

Skills for the Workplace

Module Assignment Submission

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1. What is Virtual Learning Environment-Moodle
2. The impact of VLE on students
3. Is Virtual Learning beneficial or not?

Virtual Learning Environment is hotly debated topic that often divides opinion.

Virtual Learning Environment

The purpose of this research report is to produce the impact of virtual learning environment (VLE) on students and their learning experience on Moodle (LMS). Moodle is a learning management system with personalised learning activities, free app to download to support online teaching. We live in an age when the internet becomes part of everyday life and many families have internet access to use. Numerous individuals are computer literate and most of the things these days can be done online from shopping to writing letters to computer-generated learning. What is virtual learning environment? It is an online educational platform used for online courses especially at universities.

It goes without saying that it has its advantages as well as disadvantages. To start with an example, e-learning requires less time on travelling however additional self-learning accordingly. Undergraduates develop independent learning and not only it saves time but also can be accessed anywhere at any time by just logging in and joining learning materials. On the other hand, it is nowadays a very popular way of studying, gaining new skills and knowledge between students who are interested to enrol on a course and fit in with other responsibilities they have.

However, what is also important in online learning is that students need at least basic technical skills, to know how to use such as Microsoft office. Read and write if international students have the opportunity to study online in chosen different country. All things considered, motivation and independence is the important key to be successful and achieve in higher education.

There are those who argue that this type of learning is a good chance to learn new skills and support this type of learning but others who sees issues in technology-based education. To begin with limited social interaction and the only method of communication through email, chat rooms and discussion groups. In fact, there are as well courses where you need to put hands on like hairdressing courses or auto mechanics courses and many more. Online learning is different from face to face classes but also exciting new way to learn new skills. Does VLE guarantee effective learning in students in higher education? Let us look at the next section.

Advantages and Disadvantages:

Students	VLE PROS AND CONS	Students
ADVANTAGES	Stuff	DISADVATAGES
Develop independent learning skills	Difficult for hands - on trainings e.g. dentistry, hairdressing courses, auto mechanics courses	Costly devices needed
No travelling	Online support	Screen time
Flexible	Easy online teaching	Reduce socialising

1. Gathering data from online resource
2. Analysing data
3. Result

The following writers' review study looks at both sides of the argument. Outlines the background followed by positive and negative impact on virtual learning environment on students in research in a higher education. However, not all authors agree and

argue that VLEs does not allow social and emotional interaction that take place in traditional classrooms, but lately they found no significant differences between VLE and traditional classroom environments. Lastly the result in the following section of the research survey.

Research study on impact of Virtual Learning Environment – Moodle - Baker & Grossman (2013)

Historic background on the use and progress of Virtual learning environment-Moodle was introduced in 2001 (Ofsted 2009) and it was initially developed to help teachers produce online courses with effort on interaction and collaborative structure of content and by 2011, Moodle had a user base in two-hundred-twelve countries with forty-ninth and three hundred-sixty-five active sites in more than seventy five languages.

In summary, Virtual Learning Environments have a variety of research stated optimistic impact of process in numerous contexts. They can promote reflection, accommodate the needs of students, increase interest and confidence, improved willingness to study and generally reported, improves course assessment performance.

According to experts' research online data collection in 2013:

During the two weeks two hundred forty-eight questionnaires were completed (one hundred fifty-five females and ninety-three males) representing thirty-eight percent response rate from a six hundred ninety-second year students. Forty-three-point-two percent of respondents (sixty-three females and thirty-two male) use Moodle to a large extent, four-point-one percent did not use Moodle at all, thirteen-point-six percent used Moodle to a very small extent whilst three-point-two percent use Moodle to a very large extent.

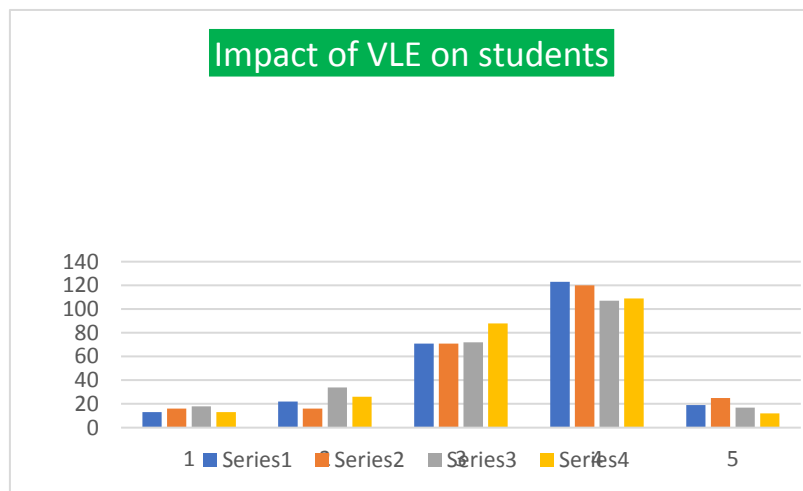
(Barker, 2013) Barker & Grossman: The Learning Impact of Virtual Learning Environment- Result

Answer Options	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither agree or disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Mean score
Moodle has a positive impact on my effectiveness as a student	(13) 5.2%	(22) 8.9	(71) 28.6%	(123) 49.6%	(19) 7.7%	3.46
Moodle is an important and valuable aid to me in my studies	(16) 6.5%	(16) 6.5%	(71) 28.6%	(120) 48.4%	(25) 10.01%	3.49
I learn more with Moodle than without it	(18) 7.3%	(34) 13.7%	(72) 29.0%	(107) 43.1%	(17) 6.9%	3.29
Moodle improves the quality of my learning	(13) 5.2%	(26) 10.5%	(88) 35.5%	(109) 44.0	(12) 4.8%	3.33
Total Respondents as Percentage of response count	6%	10%	31%	46%	7%	

(Figures in brackets are actual numbers of respondents) Table 1.

Secondary data collection obtained in the survey/questionnaire above where this research clearly shows the purpose for which was this questionnaire created and it is evident that many students agree with positive impact on Virtual Learning Environment along with Moodle importance in studies and improvement in quality of

learning. The numbers of respondents and answers were input on Excel and inserted in 2-D Column Chart below.



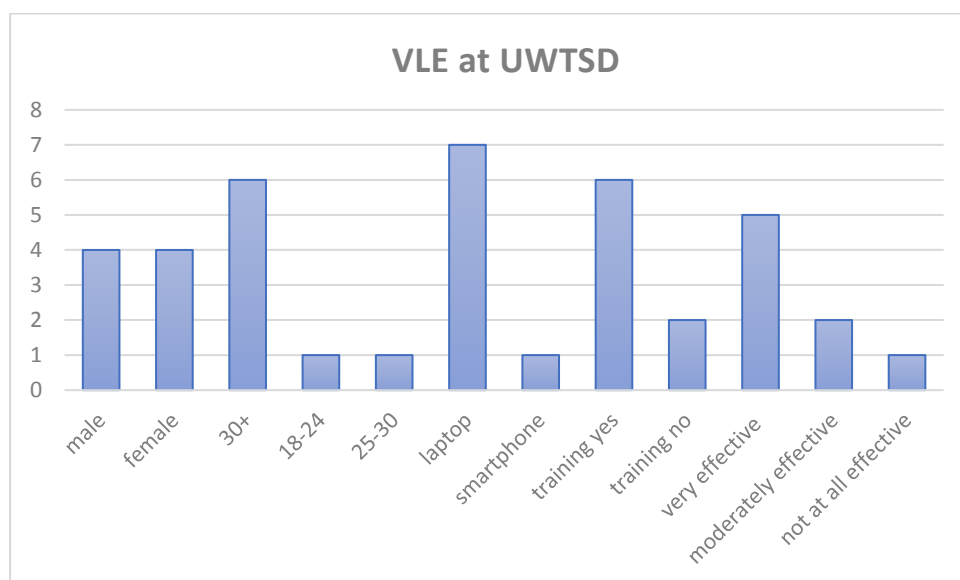
Data research at University of Wales Trinity Saint David:

1. Research questionnaire on the impact of VLE on students at University of Wales Saint Trinity David
2. Data collected by eight students
3. Data analysis
4. Result

In this section questionnaire on University of Wales Trinity Saint David students:

Age group	Gender	What device do you use?	Were you given training session	How effective is remote	Do you experience any difficulties	How do you feel overall about

			VLE as part of your induction?	learning for you?	accessing online learning?	distance learning?
18-24 (one) 12%	Male (four) 50%	Laptop (seven) 88%	Yes (six) 75%	Not at all effective (one) 12%	Yes, (two) 25%	Poor (zero)
25-30 (one) 12%	Female (four) 50%	Desktop (zero)	No (two) 25%	Slightly effective (zero)	No, not at all (six) 75%	Below average (two) 25%
Over 35 (six) 75%		Tablet (zero)		Moderately (two) Effective 25%		Good (five) 62%
		Smartphone (one) 12%		Very effective (five) 62%		Excellent (one) 12%



Result of Virtual Learning Environment

University of Wales Saint Trinity David data were collected through a questionnaire made on Survey Monkey app and send via email to thirteen undergraduate students, received eight responses (four female and four male) questioned to response to a questionnaire about their experience on online learning. Then converted into numerical method and numbers were input into Excel 2-D Clustered column, style 6. As a result of this research, significant part of undergraduate students on a Skills for the workplace at University of Wales Trinity Saint David are satisfied with online education. Seventy five percent received induction training session, but students are also overall of sixty two percent happy with distance learning.

The University's encourage students to work as a group on projects which is helpful in many aspects:

- Teamwork skills
- Communication skills
- Leadership skills through group projects. The ability to learn to lead a team and produce successful project.
- Developing time management skills is important in online learning.
- The benefit to improve and gain confidence in technology.
- Organisational skills
- Presenting ideas

To sum up all information's and numbers collected through secondary and primary data from different resources, it becomes clear that the study shows overall evidence how students benefit from online education, how is it popular and that students enjoy their studies. In conclusion it is the easier way to develop a chosen carer. Together with further options in your education, the opportunity to take up additional courses, learn new skills, how to present work, how to research, find resources and be self-motivated and many more advantages.

As a result, from this questionnaire, a study has shown that respondents prefer online learning despite other points of view and disagreement even so that it has a

good impact on students studying this way. The advantages of virtual learning environment outweigh the disadvantages.

Citation:

Study shows that online education is as good as traditional education in a classroom where students through online learning education are achieving better than those in person learning classes. (Greenhow, 2020)

Research has found that it is only beginning to arise connections to the benefits in schools as it is still developing but by the evidence from further and higher education, where virtual learning environment is more advanced to identify benefits and issues. (Hariss, 2004)

The Study Skills Handbook by Cottrell, S (Cottrell, 2013)

“Study skills evolve and mature through understanding, practise, reflection, trial and error, and feedback from others as you move through the different stages of the course.”

“International study is challenging”

“Changing teaching methods and learning environments call for greater levels of active participation, individual accountability, social learning and peer support. Technology bring new ways of doing things and also add to the pressures of student life.”

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