



DIGITAL SKILLS AND RESEARCH METHODS

(BMSW4003)

**Research report on the impact of Virtual
Learning Environment (VLE) – Moodle on
students' learning experience in the University
of Wales Trinity Saint David London Campus.**

Prepared for
Mr Amitave Banik

Prepared by
Pinar Altintas (1818319)

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Title

The Impact of Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) – Moodle On Students' Learning Experience in The University of Wales Trinity Saint David London Campus

Introduction

With the advent and widespread of ICT (information and communication technology) an enormous interest of the people across the entire globe has developed regarding the working and functionalities of computer, other mobile devices, as well as the Internet technology (Cuthell, 2017). The use of Internet and technology in the classroom has been found to benefit the overall educational process and the learning and adaptation within the classrooms. The advent of digital mode for the attainment of education has invaded numerous barriers and hindrances in educational attainment making the entire process even more available and affordable for the students. Apart from access the interactive and engaging content also makes it lucid for the students to learn in an effective manner while inside or even outside the geographically bound classrooms.

Research Rationale

Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) can be referred to be as the virtual spaces that the students as well as the teachers can make use for presentation and sharing of resources as well as activities and also serve as a medium to interact and communicate with one another. This enhanced technological advancement can enable the effective completion of the online courses in various fields and also provide for adequate support in the direct face to face learning classes. The VLE thus provides for platform that will ensure the presence of adequate communication within the learning process, facilitate the learners as well as the student's involvement in various courses, and serve as an enhanced means for managing the learning experience.

The study of Fowler (2015), has mentioned the fact that virtual learning environment has remained related and associated with the development of enhanced relationships amongst the students, faculty, and the educational organizations. Furthermore, considering for a pedagogical perspective, the studies of Dascalu, *et al.*, (2015), has found that the use of VLEs within the educational institutions has been able to boost the learning experience of the students and motivate the specific experiences of the students attending various courses.

The studies of Jena (2015), has also suggested for the fact that virtual learning environment has an influence regarding the achievement of the students from their learning process and additionally enhances independent learning amongst the students. The study has furthermore emphasized on the fact that presence of VLEs within the classes have enhanced the motivation of the students to be able to learn from the teaching in the classes and further modify their learning.

The present research will be performed to analyse the major impact that has been brought on the learning experiences of students in the University of Wales Trinity Saint David London Campus with the adoption of Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) – Moodle in their learning process.

The effective completion of the present study will enable the faculty within the selected campus to get access to the social as well as behavioural issues of the students if they have any regarding the adoption of the VLE - Moodle in their learning system. Identification of the issues as well as opinion of the students will enable the college authority to keep concern of the requirements of the students and design for the study programmes in a manner that they can be easily grabbed and learned by the students along with an enhanced learning experience from their respective courses.

Research Objectives

- The core objectives that will aimed to be fulfilled upon the completion of the present research project is to identify and analyse the impact of Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) – Moodle on students' learning experience in the University of Wales Trinity Saint David London Campus.
- The study will furthermore emphasize on the readiness of the students within the college campus to make use of this technological advancement for the further progression of their study and learning process as well.
- The effective completion of the present research project will allow the teachers within the educational institution to develop a knowledge regarding the activities that the students carry out using the VLEs in their classroom and the extent to which that will provide aid to the students in better understanding their lessons.

Methodology

For the completion of the present research project, primary data has been collected from undergraduate students in the college studying in first year and second year. Students were randomly selected from distinct departments of the college campus. 250 students studying in first year and second year were asked to complete the online questionnaire that has been designed by the researcher to analyse the impact that has been brought on the students due to the adoption of virtual learning environment - Moodle. 190 students have however submitted back the completed questionnaire and thus could be considered for further analysis of the research project.

The researcher has performed primary quantitative data analysis with the responses that has been attained from the students within the college (Questionnaire provided in the Appendix section will provide for the details that has been asked from the students). The researcher have used adequate graphs and charts for representation of the data collected from the students (Chua and Chua, 2017). Upon completion of the analysis of the primary data

attained from the students, the researcher has further attempted to perform secondary analysis of data that are available over the online sources.

The strategy that has been used for collection of data has been a survey strategy and have provided aid to the researcher to gather in depth knowledge regarding the experience of students in using the technology and their readiness to make the adequate usage of VLEs in their classes. A deductive approach has been followed in the present research to analyse the response of the students and then head towards the final conclusion of the research project.

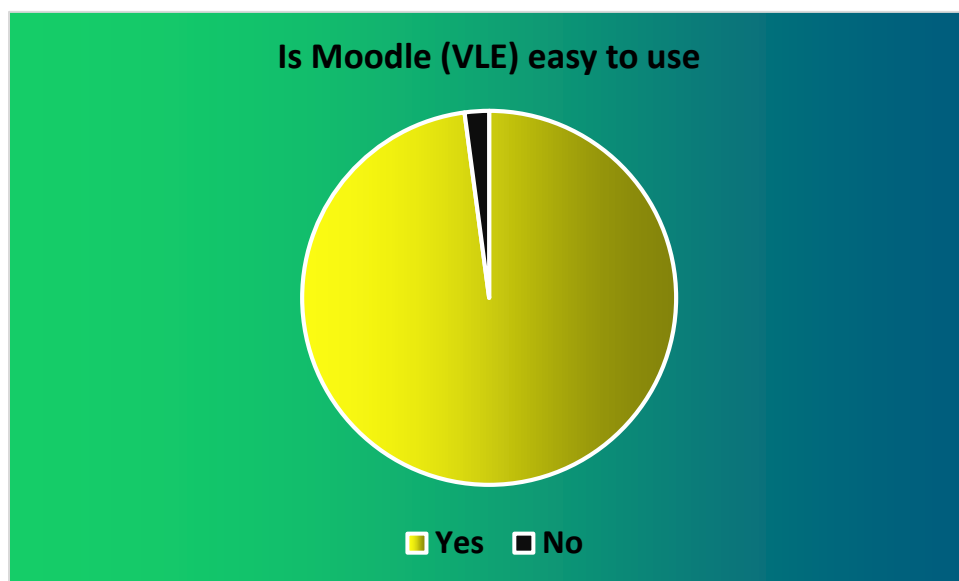
While performing the research project, the conductor of the study has ensured maintaining the standard ethical considerations adequate while performing a research project. During performing the research project, the researcher have ensured that all the students who were participating in the interview were provided adequate information pieces regarding the process as well as purpose of carrying out the research process. The researcher has also ensured that the selected respondents have signed the informed consent forms providing for their willingness to participate in the survey conducted for the research project. The researcher has further ensured that none of the information provided by the respondents would be used for any purpose other than that of the research project and no details of the respondents would be revealed while performing the research project.

Apart from that the researcher have also reviewed the research project several times to avoid any kind of issues like that of plagiarism and have also strictly avoided for any sort of manipulation of the data sets that has been collected for attainment of adequate results.

Analysis

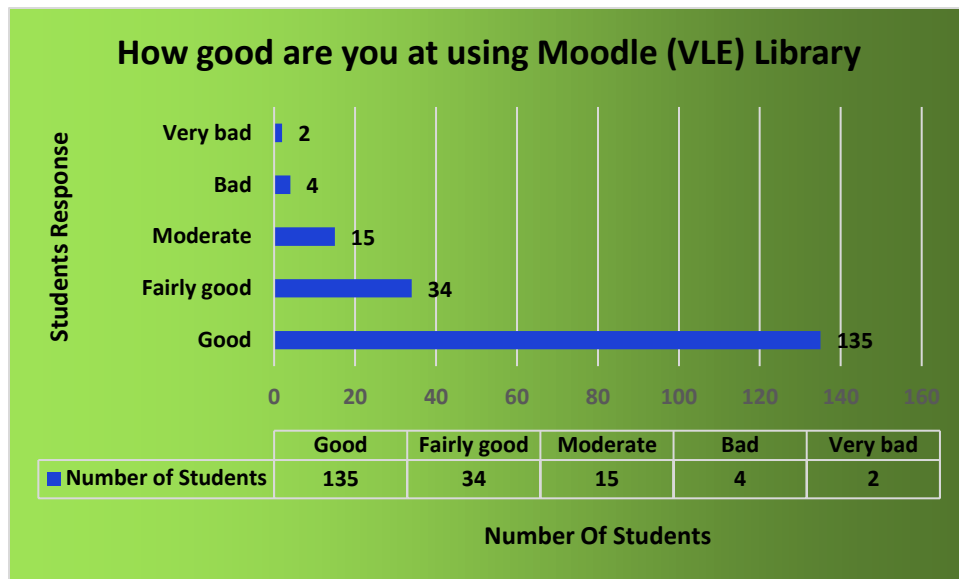
Primary data Analysis

The responses provided by the students of the University in response to the questions provided to them in the questionnaires has been provided in the format of graphs and charts by the research conductor. While the respondents were asked that if Moodle (Virtual learning environment) was easy to use. IN response to the question, majority of the respondents have replied in a positive manner and have replied that the VLE was easy to be used by them for the enhancement of their learning process. The replies of the respondents has been presented in a graph below:



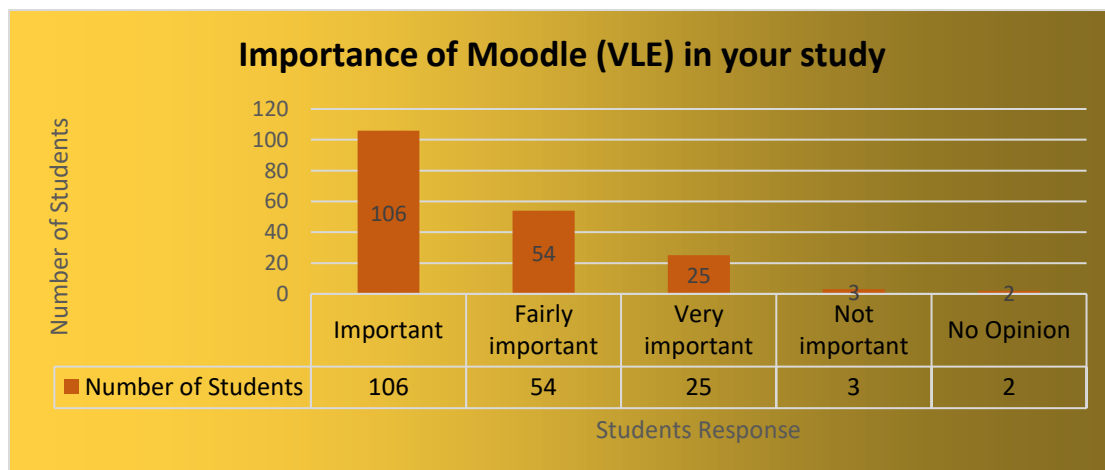
This revealed for the fact that for more than 95% of the students Moodle (VLE) was easy to be used. Thus, from here it can be inferred that the virtual learning environment within the University campus considered in the present research study was user friendly.

Moving ahead the students were asked if they were good enough in using Moodle (VLE) Library. The response obtained from the students were like:



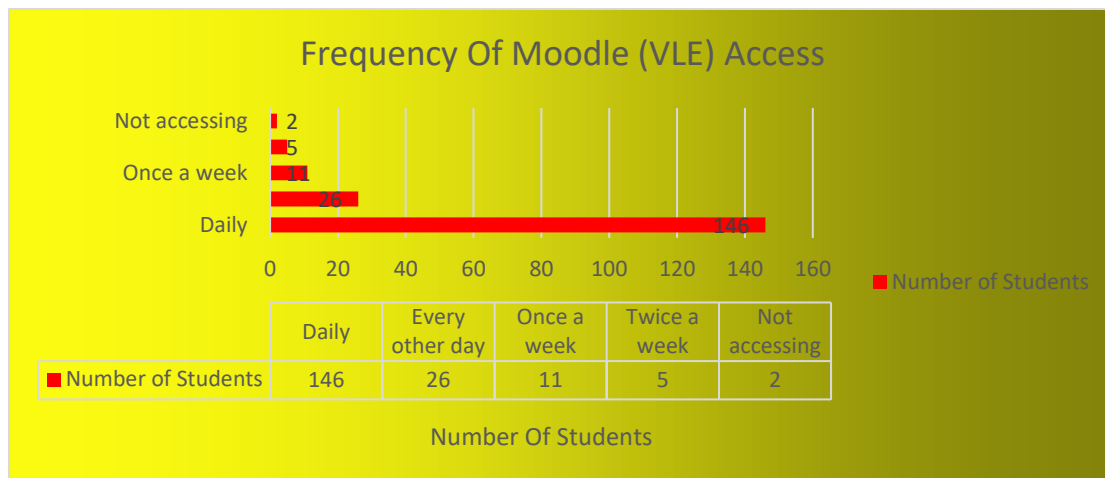
The responses of the students revealed that majority of the students have agreed that they were comfortable enough in using the Moodle library and were in a position to get knowledge and skill base to be able to effectively operate the technology introduced and adopted within the university campus.

The students were then asked regarding the importance of Moodle (VLE) regarding their study as well as learning process. In response to that the students have replied



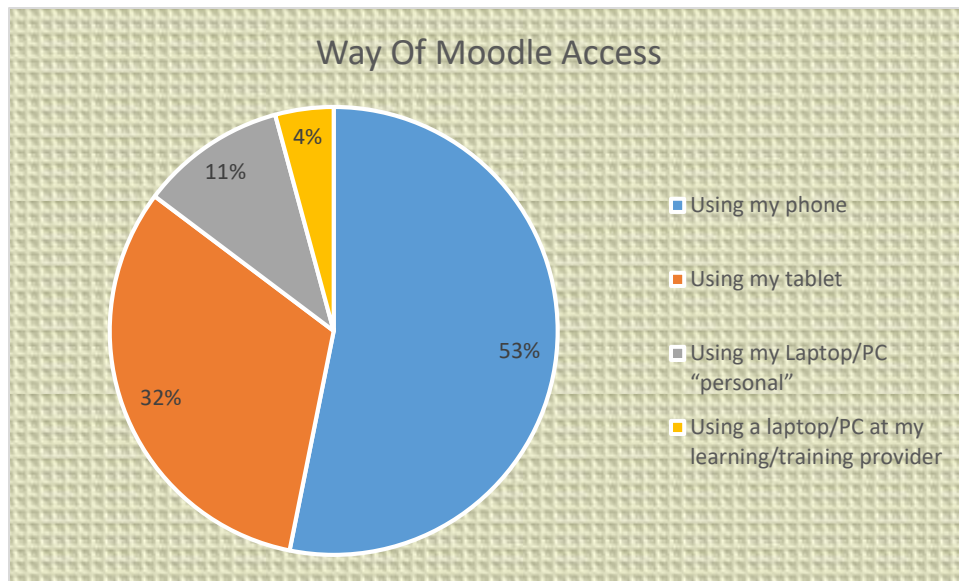
The response of the students have revealed for the importance and effectiveness of the virtual learning environment in the learning process and studies. There were only a few students within the respondent's group who have developed for the feeling that Moodle was not a vital and essential part of their studies as well as entire learning process.

The respondents were furthermore queried about the frequency of their access to VLE (Moodle). In this regard most of the respondents have mentioned regarding their daily and regular access to VLE.



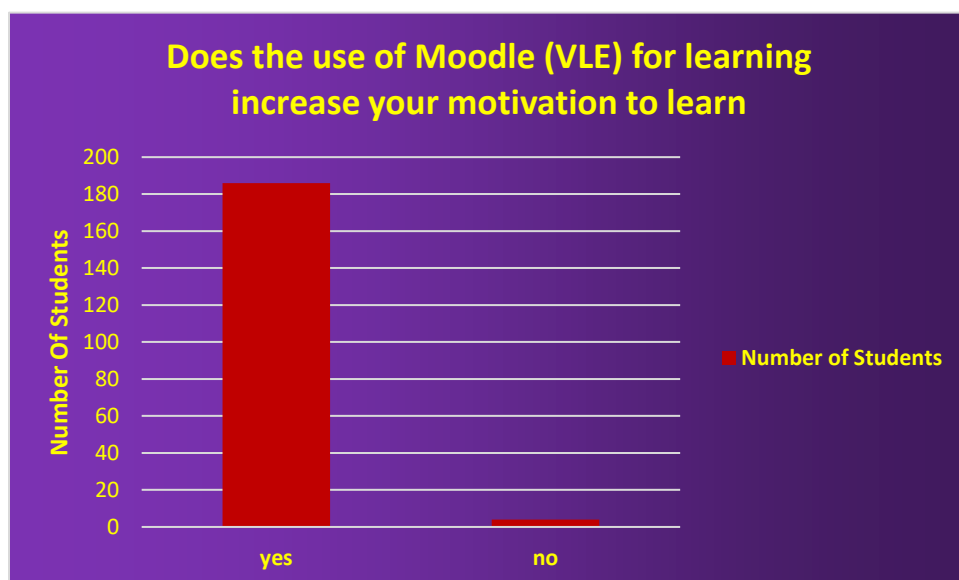
From the responses provided by the respondents it can be analysed that there were only a few students who did not accessed the VLE on a regular basis or on alternate days. This suggested for the fact that majority of the students in the university had a regular access to the VLE (Moodle) used within the University campus.

However, while the students were asked regarding the device that they use for establishing their access to Moodle, then the students have named various device. This suggests for the fact that the student of the university being very much tech savvy have access to numerous gadgets and they can use that for the enhancement of their learning process and attainment of academic excellence in their higher studies. However, the responses of the students were:



Although a greater portion of the students have mentioned accessing Moodle by using either their mobile phones or tablets, yet there were also students who have used either their computer devices or the computer devices in the college campus for getting access to Moodle.

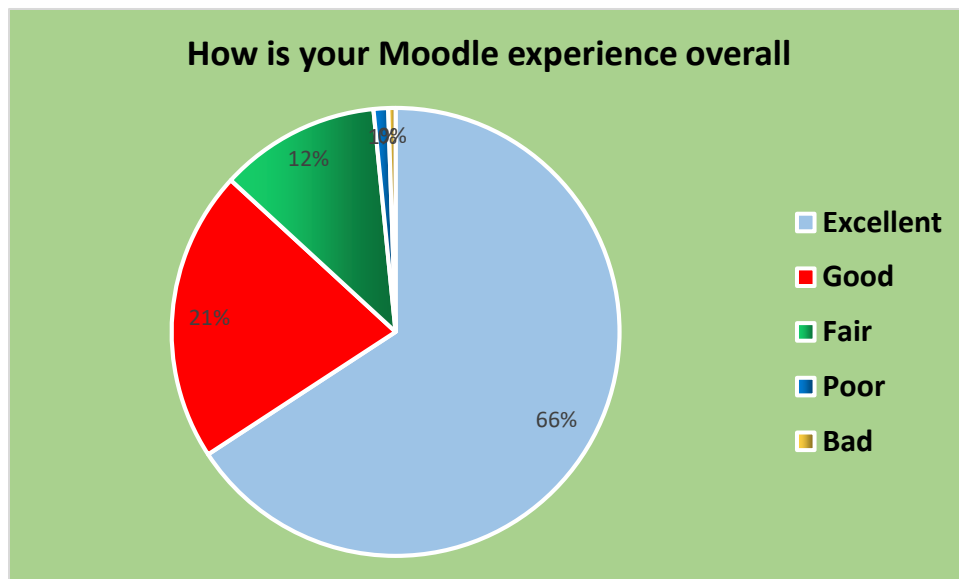
While the students were asked if using Moodle (VLE) for learning have increased their motivation to learn, then almost all the respondents have replied that the use of VLE have motivated them to get indulged in their learning process and have developed their interest towards learning.



The response of the students have revealed for the fact that for almost 99% of the respondents learning using the VLE has been motivating for them and have

inspired them to develop additional interest to perform their academic tasks in an adequate manner.

Finally, while the students were asked regarding their overall experience from VLE (Moodle), then they have replied that for majority of students it was a wonderful experience of learning using the VLE (Moodle). The response of the students was of the form:



This served for the fact that using Moodle was not only motivating for the students but the overall experience that the students have gathered using this platform for the study have also provided them a unique and pleasurable experience.

Flexibility in Virtual Learning Environment

In the present-day educational scenario, the virtual learning environments are very much engraved in the processes carried out by the educational institutions. The space of virtual learning environment provides for the scope to the students of higher education to attain the formal learning processes and along with that develop for an additional communication platform for the students with that of the teachers as well as the educators within the institutions (Vaidyanathan, 2018). This platform of effective communication has thus enhanced the interest of the students to get better involvement in their learning performance and thereby bring about enhancement in their academic performance and develop

motivation amongst the students. With the constant emergence and evolution of the digital technologies the overall field of VLE has been a dynamic field. Thus, this has caused a number of educational organizations to develop and adopt for the web-based learning system for the students (De Boer, *et al.*, 2016). This has enabled the students to remain associated with their study material while they are attending the classes and even provide them the platform to discuss and share study related ideas and concepts while they are out of the classes.

Conclusion and Recommendations

In conclusion of the present study it can be analysed and inferred that within the University of Wales Trinity Saint David London Campus, the presence of VLE (Moodle) has been able to bring about positive impact on the students by enhancing their interest in studies and motivating them to provide for more effort in academic matters and concerns. However, till date there are students within the college who are not well acquainted with the use of the modern digital technology. For them it is the responsibility of the teachers to communicate the effectiveness of the technology and the enable the students to get an enhanced scope to get a brighter career in the near future.

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Appendix

In-Class exercises: Questionnaire Design

Student Name: Pinar Altintas Student ID: 1818319 Group: 1

Module Name: Digital Skills and Research Methods Term 2

Aims: This exercise is aimed to help you in questionnaire design for your assignment. **Please write down your questions that you are going to use in your primary data collection.** Try to Have different type of questions such as yes or no questions, multiple choice question, Likert scale question and open-end question.

Question 1: What is your gender?

Female/Male

Question 2: What is your age group?

A) 18-24 B) 25-34 C) 35-44 D) 45-55 E) Over 55

Question 3: Is Moodle (VLE) easy to use?

Yes/No

Question 4: How good are you at using Moodle (VLE) Library?

- Good
- Fairly good
- Moderate
- Bad
- Very bad

Question 5: Is module information available on Moodle (VLE)?

Yes/No

Question 6: How important Moodle (VLE) in your study?

- Important
- Fairly important
- Very important
- Not important
- No opinion

Question 7: How often do you access Moodle (VLE)?

- Daily
- Every other day
- Once a week
- Twice a week
- Not accessing

Question 8: In what way do you access Moodle (VLE)?

- Using my phone
- Using my tablet
- Using my Laptop/PC "personal"
- Using a laptop/PC at my learning/training provider
- Other, please specify

Question 9: Does the use of Moodle (VLE) for learning increase your motivation to learn?

Yes/No

Question 10: How is your Moodle experience overall?

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Bad

Thank you for your time and answers!