

Assessment 2 Individual Report

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**Digital Skills and Research
Methods**

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INTRODUCTION

A virtual learning environment is an online based platform that allows to both students and professor's digital solutions that increases learning experience (Herrera, 2017). This study is going to discuss impact of virtual learning on academic performance of students and ways as how it makes them able to increase their knowledge and skills. It will further discuss some negative impacts of online classes as why some students do not like virtual learning and as compared to face to face learning what are missing in virtual learning. It will collect both primary and secondary data in order to know impact of virtual learning as well as some problems that students and tutors face in virtual learning or while learning in online classes.

Impact of virtual learning environment

We all live in an environment numbers of factors affect individual's living. Changes in some external environmental factors affect behaviour of people and many more things, Political, social, economic, environmental are some factors that can change anytime Climate change in environmental factor is one of the best examples that affect behaviour of people and the way in which people live and react (Torres Martín, Acal, El Honrani and Mingorance Estrada, 2021). In this digital era, people rely on internet and technology for getting their work done in an effective and easier manner. Technology has changed all sectors whether it is healthcare, education and others. Education sector get affected the most after introduction of advanced technology as well as after environmental changes or Covid-19. Covid-19 or pandemic that broke down in the year of 2018 affected all of us to the great extent. IT leads an infectious disease that spread by touching and social gathering. Students were the one who are still affected and they are not allowed to go to schools and get education as like before they used to because of fear of getting affected from virus or infectious disease. This changing factor changed educational sector and advanced technology made able to all students to continue their studies by sitting at home with the help of internet or laptop or mobile phone via videos. This online education or learning is known as virtual learning that has changed learning experience. There are critical impacts of virtual learning on student and for knowing students' views on this topic, questionnaire has conducted in order to collect primary data. This questionnaire will be given to each student or selected students of University of Wales Trinity Saint David London Campus and then be used for online survey. It is not possible to conduct offline or face to face survey because of covid-19.

Some questions of conducted questionnaire will help out in knowing positive as well as some negative impacts of virtual learning on learning experience (Omar and Geer, 2018). 30 students University of Wales Trinity Saint David London Campus have selected as a sample for gathering primary data in order to know impact of online classes or virtual learning environment on their learning experience.

Theme 1: How happy are you with the timing of virtual learning or online classes?

Answers	Frequency
Highly satisfied	6
Satisfied	8
Highly dissatisfied	7
Dissatisfied	9

Interpretation: When students were asked about satisfaction level as if they love or satisfied with virtual learning or online classes then different students gave different answers. In this regard, 6 students said that they are highly satisfied with this and they love to attend online classes because they do not have to walk up early in the morning and it saves their time. 8 students said that they are satisfied as they said that online classes are good but they are getting bored from this and they miss their friends and other activities. 7 students were highly dissatisfied as they said that online learning does not help them out in accomplishing their goals. They said that it is affecting their performance as in online classes, it becomes difficult to identify who is cheating and it is not good for students who are brilliant and genuinely want to achieve something. 9 or majority of students also said that they are dissatisfied with virtual learning as initially, they enjoyed but now they feel that it is affecting their overall performance. They have to rely on research for solving their doubts if they have and teachers cannot focus on each student with effectiveness.

Theme 2: Reason of not connecting online classes?

Answers	Frequency
Timing	10
Laziness	20

Interpretation: In order to know critical and some negative impacts of virtual learning, they were asked as why they miss online classes. From secondary data, it is known that students do not attend classes regularly and it is affecting their learning experience and performance as well. In this context, 10 students said that timing of online classes is one of the main reasons as some classes are for 1 hour and some classes are for 3-4 hours. They said that it becomes difficult to focus on online classes or seeing mobile phone or laptops for this longer hours. They face numbers of problems if they see mobile phones and try to concentrate on learning for this longer hours and it is the reason they miss online classes. Whereas, 20 students said that initially, they were enjoying attending online classes but now they have become lazy as they stay at home all the time and they know that they can do many other things while attending class. It becomes difficult for teachers to focus on each student so, sometimes they take undue advantage of it. Habits of sleeping late at night have made their lazy and they find difficulties to wake early in the morning as per the online timing classes. So, it is the main reason as they do not attend online classes regularly or miss virtual learning.

Theme 3: Difficulty you face the most while learning online?

Answers	Frequency
Interrupted internet	5
Silent place	7
Interruption by other students	9
Back and eye pain	8

Interpretation: From some secondary data, it is found that after Covid-19, students are facing numbers of challenges in this online class. So, for making changes and improvement, students were asked about problems that they face while attending online classes. 5 students said that interrupted internet is one of the main problems that they face. They said that area where they live, there is a problem of internet connectivity and due to internet interruption, and they miss some important topics, taught by tutors. 7 students said that not getting silent place in home is the main problem as noise at their home affects them. 9 students said that interruption by other students and timing in greeting tutors by all students and misleading tutors by some students affect their learning experience. They said that it consumes a lot of time and they do not learn whatever scheduled or expected by them to learn. 8 students said that it become difficult for them to focus on mobile or laptop screen for longer hours. As like school and university classes they do not have facilities at their home and due to this longer hour, they have to face back and eye pain.

Theme 4: Advantages of online classes or virtual learning?

Answers	Frequency
Time saving	8
Timing of classes	10
Combination of structure	12

Interpretation: For knowing positive impacts or positive sides of virtual learning, students were asked that what is the main thing that they love the most and why they prefer online classes. In this context, 8 students said that it saves their time. They do not have to travel for going to school or college and also they do not require getting ready for this. So, saving time is one of the best things that they love the most about online classes. 10 students said that timing of classes is the best thing as some classes are for only 30-60 minutes and each class of subject they get 10-15 minutes of break. 12 students said that combination on online classes' structure is the thing that they love about virtual learning. As they get message on their whatsapp about classes that are going to schedule next day. So, students can prepare themselves accordingly.

Theme 5: The main thing you miss about school

Answers	Frequency
Meeting with friends	13

Face to face study	17
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Interpretation: For better knowing about effectiveness of virtual learning students were asked as what they miss about school and college when they used to go before Covid-19 pandemic. 13 students said that it they had to get chance to meet with friends and it was stress buster for them. When they used to go to school and colleges then it helped them out in maintaining a proper schedule. There were many more activities in which they engaged and meeting with friends helped them out in solving doubt. Group study and discussion was the main thing that they miss. Majority of students or 17 students said that face to face study was the best as all students were focused by tutors and studying on white or blackboard was better than this virtual learning. They also said that tutors used to ask some questions after completing chapter that increased their knowledge and all this does not happen in virtual learning.

Along with primary data, some secondary data has also collected in order to know all about virtual learning. Some articles helped out in knowing about positive as well as negative impacts of virtual learning or online classes on performance of students.

Effectiveness of online classes or face to face classes

It is found that many people prefer face to face classes and some reason that they gave of face to face class is: strict schedule, on time solution of doubts, proper guidance of tutors. Some people said that they prefer online classes as it saves their time and they can study by sitting at home and anywhere as they just need improved internet connectivity and a place where they can access classes. On the basis of differences between face to face and online classes, it can be said that face to face learning is better because tutors also face some problems while teaching online (Hodges and et.al., 2020). Internet interruption and interruption by some students are some problems that they face so, overall it can be said that face to face learning is better.

Some critical impacts of virtual learning

On the basis of some secondary data, it is found that virtual learning has critical impacts. Some positive impacts that have known of virtual learning is: it saves time of students and tutors. Students can gain knowledge by sitting anywhere where they can connect internet or access online class (Papanastasiou and et.al., 2019). There are some other advantages of virtual learning that has known such as: flexible scheduling, self discipline, lower cost and other. Whereas, there

are some negative impacts that virtual learning have as it leads back pain and eye pain. Students have to learn all things by focusing on mobile screen and they have to prepare themselves as per the schedule class. The main thing that can make virtual learning effective is: technology or access to internet. If they have improved network then only they can attend online classes otherwise, it is not possible to gain knowledge without interruption (Allcoat and von Mühlenen, 2018).

CONCLUSION

It has been summarised from the above study that virtual learning has numbers of impacts on overall learning experience and performance of students. On the basis of secondary and primary data, it has found that virtual learning saves time of students as they do not have to go to school or colleges. Further, it has discussed some negative impacts or reasons as why some students do not prefer online classes over face to face learning. Some reasons that this has discussed include: back and eye pain due to longer hours of online screening in virtual learning, disturbance by other students and others.

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APPENDIX

Questionnaire

1. How happy are you with the timing of virtual learning or online classes?
 - Highly satisfied and happy.
 - Satisfied
 - Dissatisfied
 - Highly dissatisfied
2. What is the reason you miss online classes?
 - Exact timing of online classes
 - Laziness
3. Which difficulty you face the most while learning online?
 - Interrupted internet
 - Silent space
 - Interruption by other students
 - Back and eye pain
4. What is the main thing you love about online classes or virtual learning?
 - It saves time
 - Timing of classes
 - Combination of structure

5. What is the main thing you miss about school?

- Meeting with friends
- Face to face study