

Level 4 Certificate in Higher Education Health and Social Care

Module: Digital Skills and Research Methods

Assignment 2

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Introduction

Background

The students of a university can have different benefits from the university as the university can offer different learning opportunities for the students. Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) is such an opportunity provided by different universities to its students for ensuring a better learning experience and enriching the knowledge and experience of the students. The University of Wales Trinity Saint David (UWTSD), London is offering such opportunities to the students to improve the quality and efficiency of their students and successfully providing a better learning experience. A virtual learning environment is an environment created by the educational institutes to provide the opportunity for their students to make the educational activities in the virtual platforms which are saving the time and cost of both students and the tutors. The educational institutes are using it for their benefit, for the benefit of the tutors, as well as for the benefit of the students of the institutions. But there is a question that arises that whether the use of VLE is beneficial for the students or not. For this, there has been a significant scope found to make an analysis and find out the significant impacts of Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)- Moodle on the learning experience of the students of UWTSD.

Aim

This study aims to find out the significant impacts of Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)- Moodle on the learning experience of the students: A study in the context of University of Wales Trinity Saint David London Campus

Objectives

- To identify the usefulness of Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) in University of Wales Trinity Saint David London Campus.
- To know the current learning experience from the students of the University of Wales Trinity Saint David London Campus.
- To determine the relationship between the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) and the learning experience of the students.
- To find out the significant impacts of Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)- Moodle on the learning experience of the students: A study in the context of University of Wales Trinity Saint David London Campus.

Literature Review

According to Weller, Pegler and Mason, (2005), a virtual learning environment is a platform that offers students to review the notes, assignments, class works, and all the learning materials where the educational institutes are offering the easiest way to get the instruments. The study of Janes, (2006) supported the previous statement and stated that the VLE is often used for the purpose of learning and it can also be used for examination and other educational purposes. Ogba, Saul and Coates, (2012) stated that the VLEs are used by the teacher very widely to provide the classroom materials to the students and communicate with them easily using the online-based platform. The study of Rogers and Delahooke, (2013) found that VLE influencing the educational and learning activities of a student and it is influencing very positively. According to Hayati and Hashemy, (2013), there is a very strong and positive relationship between the use of the virtual learning environment in the universities and the learning experiences of the students of the university. According to Polisca, (2013), when students are getting the opportunity to get help from the VLE, they can easily access the study materials and they are likely to study more efficiently. Supporting the statement, Lyndon and Hale, (2014) stated that VLE can easily influence the students to get the benefit and it is attracting them to their study. KALAYCI, (2015) found a significant positive impact of Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) – Moodle on students' learning experience. According to the study of Prasad Dhakal, (2016), the learning experience of the students are highly dependent on the tools and strategies of learning and VLE has brought a new and unique strategy of learning which is helping the students very effectively to achieve their institutional goals. However, the study of Herrera Mosquera, (2017) also found some significant impacts of Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) – Moodle on students' learning experience.

Research Methodologies

To find out the results from this study, the researcher needs to set up some assumptions and select the appropriate method, and tools for conducting the analysis. Here, the positivism philosophy is selected as the researcher is determined that the outcomes of the researcher were to be positive regarding the impacts of VLE on the learning experience of the students of UWTSD. Here, the researcher has designed and created the outline of the research using the deductive approach.

The study has used both primary and secondary data for generating the most unique outcomes from the research. The primary data is used in this study by making a survey on the issue of the research where the students of UWTSD were the key participants. There are lots of students in UWTSD London Campus and it is very difficult for the researcher to collect data from all the students and so the sampling method has been implemented where the participants were randomly selected via an online platform and 500 students were added to the survey. The online platform is used considering the Covid-19 pandemic. Besides, the researcher has used the data from the secondary sources where different existing theories and literature is used for understanding the impacts of VLE on the learning experience of the students where different books, journals, articles etc. were used as the secondary sources.

Different methods can be applied in a study for making the analysis and generating the outcomes of the research. In this study, the researcher has used the mix method where both qualitative and quantitative method is used for getting the significant outcomes of the research. Here, the researcher has collected the data using the questionnaire where the numeric data was collected which was analysed numerically as the quantitative analysis. Again, the secondary data was collected in the form of theories and statement which has been analysed using the qualitative method.

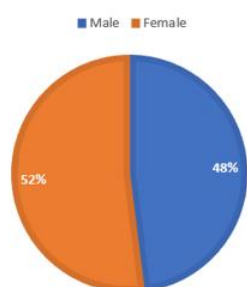
Results and Findings

Demographics

The demographic profile (Age and Gender) of the participants are shown here:

Q1. What is Your Gender?	
Male	24
Female	26
Q2. Your Age?	
Less than 20	12
20 to 25	29
Above 25	9

Q1. WHAT IS YOUR GENDER?



Q2. Your Age?

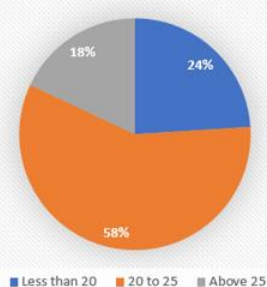


Figure 1: Demographics

The findings are showing that 48% of male and 52% of female participants were provided with their perception in the survey from whom 24% were less than 20, 58% were 20 to 25 and 18% were above 25 years of age.

Findings

The responses from the participants are shown here.

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Q3. I think VLE & Moodle can positively influence the effectiveness of my study.	2	6	3	27	12
Q4. I can get help from the VLE offered by UWTSD in my study.	5	7	2	25	11
Q5. I am reading more using Moodle than I study regularly.	3	9	4	24	10
Q6. I think VLE is a very helpful tool that is helping me to improve the learning quality	4	5	4	22	15
Q7. According to me, VLE is encouraging independent learning for the students of UWTSD.	1	7	1	29	12
Q8. The resources in VLE- Moodle are providing significant information to the students.	2	10	3	29	6

Q9. The activities of VLE are attracting me and I am sharing it with my friends.	6	7	3	26	8
Q10. I think I am good enough to learn through VLE- Moodle and it is positively influencing my learning.	3	9	2	25	11

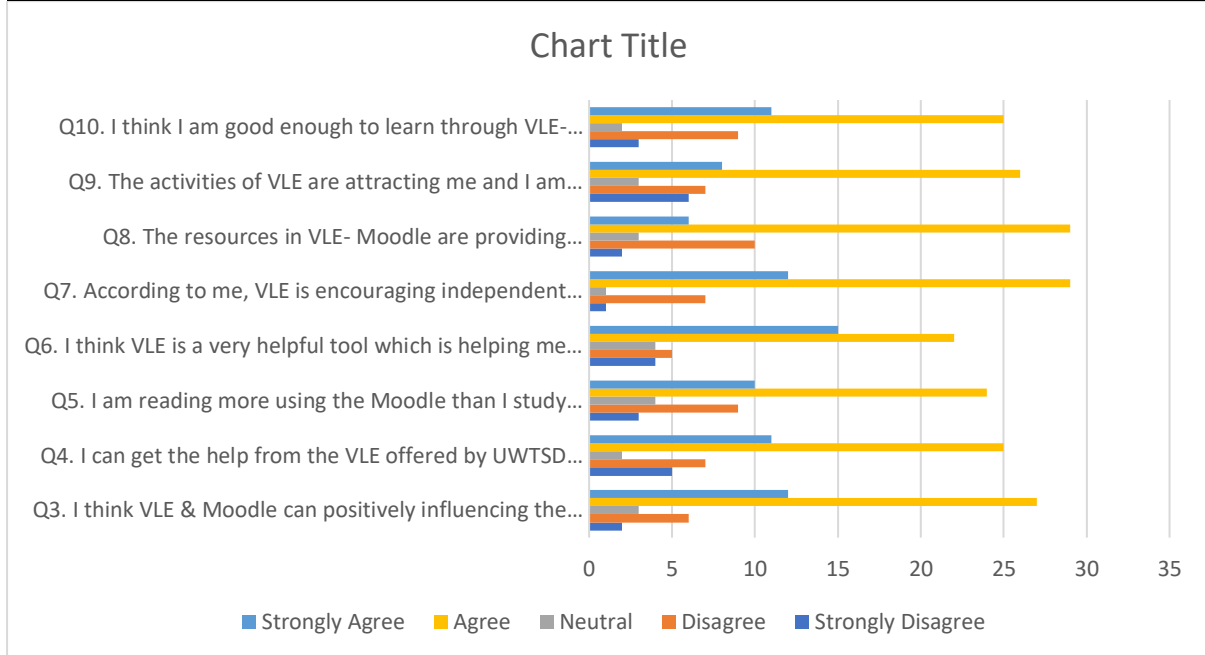


Figure 2: Data and Findings

The analysis of the data is presenting very positive responses from the participants in the survey where most of the students of UWTSD were very positive about the use of VLE- Moodle in their study process and according to the findings VLE is helping them to improve their learning and experiences. The graph is showing that in each of the cases, most of the participants were agreed as the line of agree is in to in each of the questions. Besides, the strongly agree option is second highest. So, it is clear that VLE & Moodle can positively influence the effectiveness of the study, student gets the help from the VLE offered by UWTSD in their study, students are reading more using the Moodle than they study regularly, VLE is a very helpful tool which is helping the students to improve the learning quality, VLE is encouraging independent learning for the students of UWTSD, and students are learning through VLE- Moodle and it is positively influencing them in their learning.

Discussion and Analysis

Primary Data Analysis

From the analysis of the primary data the researcher has found that VLE & Moodle can positively influence the effectiveness of the study, the student gets the help from the VLE offered by UWTSD in their study, students are reading more using the Moodle than they study regularly, VLE is a very helpful tool which is helping the students to improve the learning quality, VLE is encouraging independent learning for the students of UWTSD, and students are learning through VLE- Moodle and it is positively influencing them in their learning. The findings from the primary data are relevant and appropriate as the human participants have participated in the survey. Besides, the participants were the students of UWTSD London Campus which has ensured the validity of the data. However, the findings from the primary data analysis are indicating that there are some significant impacts of Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)- Moodle on the learning experience of the students of UWTSD.

Secondary Data Analysis

The analysis of the secondary data was also a very important task of this research where the researcher has critically analysed the existing theories and literature regarding the research issue and found some theories and results regarding the study. The analysis of the secondary data has also found some significant impacts of VLE on the students and their learning experience where the students are getting more benefit from the VLE- Moodle and it is helping the students very effectively. The secondary data has found that VLE can easily influence the students to get the benefit and it is attracting them to their study, again, the learning experience of the students are highly dependent on the tools and strategies of learning and VLE has brought a new and unique strategy of learning which is helping the students very effectively to achieve their institutional goals.

Conclusion

Virtual learning environment (VLE) is a new and very effective tool of learning added to the learning process of the students which is significantly helping the students to do better and ensure the success of education. The study was aimed to find out the significant impacts of Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)- Moodle on the learning experience of the students of UWTSD and found some significant impacts from the

research. There was a strong relationship found between the variables of the research where the researcher has made the analysis of both primary and secondary data. A survey has been conducted among the students of UWTSD to collect the primary data for the research. However, the research is suggesting to use of VLE for an effective and efficient learning experience for the students of the university.

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Appendix

Questionnaire

Q1. What is Your Gender?

Male

Female

Q2. Your Age?

Less than 20

20 to 25

Above 25

Please Put Your opinion on the followings:

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Q3. I think VLE & Moodle can positively influence the effectiveness of my study.					
Q4. I can get help from the VLE offered by UWTSD in my study.					
Q5. I am reading more using Moodle than I study regularly.					
Q6. I think VLE is a very helpful tool that is helping me to improve the learning quality					

Q7. According to me, VLE is encouraging independent learning for the students of UWTSD.					
Q8. The resources in VLE- Moodle are providing significant information to the students.					
Q9. The activities of VLE are attracting me and I am sharing it with my friends.					
Q10. I think I am good enough to learn through VLE- Moodle and it is positively influencing my learning.					

Data Table

Q1. What is Your Gender?	
Male	24
Female	26
Q2. Your Age?	
Less than 20	12
20 to 25	29
Above 25	9

Question	Strongly	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree

	Disagree				
Q3. I think VLE & Moodle can positively influencing the effectiveness of my study.	2	6	3	27	12
Q4. I can get the help from the VLE offered by UWTSD in my study.	5	7	2	25	11
Q5. I am reading more using the Moodle than I study regularly.	3	9	4	24	10
Q6. I think VLE is a very helpful tool which is helping me to improve the learning quality	4	5	4	22	15
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