

Digital Skills and Research Methods

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INTRODUCTION

Digital skills can be defined as the abilities to make use of various digital learning tools and techniques. It means that individual has the capacity to manage the transactions online. They make use of communication applications and networks so that information is been managed by them adequately. Research methods are useful in the collection of data, it assists researcher in extracting better information so that knowledge related to subject matter is increased. There are two methods of data collection one is primary and other one is secondary. Present report will lay emphasis on the impact of Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) in which both primary and secondary data analysis has been done in order to analyze impact of VLE on students.

MAIN BODY

The impact of Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) on students' learning experience

There is a huge impact on the virtual learning environment on the learning experience of students. Virtual learning environments (VLEs) were introduced to progress students from passive to active learners. It has been analysed that virtual learning has lower down the efficiency of students as they can learn more in personal than through online channels. It has also been analysed that because of this environment their schedule is also been miss-managed. They are not been able to perform adequately (Carranza-Abaid, Svendsen and Jakobsen, 2020). Primary and secondary data is been collected on the impact of virtual learning environment on students learning experiences. It includes the following:

Primary analysis:

The primary data analysis was been done by making use of online platform such as Survey Monkey, as during the time of novel corona virus it was difficult to collect the data personally. There were 3 students who readily participated in the online teaching session. Data was been collected from the impact of Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) – Moodle on students' learning experience at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David London Campus. The students who have special educational needs also participated in the study. From the primary data analysis it has been evaluated that the role of learning and teaching perspectives for the students as well as teachers has been changed. This primary data analysis will help in identifying where students think that virtual learning environment help in enhancing their learning skills, impact their learning level or it help in fulfilling their needs and requirements in a proper and appropriate manner. The students have shown a great source of motivation and were really

prepared to learn and move forward. There were various significant results which were been obtained from the primary data analysis. The indicators include the following:

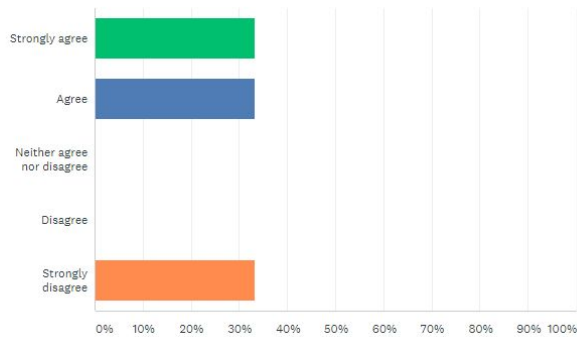
- Students have been converted from hand me down knowledge to the constructors of their own knowledge.
- Students have learnt more than memorizing the facts and now they have been able to solve their own problems.
- Students have the ability to analyze the topic from their own perspectives.
- Students have developed the ability to devise their own questions and also now they can be able to find out their own answers (Herrera Mosquera, 2017).
- Students working in group online is also been increased, they have done so many collaborative assignments together.
- By the VLE method of learning they have also been able to increase the multi culture awareness.
- Students have been able to be fluent in their own professional fields. This has assisted them in growing.
- Students also have better access for getting the feedback; this has increase the knowledge and abilities of the student.
- It has also been analysed from the primary data analysis that students have also provided the information that teachers needs to increase their creative power to make better use of the platform. This will also help them in making students learn better.

Q1 Do you think Virtual learning environments has impacted learning level of students?

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Do you think Virtual learning environments has impacted learning level of students?

Answered: 3 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES-	RESPONSES-
- Strongly agree	33.33% 1
- Agree	33.33% 1
- Neither agree nor disagree	0.00% 0
- Disagree	0.00% 0
- Strongly disagree	33.33% 1
TOTAL	3

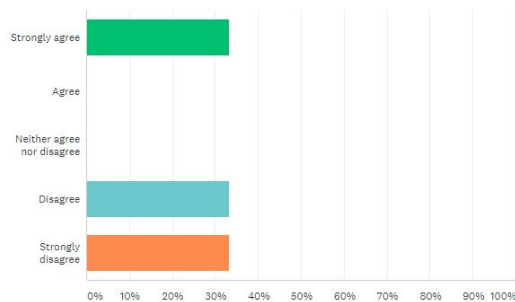
Interpretation: From this analysis of three student's data, it is clear that out of 3 students 2 of them either agree or strongly agree that that virtual learn environment impact learning level of students. In fact, this analysis clearly explains that learning ability of students has been impacted due to this virtual learning environment.

Q2 Do you think Virtual learning environments has increased overall learning ability of students?

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Do you think Virtual learning environments has increased overall learning ability of students?

Answered: 3 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES-	RESPONSES-
—	33.33%
Strongly agree	1
—	0.00%
Agree	0
—	0.00%
Neither agree nor disagree	0
—	33.33%
Disagree	1
—	33.33%
Strongly disagree	1
TOTAL	3

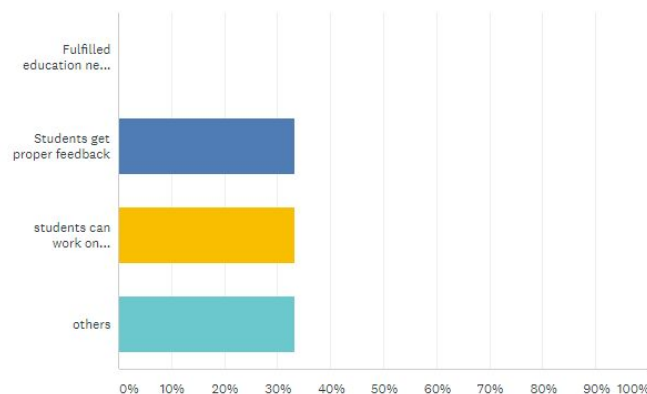
Interpretation: From this analysis of three student's data, it is clear that out of 3 students 2 of them either disagree or strongly disagree that that virtual learn environment increases overall learning ability of students. In fact, this analysis clearly explains that learning ability of students is not important because of this virtual learning environment. In fact it has been observed that personal learning environment in classroom is much more effective and help students in enhancing their overall learning ability.

Q3 How do you think Virtual learning environments has fulfilled needs and requirement of students?

- Fulfilled education need of students who live in area that has no schools
- Students get proper feedback
- students can work on enhancing professional skills
- others

How do you think Virtual learning environments has fulfilled needs and requirement of students?

Answered: 3 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES-	RESPONSES-
-	0.00%
Fulfilled education need of students who live in area that has no schools	0
-	33.33%
Students get proper feedback	1

-	33.33%
students can work on enhancing professional skills	1
-	33.33%
others	1
TOTAL	3

Interpretation: there are various ways in which learning ability of students has been impacted due to Virtual learning environments. Not only this, it has positively helped students in fulfilling their needs and requirement of students. One of the responded said that VLE has helped students to get proper feedback form their teachers in a much more elaborated and proper manner which has further helped students to get to know area of improvement on which they need to work on. One of the student said that students can work on enhancing their overall professional skills as they need to work on online projects which directly helped them in enhancing their presentation skills, digital skills etc. whereas only one student said that VLE helps in fulfilling needs and requirement of students in other manner.

Secondary analysis:

In the secondary analysis data is been collected from the published sources, online websites, articles and journals. It has been analysed that VLE has increased the digitalised abilities of students. Their ability to research has been increased. This has assisted them in searching better aspects and components related to subject matter (Nguyen, Rienties and Toetenel, 2017). It has also been analysed that in VLE instant feedback can be obtained and by this students take responsibilities for their own learning. This has increased their potential to learn better. They are been motivated to correct their work. It has also been analysed that by engaging in learning through online modes, they have also been able to save their lots of time which was wasted by moving to the college. So this has also helped them in increasing their productivity and students have also been able to grow. This platform has encouraged the personalised and collaborative working. In this personalised learning is been influenced and by the virtual environment students are been able to gain more knowledge. During the pandemic situation the virtual learning environment is been in use and to keep students safe, this is the mostly used by method by so

many universities. This has assisted the colleges and Universities in increasing the knowledge of students and now by making use of this platform they are been able to correct down their own work. Personalised learning experiences of students have been increased by making use of the virtual platforms. It has also been analysed from the research that VLE has so many benefits and specially it give huge benefits to those special educational needs students who lives in area where there are no better facilities of education and to learn is provided to them. There are number of VLE software which are available like Moodle, Learning space, Lotus. These tools act as supportive tools in fulfilling the educational needs of students and also these tools are useful in increasing the knowledge area and experiences of students. It also assist them in growing and because of these VLE software students are been able to increase ability of the students and also because of this there are been able to achieve their personal as well as professional objectives. It has also been analysed and evaluated from the research that VLE has assisted the students in acquiring skills which are been required for present day job purpose. This has assisted students in increasing their learning ability and also they have been able to grow because of it. It has also been analysed from the research that VLE has been embraced by students as well as teachers. They feel like it has increased their comfort level and also by this they have been able to enhance their productivity as well as operational efficiency. The students have also provided the information that teachers needs to increase their creative power to make better use of the platform. This will also help them in making students learn better. It has also been analysed from the secondary data analysis Students have been able to be fluent in their own professional fields. This has assisted them in growing. It has also been evaluated from the research that Students also have better access for getting the feedback; this has increase the knowledge and abilities of the student. It has also been analysed that students are also been able to increase their knowledge and skills related to research skills. It has been evaluated from the research that during the time of novel corona virus, it has been evaluated that most of the Universities are making use of the VLE platform for the well being and safety of the students. It has also been evaluated that the online activities has affected the physical well being and activity level of students (Phungsuk,Viriyavejakul and Ratanaolarn, 2017). One of the major consequences which have been determined by the students is that online learning has affected the sleeping patterns of students. This has influenced their sleeping patterns and also because of the online sessions there physical well being is affected. It has also been known from some students

that they were been able to learn personally than in comparison to online mode. So these there were the data which was been collected by making use of the primary and secondary data analysis. It has also assisted researcher in knowing about the impact of virtual learning and growing (Waheed And et.al., 2020).

CONCLUSION

From the above study it has been summarized that VLE has increased the digitalised abilities of students. Their ability to research has been increased. This has assisted them in searching better aspects and components related to subject matter. It has also been analysed and the information is been collected from the students that now they have been better able to give the feedback. This has assisted them in enhancing their research abilities as well as skills. It has also been analysed that VLE has assisted students in learning flexibly and they have been able to increase their knowledge and learning through this. It has been analysed that the students have shown a great source of motivation and were really prepared to learn and move forward. It has also been evaluated from the research that educational needs of special needs people has also been fulfilled by making use of the VLE platform. This has assisted students in increasing their learning ability and also they have been able to grow because of it. It has also been analysed from the research that VLE has been embraced by students as well as teachers.

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