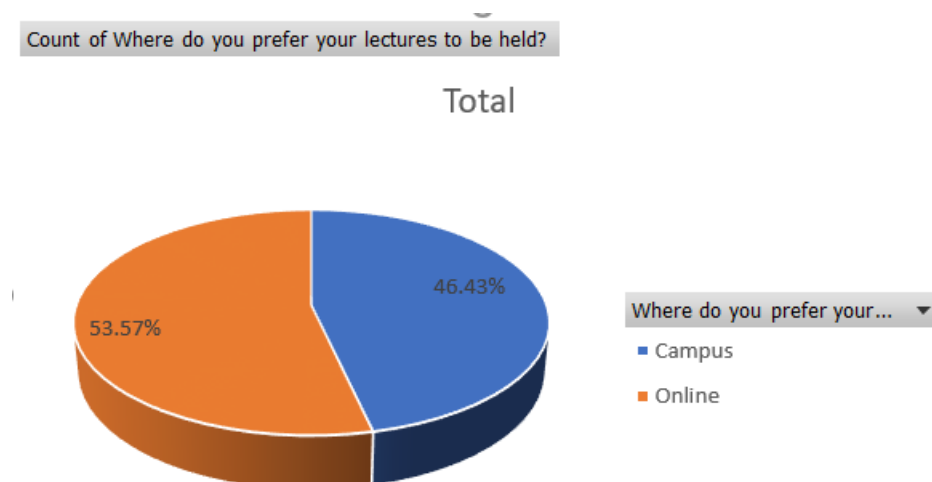
The author is a student at the University of Wales trinity Saint David in the London campus. To collect primary research data from their campus, the surveyor used google forms to create a questionnaire and distribute to the respondents. The questionnaire was created using distinctive styles of questions such as Likert scales and close ended. An open-ended quarrion was also included but it was optional to provide an answer. They then contacted 60 random pupils by using the platform named Microsoft teams and requested to fill out the form. Every student was informed about the scope of the survey with a brief introduction on Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). The online form was registering responses for 2 weeks before the author stopped taking answers. At the end, out of 60 respondents a total of 28 students agreed as volunteers to take the survey.

As per the GDPR rules and regulations, the researcher did not take the name, age, gender, address or ethnicity to keep the feedback as anonymous as possible.

Survey Analysis

The primary data collected using google forms is registered and later put into a table in an Excel sheet to determine the percentage of each response and to create charts.

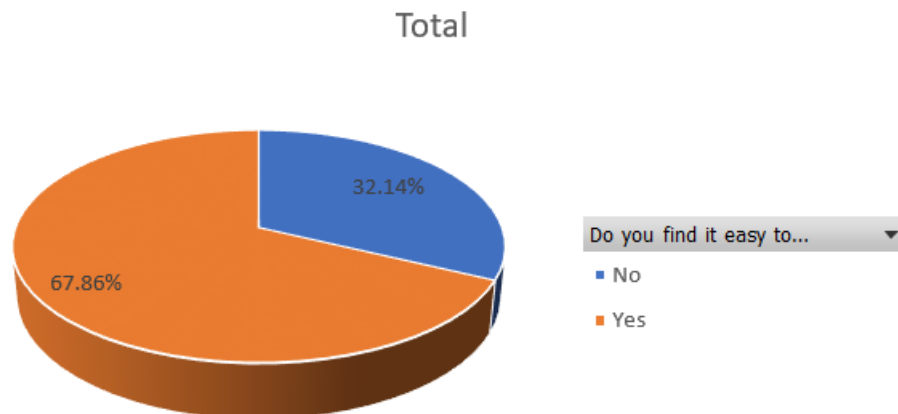
1. Q1: Where do you prefer your lectures to be held?



As it can be observed the above pie chart, above 53% of the students prefer online classes compared to the 46.43% who prefer the traditional face to face learning. This type of learning is called blended learning.

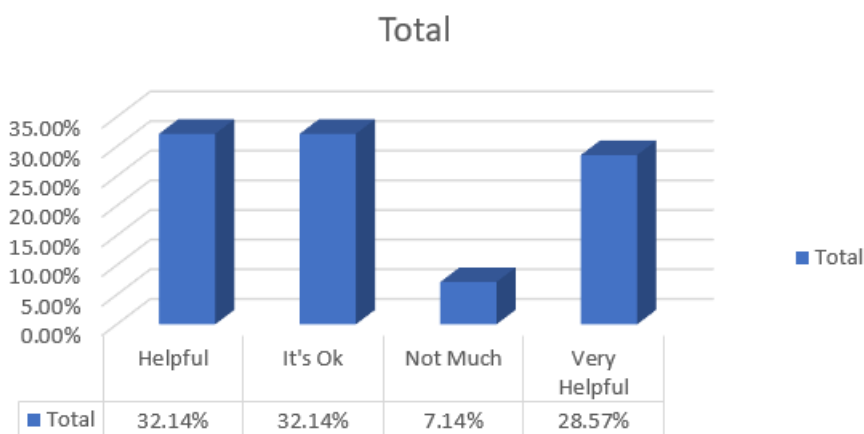
2) Q2: Do you find it easy to navigate through Moodle?

Count of Do you find it easy to navigate through Moodle?



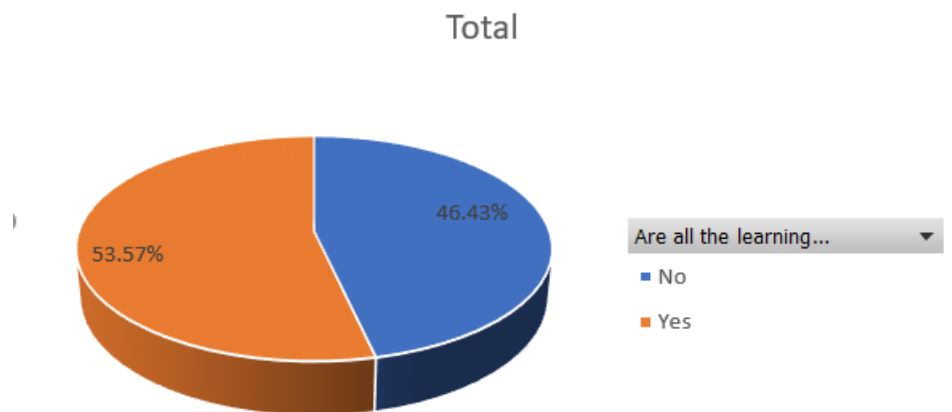
64.86% of the students sustains that it is easy to navigate through Moodle while 32.14% thinks that the VLE platform is a bit difficult to navigate through.

3) How helpful do you find London's Student's Hall?



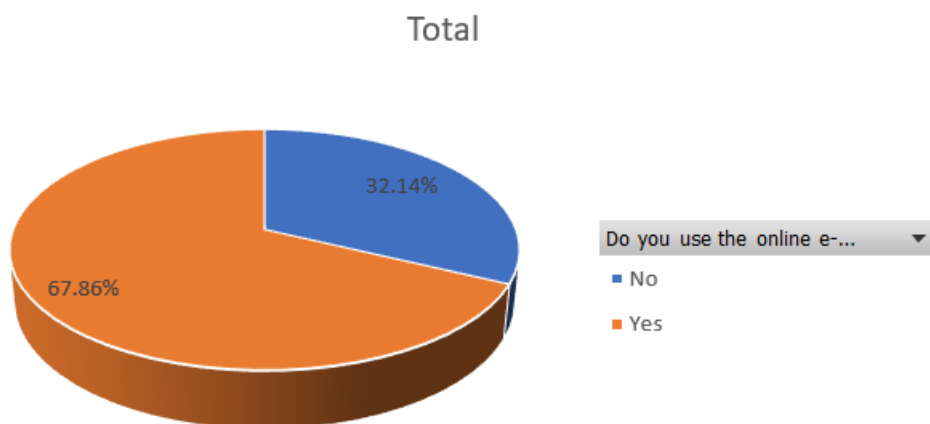
Over 60% of the students finds the London's Student Hall useful while 32% are indifferent. However, 7.14% of the students don't think the Student's Hall is helpful enough.

4) Are all the learning materials in Moodle enough for you to complete your assessments?



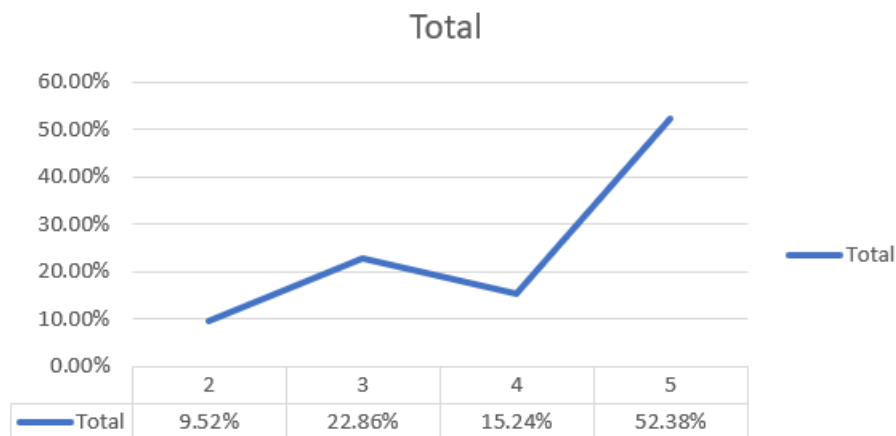
The survey shows that most of the students believe the learning materials in the VLE are enough to complete the course assignments with exception of a few pupils.

5) Do you use the online e-library?



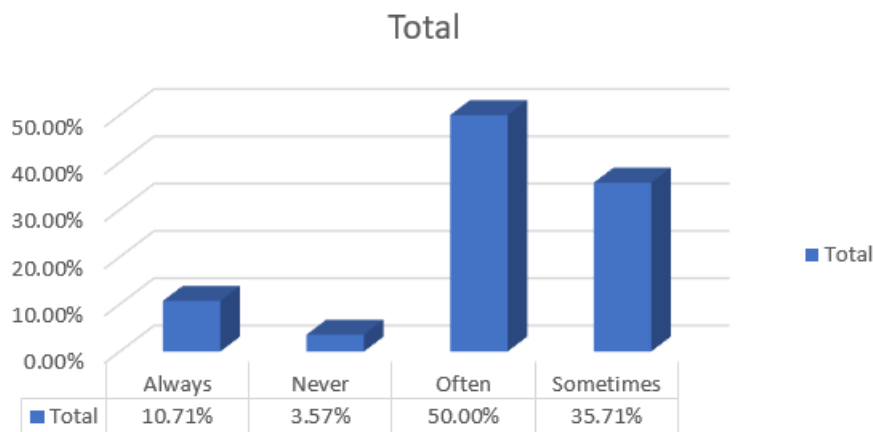
Around 68% of the students uses the e-library compared to the 32% that don't. This is because the e-books are easily accessible compared to the regular books.

6) From 1-5 how helpful are the e-books?



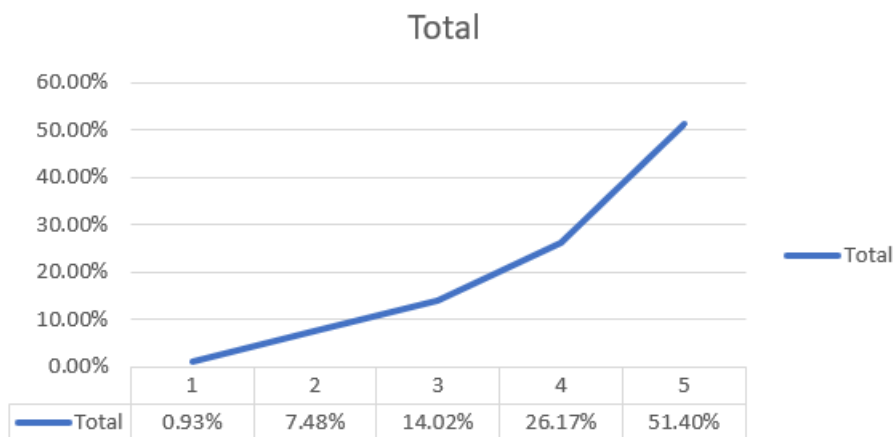
The chart above proves that more than 50% of the people use e-books because they are helpful and reliable.

7) How often do you Moodle for extra learning material?



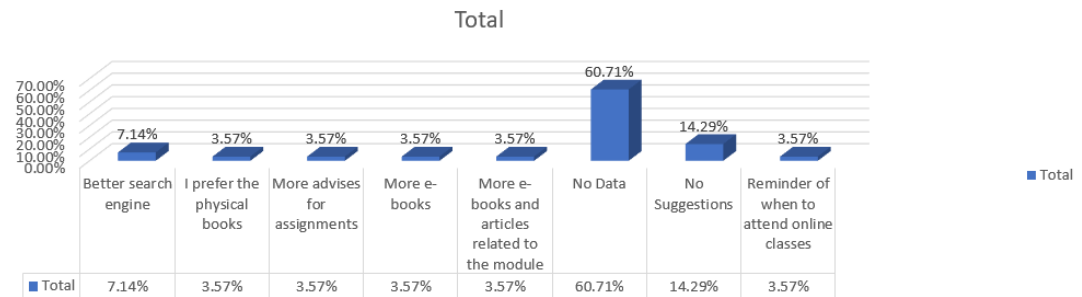
About 46% of the time people use Moodle for extra learning materials while 50% often uses it. Although there's always a few who avoids using Moodle.

8) Overall, from 1-5 how good is your learning experience using VLE



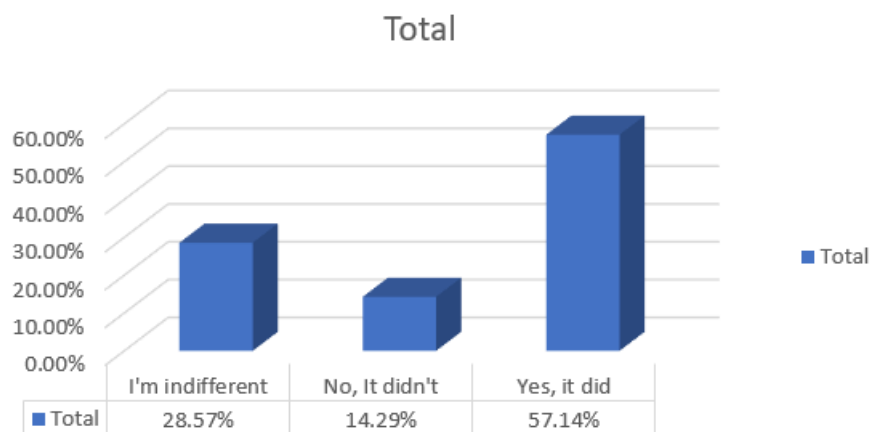
Over 78% of the students sustains that VLE has had a positive impact in their learning experience.

9) If you could suggest any improvements/upgrades to Moodle to enhance your learning performance, what would it be?



Since this was an optional question, over 60% of the respondents choose not to answer while 14.29% didn't have any suggestion to provide. However some of them wanted a better search engine and reminder for when to attend their online classes, more e-books while others prefer regular books altogether.

10) Do you think VLE made your academic life easier?



Even though 57.14% of the students believe that VLE has made their academic life easier while 28.57 are indifferent to the matter a small percentage of the people (14.29%) thinks it didn't.

Conclusion

Analysing the primary data acquired and the secondary data obtained in the literature review, it can be stated the implementation of VLE in the educational institute has had a positive impact in the student's learning experience.

Recommendations

Since the past 2 to 3 decades, a lot of institutes implemented the use of VLE. Now, many students around the globe and study whatever they want without the need to travel long distances from their home. This way people don't need to travel as much, thus decreasing

air pollution caused by the vehicles significantly and reducing the emissions of CO₂ gasses. They students find themselves in a parttime or full-time work and attending a course in their universities. This eventually leads the student to not have enough time to study or complete their assignments. However, through VLE they can study anytime and anywhere they want. It is a wonderful way to slow down natural threats such as global warming. An added benefit is that people who are disabled or are foreigners trying to learn a new language can also use the various functions of VLE such as learning through videos and online activities. The pupils before the implementation of VLE in the educational institutes used to go to the library to collect journals, articles and books to use in their assignments, but now it far easier. Nowadays, the masses just need to login to their Moodle account and search the material they need. This naturally saves a lot of time. Usually, it takes a lot of money and resources for the government to build and maintain an educational institute with good facilities and laboratories dedicated to science-based topics, but now it is possible to completely start and provide courses online without the need of a campus.

Just like its advantages, they are also a lot of negative stigmas surrounding the virtual learning environment. A substantial number of people are reluctant to use VLE because they believe that the constant use of VLE makes people antisocial over time. This is believed because generally it is not required to associate one's peers during the course length unless they are working on a group project. This way of learning will eventually lead people to became depressed and introverted whereas in the traditional way of learning face to face, it is unavoidable to encounter one's peers. At the end of the day, it is up to the student to decide whether they prefer learning face to face or through a screen monitor.

References

- Rahmila, M. S.S., M.A. (2015), *INVESTIGATING THE IMPACTS OF VIRTUAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT (VLE) ON EFL LEARNERS AT ENGLISH DEPARTMENT IAIN ANTASARI BANJARMASIN* [PDF]. Available at : https://www.academia.edu/38352999/Investigating_the_impacts_of_virtual_learning_environment_VLE_on_EFL_learners_at_English_Department_IAIN_Antasari_Banjarmasin (Accessed on 1st April 2022)
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Paulo, A. Luisa, M. Carlos, M. (2017), *The Influence of Virtual Learning Environments in Students' Performance* [PDF], Available at: <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ1134444.pdf> (Accessed 2 April 2022).

Appendices

Below is the questionnaire used to acquire the primary data.

- 1) Where do you prefer your lectures to be held?**
 - a) Online
 - b) Campus

- 2) Do you find it easy to navigate through Moodle?**
 - A) Yes
 - B) No

- 3) How helpful do you find London's Student's Hall?**
 - A) Not Much
 - B) It's Ok
 - C) Helpful
 - D) Very Helpful

- 4) Are all the learning materials in Moodle enough for you to complete your assessments?**
 - A) Yes
 - B) No

- 5) Do you use the online e-library?**
 - A) Yes
 - B) No

- 6) From 1-5 how helpful are the e-books?**

1	2	3	4	5
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- 7) How often do you Moodle for extra learning material?**
 - A) Never
 - B) Sometimes
 - C) Often
 - D) Always

- 8) Overall, from 1-5 how good is your learning experience using VLE**

1 2 3 4 5

9) If you could suggest any improvements/upgrades to Moodle to enhance your learning performance, what would it be?

10) Do you think VLE made your academic life easier?

- A) No, it didn't
- B) I'm Indifferent
- C) Yes, it did

Google forms used for the survey: <https://forms.gle/dMZAejE7JwYimcmo9>