

Virtual Learning Environment

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Digital Skills and Research Methods

BMSW4003_LON

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Introduction:

In my report I will be writing about:
Primary and Secondary Data Collection,
and the following points.

Secondary Data Collection:

1. What is secondary data?
 - 1.1. Types of secondary data collection.
2. What is VLE?
3. What are the benefits of VLE?

3.1. Reason why VLE is useful.

4. What are the disadvantages of VLE

4.1. Reason why VLE is awful.

Primary Data Collection:

1. What is primary data?
2. Collection data of students opinion about virtual learning environment.

Secondary Data Collection:

1. What is secondary data?

Secondary data is a collection of data from somebody else. This way of data collection is easier and cheaper. A lot of researchers publish their research on social platforms,

so other people can benefit of their research.

1.1. Types of secondary data collection.

Secondary data collection can be two types either 'quantitative' is 'available from official government sources or trusted research organisations' and is used as numerical data which is analysed mathematically. And 'qualitative' is a form of public resources, for example websites, articles, books, newspaper, letters which provides a large amount of information on the subject you are looking for. (Source: ThoughtCo, n.d.)

2. What is VLE?

VLE stands for Virtual Learning Environment. This is described as an

online classroom, which permit the lecturers and students to be in touch and be able to communicate via online platforms for example, Microsoft Teams, Moodle, and other platforms.

The meaning of VLE is to give access to students when they are home to be able to track and review, their progress during the term/s. Students can easily log into Moodle to read over any module topics as they like until the information is understandable, they can also download assessments guidance's and requirements.

(Sources: (www.virtual-college.co.uk, n.d.) & (techterms.com, n.d.)

3. What are the benefits of VLE?

The most important benefit of Virtual Learning Environment is '**flexibility**' to both students, and teachers as well. As we all know, there are students who learn

extremely fast and there are some students who learn slowly, so VLE is good for students who learn slow because they can easily access any topics, they like to read it over and make sure they understand the topic, without making other people waiting for them to understand and empathise with the material.

Another benefit is '***better learning experience***', VLE allows students to study whenever they have free time, during the class or outside of hours of university. This is an amazing opportunity to learn for people with special learning needs. Or for any learners that are unable to attend at the campus because of personal reasons or medical condition so they can access VLE and benefit of it. (benefitof.net, n.d.)

3.1. Reason why VLE is useful.

Most people prefer Virtual Learning Environment because it is more useful for them and because it is 'cost saving'. As we all know, going to university is so expensive, because you need to pay university fees, public transport and even buy necessary equipment. By attending a virtual lesson will save a lot of money, because it is cheaper than going to the university. (Source: FunTech Blog, 2020)

4. What are the disadvantages of VLE?

One disadvantage of VLE is '**isolation**', as we all know classes in the classrooms are different from the ones online. During an online class, students cannot really talk

and share understanding about the lesson like you would be able to do it in class, and this could result in not understanding the subject. Because there is not a lot of interaction between students doing online classes, this makes them to isolate inside of them which results to no communication on campus classrooms or even work and other places. (Source: CIF Training, 2018)

And another disadvantage is '**solo learning**', if you are confused on a topic, you can always ask your teacher questions though virtual learning way, but you will not have a straight away answer as you would receive one in the classroom, which will delay your study, assignments or homework's. (Source: CIF Training, 2018)

4.1. Reasons why VLE is awful.

The most annoying thing during on online class is that the ***‘video conferences are interrupting’***, and it is because technical issues. In a group call, there will always be one or more than one person who will have internet issues, which will result in disconnecting from the call, or not being able to hear anything during the class.

Teachers may ask students questions, but unfortunately because of internet difficulties, students might not be able to answer in time, or not at all, which will be frustrating for other students, because they have to wait longer. (Source: Henderson, 2021)

Primary Data Collection:

1. What Primary Data is?

Primary Data is when a person collects data from people by surveys, interviews, questionnaires, etc. (Source: Wagh, 2020)

Primary data can take time to obtain, but it is extremely useful because its specifically designed to solve the research problem. (Source: Wagh, 2020)

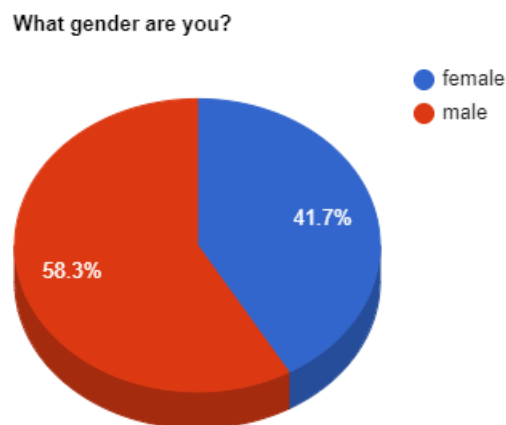
2. Collection data of student's opinion about virtual learning environment.

Students from University of Wales Trinity Saint David had to collect primary data from their colleagues. I had to make a questionnaire online and allow my colleagues to answer my quiz, allowing me after to see their answers and understand the knowledge and opinion about virtual

environment learning, my colleagues have.

My quiz questions:

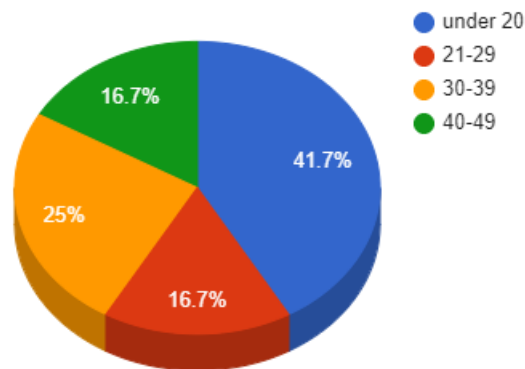
1. What gender are you?



From the above pie chart, it can be told that most of the students who answered this quiz were males.

2. What age are you?

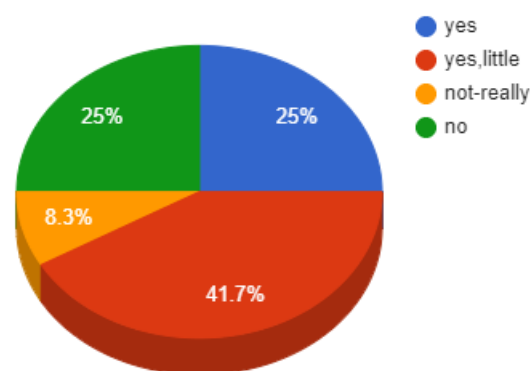
What age are you?



According to the figure above, it can be said that most of the students attending University of Wales Trinity Saint David are under the age of 20 like my age. Meaning that today young people under 20, do not give up on their studies after they finish secondary school or college. And they are continuing their studies to have a better career in the future, which in future the majority of people employed will have a great knowledge about their job, and they will feel confident on the job they are doing.

3. Do you have any previous experience about the Virtual Learning Environment?

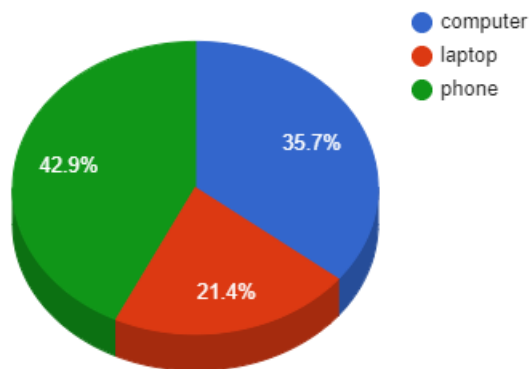
Do you have any previous experience about the Virtual Learning Environment?



From this pie chart, we can tell that most people have some experience, but some 'not really' or 'no' experience at all of Virtual Learning Environment.

4. On which device do you use Moodle the most?

On which device do you use Moodle the most?

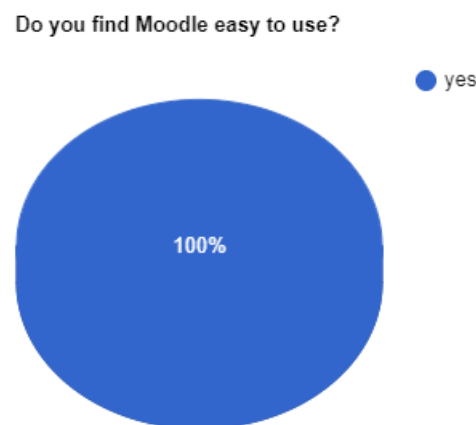


As we can all see from the figure the percentages of the device using. As I was reviewing my colleague's answers, I could see 42,9% of middle adult's students use Moodle on their phone, and we have 35.7% young students using computer and 21.4% young students using laptop.

So, the conclusion from this shows that older people have more experience with virtual learning environment because they use phones the most which displays the material smaller than a computer or laptop, and the younger people use

laptops and computers the most because they feel more confident with those devices than phones.

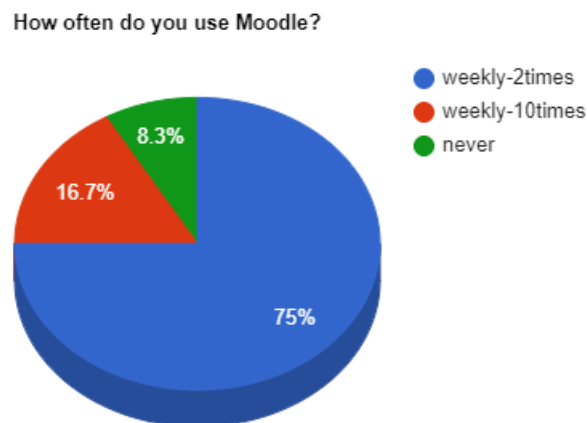
5. Do you find Moodle easy to use? If the answer is 'NO', please explain the difficulties you are having.



From this pie chart, we can tell that all the students in University of Wales Trinity Saint David does find Moodle easy to use, no matter the age, which means people

who are responsible for Moodle are doing an excellent job for their users.

6. How often do you use Moodle?



From this pie chart, we can see a 75% of students use Moodle twice a week, my opinion is that those students should use Moodle more than 2 times a week, because it is not enough to look over it in the classroom with your lecturer and colleagues because you cannot

accumulate that much knowledge and understanding about the lesson.

And 16.7% of students use Moodle 10 times a week, which I think this is a good amount of using the Moodle, even more times if it is need it. I also use Moodle 10 times a week, or even more sometimes and especially when I must do my presentations or write my reports.

But I had noticed, 8.3% of students never use Moodle, which I think is a wrong decision, because Moodle have a lot of good data, and is better information than world wide web information, because on Moodle you find only relative information about your queries.

7. How satisfied are you with Moodle?

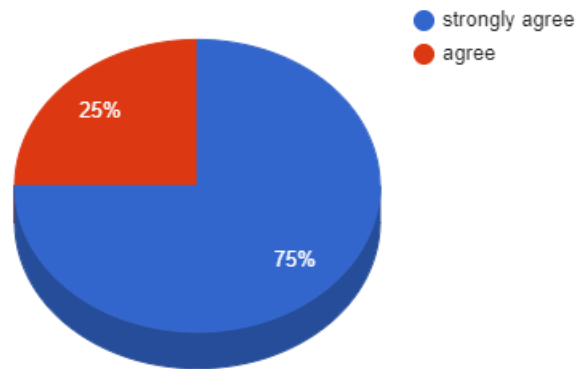


4.58 Average Rating

As we can observed from the star rating, a lot of students are satisfied with Moodle. I had a look at the insights from my quiz on this question and 92% of people rate Moodle between 4-5 stars, which is extremely high rating which means people are satisfied and happy with the Moodle. But I saw one person rate it with star 3, and I am really wondering why the person gave this rate and what is the reason that he / she is not higher satisfied.

8. Do you agree that Moodle has all the necessary information for the students?

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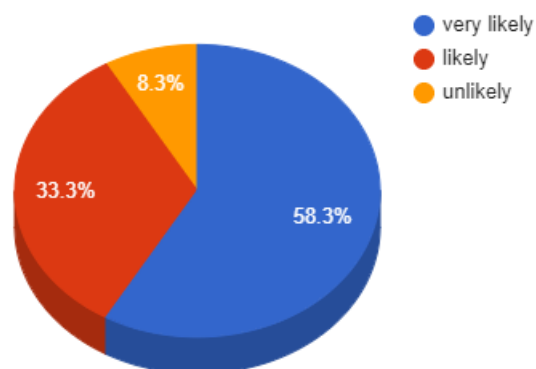


According to the reading from the above figure, we can tell that all the students from University of Wales Trinity Saint David agree that Moodle contains all the necessary information for the students. A virtual learning environment platform such as Moodle allows the students and teacher to access it anytime. To be able to access a topic in Moodle, you need a computer or mobile phone and a good internet connection, and all you need will open for you. All the students can view their attendance, their modules and

topics, the deadlines and submission links for the reports and presentation PowerPoints which makes Moodle the perfect virtual learning platform for the students, but as well the teacher.

9. How likely are you to recommend Moodle to other people?

How likely are you to recommend Moodle to other people?



As we can all see from the pie chart, students who responded to my quiz are very happy with Moodle and they find it helpful for their learning. And there are 58.3% students who are 'very likely'

recommending this virtual learning platform and 33.3% students who are 'likely' to recommend.

10. What improvements could be done in Moodle?

ID ↑	Name	Responses
1	Dariusz Brylewicz	How to do videos
2	anonymous	Everything is good
3	anonymous	None.
4	anonymous	It's a very easy and simply software that can teach students on all levels
5	anonymous	No improvements everything is good
6	anonymous	Upload more information for the reports.
7	anonymous	In my opinion none
8	anonymous	Nothing. Miss u Adela
9	anonymous	Improvements for even quicker links for easier finding of what students need to read

As we can see from the table, I have made a question, where students can say their opinion of how to improve Moodle.

From my opinion Moodle is a truly clear and organised virtual learning platform,

but everything can be improved to be even better.

I strongly agree with the person number nine and their response 'Improvements for even quicker links for easier finding of what students need to read'. From my own experience, at the beginning of the Course called Certificate of Higher Education Skills for the Workplace, I found Moodle complicated because I was not familiar with it and there was a lot of information and data about everything that I need, and the first one week of the course I had trouble finding the topics and other things in the Moodle because there was a lot of information. But slowly, slowly, I start to understand how Moodle is designed and how it works. So, Moodle is a little complicated for people do not have any experience of it.

And again, I agree with the person number six and their response 'Upload more information for the reports' and even presentations. I agree with this response because I also experienced this situation, but as well my colleagues. It will be amazing if Moodle have a guidance of how to design the presentations and reports, and as well copies of previous reports, so students can have an idea how to make the best academic reports and presentations, so they can be able to get higher marks or even maximum marks.

Conclusion:

From the study above, we can see that education board wants to introduce virtual learning environment in the

educational system because it does not cost as much as a campus study, and you can study from home. I have researched about what secondary data is and the advantages and disadvantages of it. And I had made a primary data collection from my colleagues to understand their knowledge and opinion about virtual learning environment.

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