

DSR Assessment 2

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Introduction

The innovations in the field of technologies and digital tools have enhanced the efficiency of individuals to gain and develop knowledge. The “Virtual Learning Environment” has facilitated the students to gain knowledge from various sources. But it is very necessary to understand different dimensions of digital learning to use it effectively to improve the knowledge and skills of students. The research report has been produced to understand the effectiveness of the digital tools and skills in increasing the knowledge and potential of the students. A literature review has been provided to explore the ideas of various authors. Also, research has been conducted to gather primary information to evaluate the results of the study.

Aims

Many digital tools and devices have been developed that has allowed students to utilize innovative ways and techniques of learning (Hirt *et al.*, 2019). The main aim behind producing this research report will be to analyse the influence of “Virtual Learning Environment” on the growth and development of students.

Objectives

- To evaluate how employees can enhance their efficiency using the modern techniques of learning.
- To identify the scope of sources that can be used by the students.
- To analyse various types of tools that can be used by the students.
- To identify the challenges faced by the students while adapting “contemporary learning techniques.”

Literature review

According to Pererva *et al* (2020), the act of increasing the efficiency of learning by the use of computers and the latest technologies is also referred to as “virtual learning”. These techniques of learning are facilitated by the use of the internet to explore numerous sources and methods of learning. This type of learning facility is a type of online learning where the students and tutors interact with each other but not physically.

As per Bogusevski *et al* (2020), the innovation of technologies and tools have introduced various ways of learning that can be very effective in enhancing the skills and knowledge of the students. Modern technologies come with advanced features that hold the potential to reflect knowledge in numerous ways. If a student is facing challenges to gain knowledge through a verbal method of learning then that particular student can be facilitated with visual presentation and images to help that individual understand the concepts. With the help of a “virtual learning environment” employees will be able to explore ideas and concepts shared by numerous authors from all across the globe. If an idea shared by one author is hard to understand then the employees can search for the concept shared by the others authors which will be easy to understand. This learning is a type of training and development programme but the employees are the ones who will be evaluating their weaknesses and strengths. The visual learning technique is one of the most effective methods that hold the highest potential to enhance the knowledge and skills of employees. For example, if an employee working in a hotel is facing an issue in determining the technique used for preparing a specific dish then that person can see videos offered by other professionals who have prepared the dish before. This visual way of learning is most effective as the person watching the video will have a clear understanding of what the other individual wants to do or say.

According to Lacka *et al* (2021), the internet is the largest library that allows an individual to explore any type of knowledge, ideas, concepts or techniques. The internet is the largest source that students can use to enhance their knowledge. Apart from that students will be able to find paid and unpaid sources on the internet. The unpaid sources also offer valuable information and thoughts of my intelligent minds but the paid sources are the more trusted sources from which employees can extract quality information that will help them to bring efficiency in their productivity and performance. Virtual learning is very useful in industries where the operational process are complex and the planning s and techniques will be hard to demonstrate using the verbal means of interaction. For example, in the construction industry, the employees have to construct infrastructures of various designs. For the successful completion of the task, it is very

necessary that the team handling the project will be developing plans and strategies that will help them to complete the task. At those times the advanced features of technologies like the ability to display three-dimensional models and blueprints of the building and the necessary elements that need to be installed on the site will help the team to understand various dimensions of the project. This knowledge is very significant in improving the skill and understanding of the employees which will help them to increase the quality of the produced work.

As per Yang *et al* (2018), many tools have been developed to facilitate virtual learning. One of the most significant uses of these tools is that the people will be able to interact with the professionals and executives even if they are not present on the spot. Many tools like “Google Meet” allow a group of people to interact on the same platform at the same time enhancing the effectiveness of communication along saving time for the people involved in the process. Tools like “Canva” allow the students to use many attractive templates of various types of works and activities which enhance the beauty of the presented work that will help the students to impress the employers and the higher authorities. These types of tools have brought comfortability for the students to present quality and attractive tasks and also hold the potential to enhance the creative thoughts of the students.

According to Phungsuk *et al* (2017), the use of virtual learning has helped in enhancing the effectiveness of the learning process but it also has many weaknesses. For the effective use of virtual learning tools, it is very necessary that the individual should have good internet facilities and connection. The fluctuation in connection or bad network coverage can ruin the quality of conversation which will waste the valuable time of students. Also, the students will not be able to generate a focus on the study because the environment of a classroom and an environment apart from that is not the same.

Methodology

The methodology section of the research report will demonstrate the process involved in gathering information for the study. In this research report, both primary and secondary method of gathering information has been used. The primary research method can be understood as a technique used to collect data that requires the physical existence of the researcher in the process. For the collection of primary data, the researcher will be visiting some of the institutes in the United Kingdom that offer “virtual learning environments”. The primary method of data collection will allow the researcher to collect two types of data which is generally known as qualitative and quantitative data (Clark and Vealé, 2018). Qualitative data are that information which has a higher degree of reliability. This information can be extracted by using data collection tools like interviews, group discussions and many more. Qualitative data are that information that allows the researcher to develop a mathematical representation of the data. The “mean, median and frequency” of the quantitative data can be evaluated and the results will be in the form of pie charts. The secondary method of collecting data is the process of accumulating information from an existing source like articles, books and internet sources. These data are the reflection of various authors’ opinions and ideas. The “target population” of the research will be the students of the institutes that the researcher will be visiting. From this population, a sample will be extracted using the “simple random technique of sampling”. This method will offer identical opportunities to every student of the institutes to take part in the research. 20 students will be selected as a sample (Flick, 2018). The participants of the sample will be provided with questionnaires. It is a set of close-ended questions which is the data collection tool to extract quantitative data. A survey will be done to complete the process. This method not only allows the researcher to gather information for a large sample in a short time but also reduces the cost of conducting the research. The questions asked in the questionnaires are given below.

Q1. Does virtual learning help in gaining new knowledge?

Answers	Yes	No	Neutral
No of respondents	10	5	5
% of respondents	50%	25%	25%

Table 1: Gaining of knowledge

(Source: Created by Calin Andrei Buica)

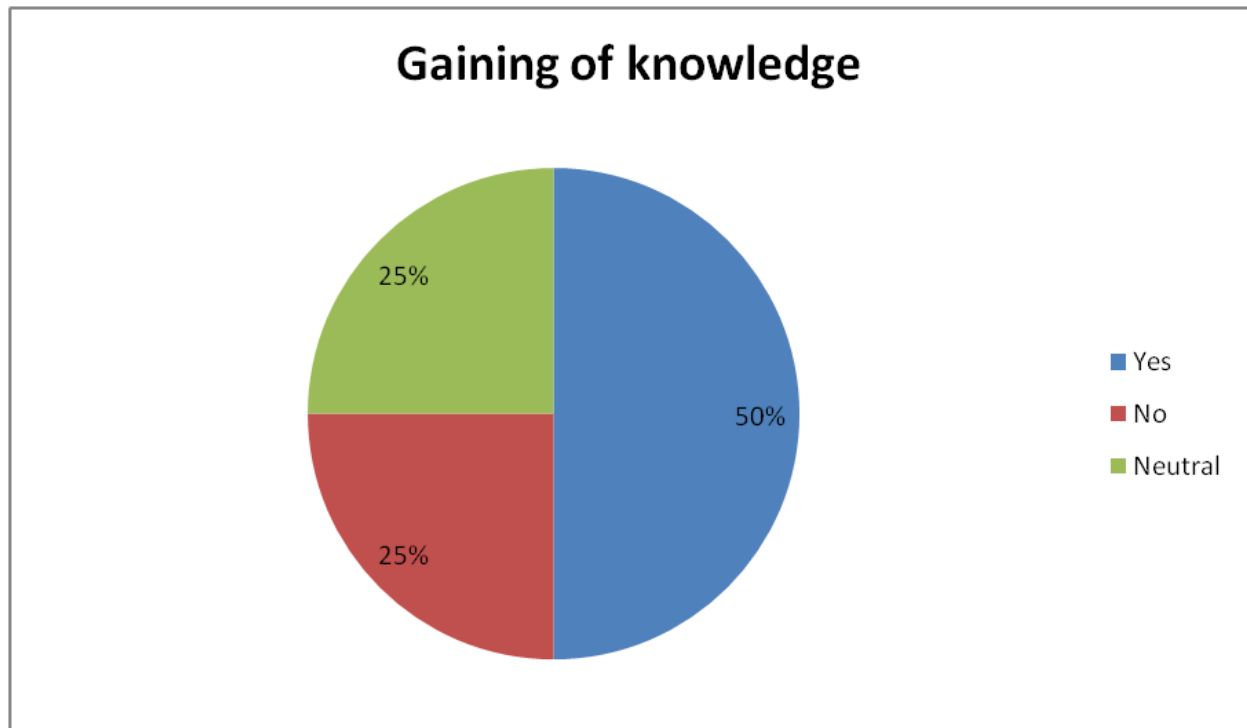


Figure 1: Gaining knowledge
(Source: Created by Calin Andrei Buica)

Analysis: The question was asked to understand the effectiveness of the “Virtual Learning environment” in enhancing the knowledge and skills of the students. Among 20 respondents 50% gave a positive answer for the question. 25% of the participants answered it negatively while 25% of them were confused and gave neutral answers.

Q2. Do you think that the virtual learning environment has enhanced your capabilities?

Answers	Yes	No	Neutral
No of respondents	8	6	6
% of respondents	40%	30%	30%

Table 2: Enhancement of capabilities
(Source: Created by Calin Andrei Buica)

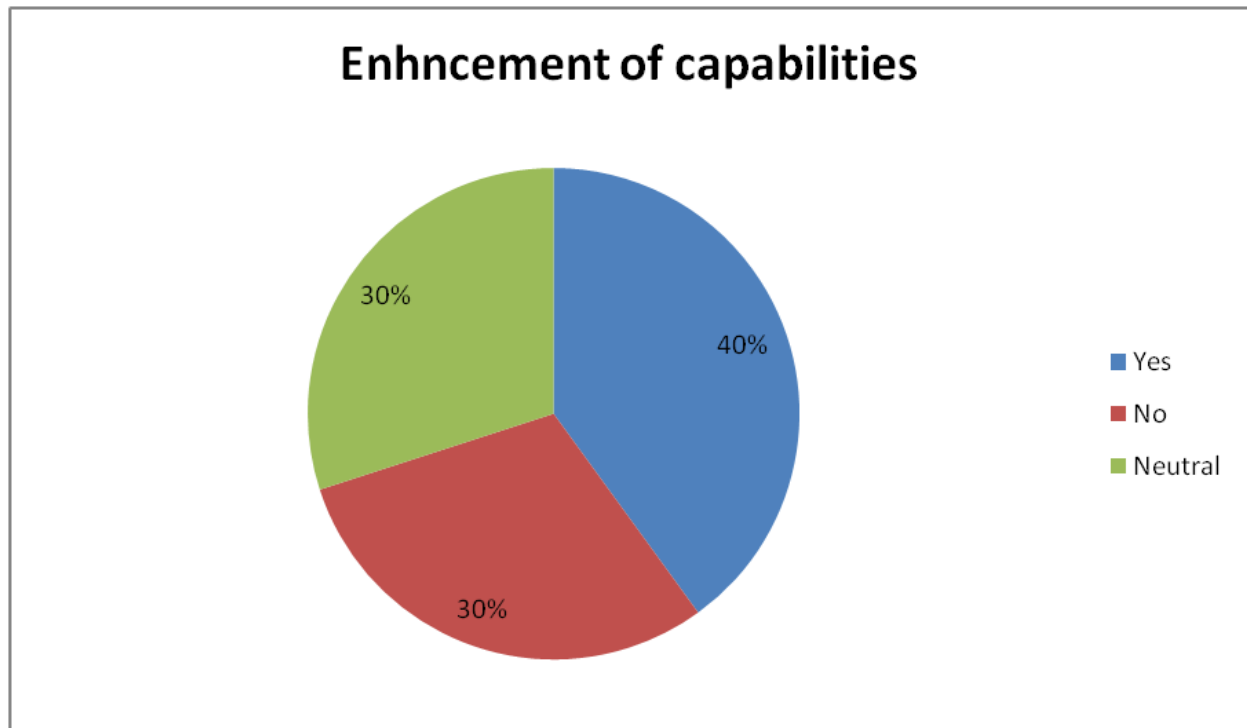


Figure 2: Enhancement of capabilities

(Source: Created by Calin Andrei Buica)

Analysis: The question was asked to understand the significance of the technique in enhancing the potential of the students. From the sample of 20 respondents, 40% of the participants answered the questions positively, 30% of them gave negative answers while the remaining 30% gave neutral answers for the question.

Q3. Do you face any difficulty while using the virtual technique of learning?

Answers	Yes	No	Neutral
No of respondents	4	12	4
% of respondents	20%	60%	20%

Table 3: Challenges

(Source: Created by Calin Andrei Buica)

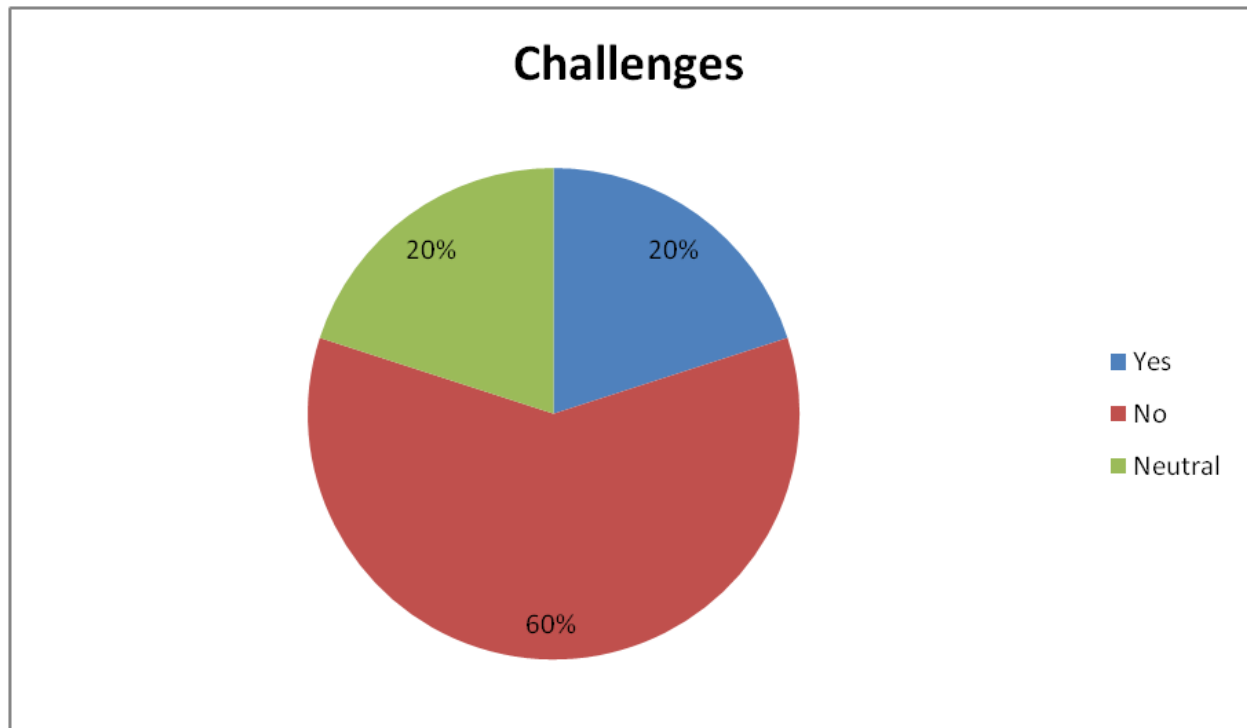


Figure 3: Challenges

(Source: Created by Calin Andrei Buica)

Analysis: The question was asked to understand the challenges faced by the students while using the digital tools. From the sample, 20% of the students told that they do not face any problems while 60% of the respondents told that they face issues while using the tools. The remaining 20% gave neutral answers from the question.

Q4. Is learning virtually interesting?

Answers	Yes	No	Neutral
No of respondents	10	6	4
% of respondents	50%	30%	20%

Table 4: Interest

(Source: Created by Calin Andrei Buica)

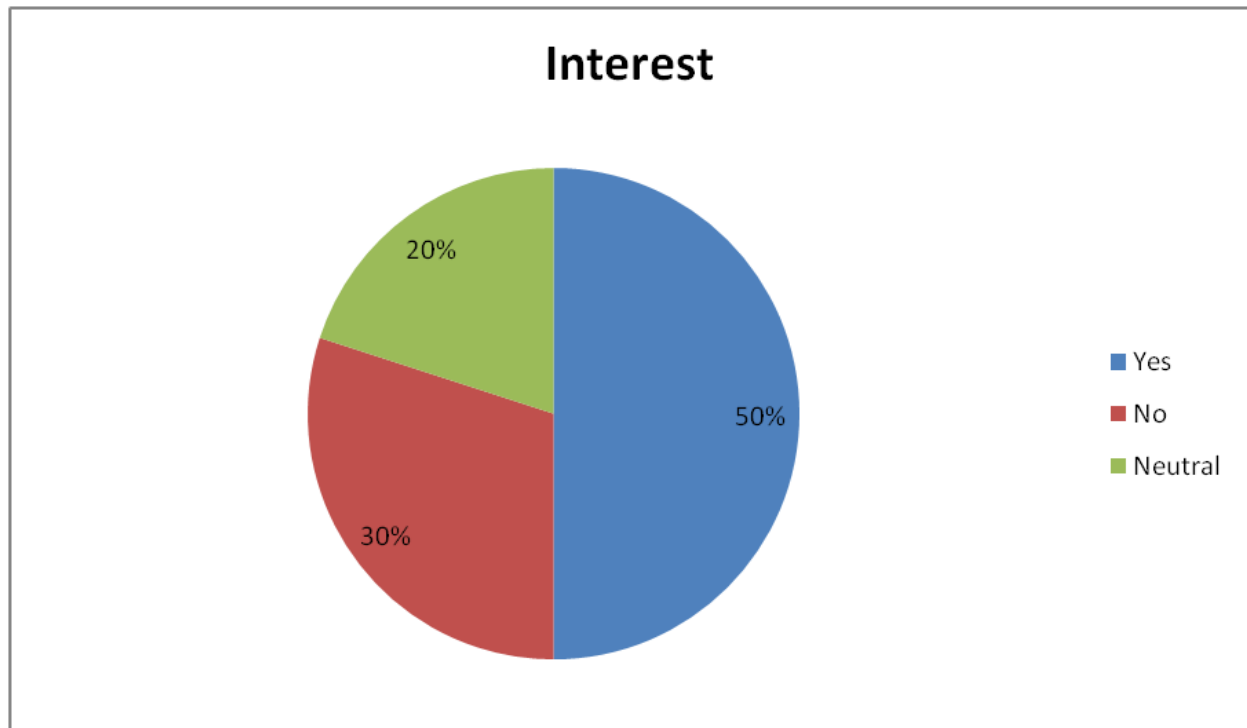


Figure 4: Interest

(Source: Created by Calin Andrei Buica)

Analysis: the question was asked to understand the level of interest that the new techniques have developed within the students. 50% of the respondents told that they found this learning method to be very interesting. 30% of the respondents told that they did not find it to be interesting while the remaining 20% told that they are not feeling bored but also not significantly interesting.

Q5. Does the method hold the potential to solve the challenges that you are facing?

Answers	Yes	No	Neutral
No of respondents	8	8	4
% of respondents	40%	40%	20%

Table 5: Problem Solving

(Source: Created by Calin Andrei Buica)

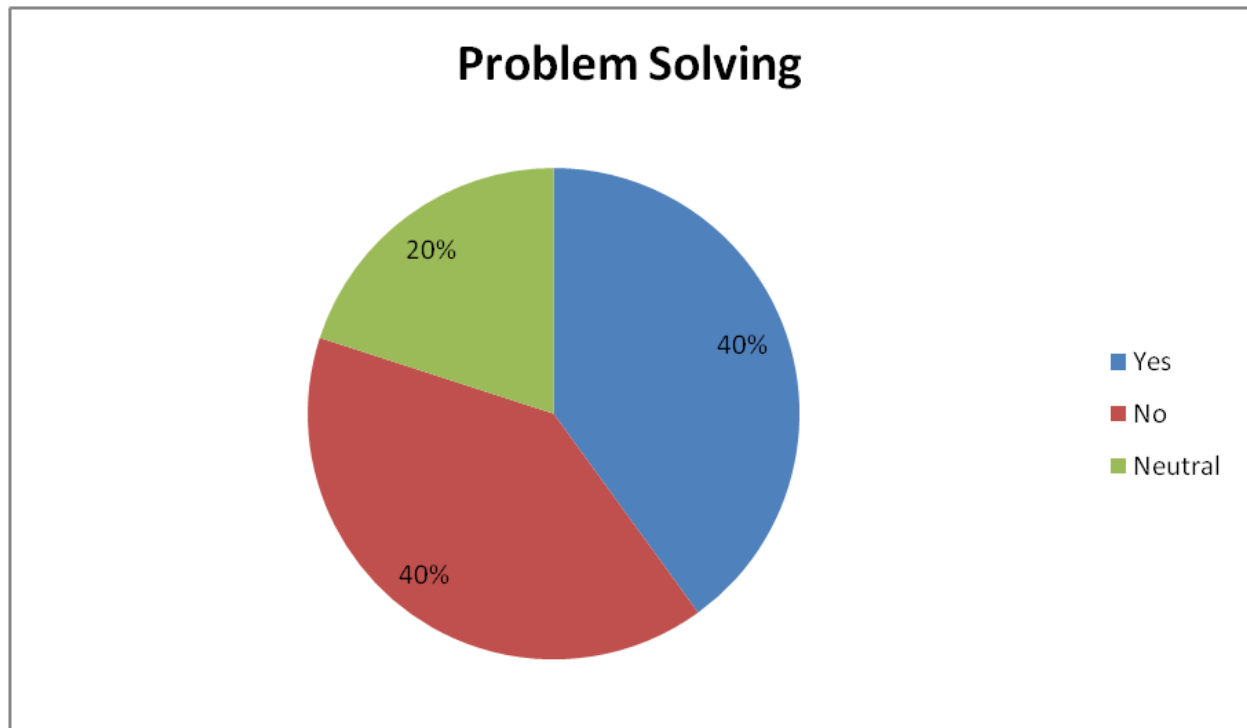


Figure 5: Problem Solving
(Source: Created by Calin Andrei Buica)

Analysis: The question was asked to understand the effectiveness of the technique in solving the issue of the students. 40% of the participants told that the new method has really helped them to understand various concepts. 40% of them told that the technique was not effective while the remaining 20% of the respondents gave neutral answers for the question.

“Findings”

The information gathered from the research has allowed the researcher to formulate various results. It was found that the “virtual learning environment” was very helpful in enhancing the knowledge of the students as it has allowed them to access various concepts and to explore interesting facts and surprising elements of the topic. Also, the learning technique has allowed the students to enhance their potential as they can learn various tactics and strategies to complete a task. The digital tools provided to the students have also played a crucial role in enhancing the interest of the students regarding their studies. It is because the new method of learning has various dimensions that make the process of gaining knowledge interesting and fun. The “Virtual Learning Environment” was found to be significantly effective but it was also observed that many students did not prefer the teacher rather they loved the classroom learning. For this, the institutes have to analyse various dimensions of the “Virtual Learning Environment” to implement it appropriately.

Conclusion

The advancement that has been achieved over time has enhanced the potential of the individuals to do various types of tasks and activities. The technologies have not only brought comfort in the life of people but it has also helped the teachers to offer new techniques of learning that will help in developing the knowledge and clarifying the concepts to the students. The use of digital tools has allowed the students to learn from places far from their institutes. Also, they can explore various ideas and concepts to enhance their knowledge and improve their skills. The “Virtual Learning Environment” can be very effective but many of the students ts can also face problems thus they have to effectively guide to improve the outcomes.

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