

DIGITAL SKILLS AND RESEARCH METHODS

**Impact of Virtual learning Environment on the University of Wales Trinity
Saint David London Campus**

Module code: BMSW4003

Research Report

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1.0 Introduction

Overview of Moodle learning

This research study is conducted with a purpose to discuss the impact of Moodle learning or Virtual learning environment on the students and their learning. As the world is proceeding towards the age of equality and empowerment of every human being, digitalization plays an important part in this initiative. Moodle learning is part of institutional education that makes higher education easy for those people who cannot attend their universities or continue their higher education for various reasons. In the University of Wales Trinity Saint David London Campus students are allowed to continue their class in Moodle learning. During the Covid 19 pandemic all the universities faced a difficult situation in their education and they adopted online or virtual Learning in their institution and its benefits encouraged universities to continue this education process. This research study is conducted to know how effective a decision or initiative is for students education in the University of Wales Trinity Saint David London Campus. Moodle learning is an educational platform that helps to create a personalized environment of learning that provides an integrated, powerful, and secure system to the students as well as educators and also administrators (Moodle, 2022). The development of Moodle began in 1999 and in 2002 Moodle 1.0 was released. This technology is used by several universities, schools, companies, and non profitable organizations also. The reason for conducting this research is that from the research the reason and importance of Moodle learning implementation in the schools and universities can be understood well and also helps to highlight its effectiveness in education.

2.0 Background: Literature Review on Moodle learning

2.1 Type of services is provided by Moodle technology

Moodle learning is one of the most effective technologies which is popular for the services it provides to the students as well as professors or teachers. Considering its services Iftikhar, (2016) suggests that it provides the services such as learning, teaching, IT support, tutor's

feedback, assignment marking, one-to-one support, assignment grading, learning resources, and assignment upload . All the services help students to continue their education even in their hectic schedule. Some people because of their job or their family responsibilities cannot continue their higher studies in regular mode. This educational platform helps them from every perspective to complete their education in a comfortable and affordable environment.

2.2 Benefits of Moodle in higher education

Moodle is quite a popular and acceptable learning platform by schools and universities and the reason for its popularity is the benefits that it provides to the students, lectures, and institutions. From the perspective of students Moodle supports the education of students and helps in accessing their learning by providing them learning materials through several media or links. In the opinion of Nash, (2016) Moodle helps teachers to create their online courses, track the progress of their students, and encourage their students through effective communication. Moodle enables the educational institutions to promote blended learning methods as a result of which they can get more students in their institutions and gain more success.

2.3 Challenges faced in Moodle learning for higher education students

Along with benefits there are various challenges faced by both students and teachers in Moodle learning. One of the issues is lack of flexibility in working with software for both the students and teachers. As students and teachers are habituated with traditional learning style and it has continued for several decades, they are facing issues in handling software in this new process of learning. In Moodle learning another challenge is the crowd of emails. According to Zainuddin *et al.*, (2016). In Moodles various types of messages regarding activity forums, notifications and others are sent through email as a result of which lots of mails gather in the mailbox. There are various news forums uploaded in Moodle and when they try to delete those news forums they face difficulty in it.

2.4 Technologies required for Moodle learning

Moodle is an open learning system and it is free to use. According to Jingga and Sunindyo, (2020) Moodle learning is an electronic or digital technology that is considered as e-learning program software. It has been categorized in various educational programs such as VLE or

Virtual Learning Environment, LMS or Learning Management System, CMS or Course Management System. All these categories highlight the point that Moodle is a Web based technology. As a result of this technology students are able to attend their classes sitting at their home.

2.5 Risks associated with Moodle learning technology

There are various types of risk that can be associated with online learning or e-learning. Considering the risk associated with Moodle learning Tlili *et al.*, (2018) said that Capability risk is one of the common and observable risks in Moodle learning. Moodle is a web-based software but the issue is that it is not developed fully as a result of which it is not able to cope with every situation or every educational project. It has been observed that students and teachers face issues when they come with a big project related to their study. Moodle cannot play an effective or convincing role in adjusting with big projects.

2.6 Legislation associated with Moodle learning technology

Focusing on the legislation of the UK universities it has been observed that UK legislation is associated with Moodle learning. **The UK Data Protection Act** helps in informing and guiding the learning of Moodle or the platform of Moodle so the private information of students and teachers can be safe in Moodle. According to Moodle, (2022) this legislation of the UK even goes further than the laws of the US FERPA legislation. According to this legislation, one student's profiles cannot be seen by others, students cannot see the name of students participating in the same course, and those students who are blocked in Moodle from all courses are automatically removed from Moodle.

2.7 Opportunities offered through Moodle learning

There are several advantages or opportunities provided by Moodle learning that enhance its popularity over time. Moodle is a free of cost open learning source that is easy to use as a result of which everyone can use it easily. In the opinion of Morze *et al.*, (2021) there are many people who are already engaged in a job but for the advancement of their career they want to do higher study. Moodle provides them the opportunity to continue their education along with their job. Similarly, there are many women who cannot continue their study because of restrictions or

married life responsibilities, Moodles helps those women also to complete their education through Moodle and become self independent.

3.0 Aims and Objectives

Aims

Aim of this research is to find out the impact of Moodle learning on the students of the University of Wales Trinity Saint David London Campus through analyzing and evaluating the benefits, challenges, and opportunities associated with the Moodle learning

Objectives

- To analyze the impact of Moodle learning on the students of the University of Wales Trinity Saint David London Campus
- To discuss the challenges faced by students in Moodle learning.
- To explain necessary ways and strategies to solve the challenges of Moodle learning.
- To recommend effective strategies to improve Moodle learning in the University of Wales Trinity Saint David London Campus.

4.0 Method

To accomplish the entire survey on the impact of Moodle learning in the University of Wales Trinity Saint David London Campus primary as well as secondary research method has been done. Primary as well as secondary research has been conducted here with the help of surveys and various articles and government websites (Researchgate, 2022). In the research at first qualitative and quantitative data and information regarding Moodle learning has been collected through secondary research. With the help of the secondary research it has been understood that Moodle learning has both benefits and limitations. Sometimes users face capability risk also as it is not a fully developed e-learning program. For data security or protection of students, teachers, and educational institutions in the UK , the Data Protection Act has been implemented by the government. Further information such as Moodle is a Learning Management System and it is free as well as easy to use, are gathered from this secondary research.

Secondary data were helpful to understand the impact of Moodle learning in educational institutions but as this research has been done to know about Moodle's impact on the students of the University of Wales Trinity Saint David London Campus researchers need to conduct Survey

with 19 students of this university as the primary research method. To properly and effectively accomplish this survey researchers made a multiple choice questionnaire. This questionnaire includes all the necessary questions that will help in gaining necessary knowledge. After preparing the questionnaire those MCQ sheets have been sent to those 19 students through email and they give their responses by filling that questionnaire. Their responses proved largely helpful for this research.

5.0 Results

5.1

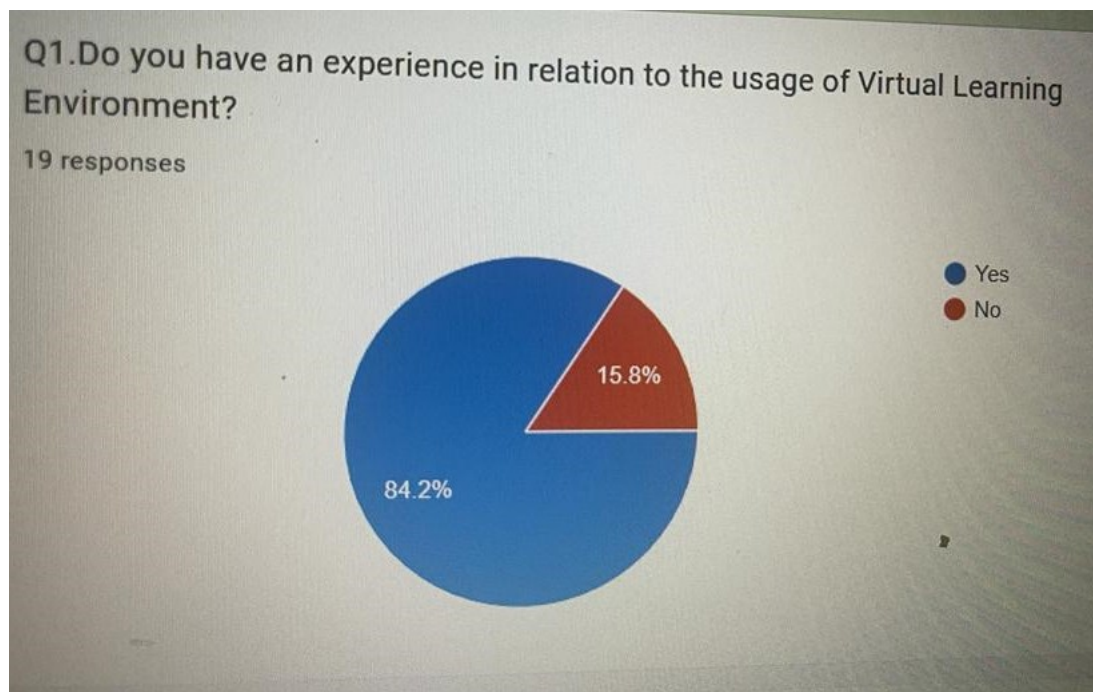


Figure 5.1: Response from survey

Source: (Developed by learner)

84.2% participants have stated that they have experienced usage of virtual learning environment whereas 15.8% do not have this stated experience.

5.2

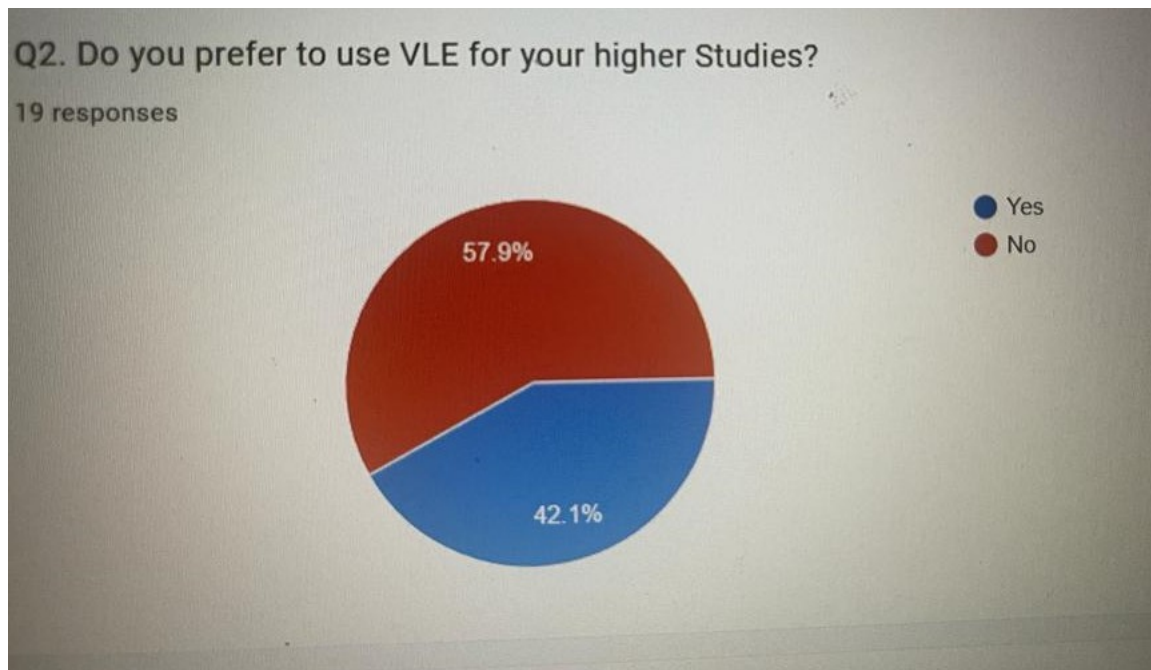


Figure 5.2: Response from survey

Source: (Developed by learner)

57.9% of the total participants have agreed that they would prefer VLE for their higher studies whereas 42.1% have stated they would prefer conventional classes.

5.3

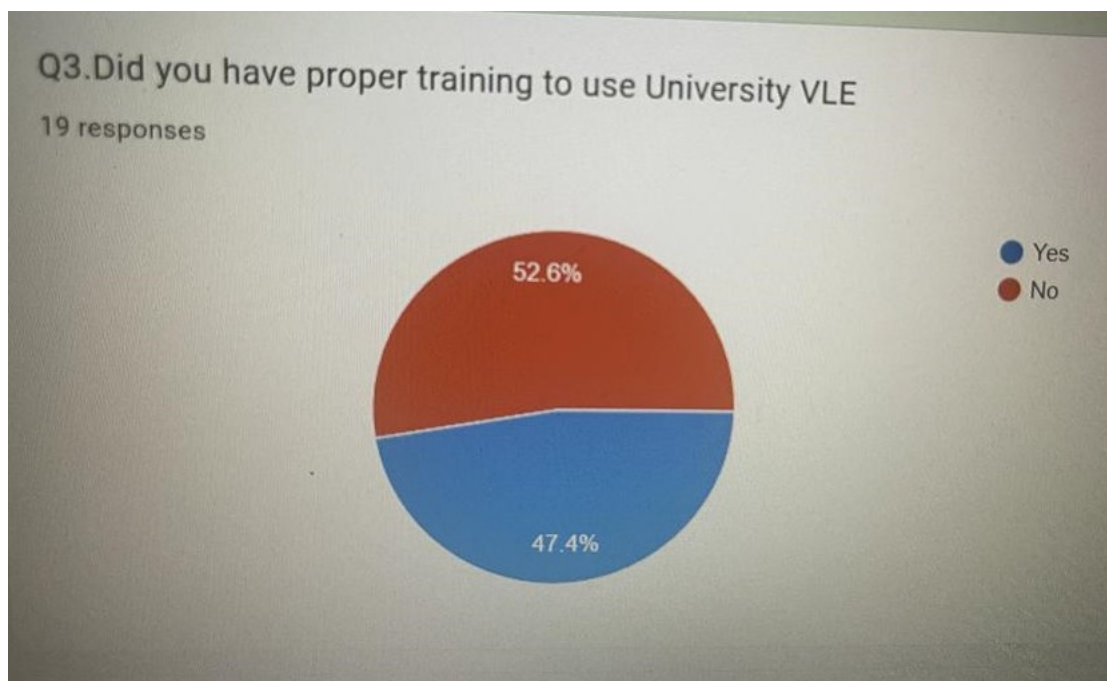


Figure 5.3: Response from survey

Source: (Developed by learner)

52.6% participants have stated that they had been given training to use University of VLE but 47.4% possessed no prior training.

5.4

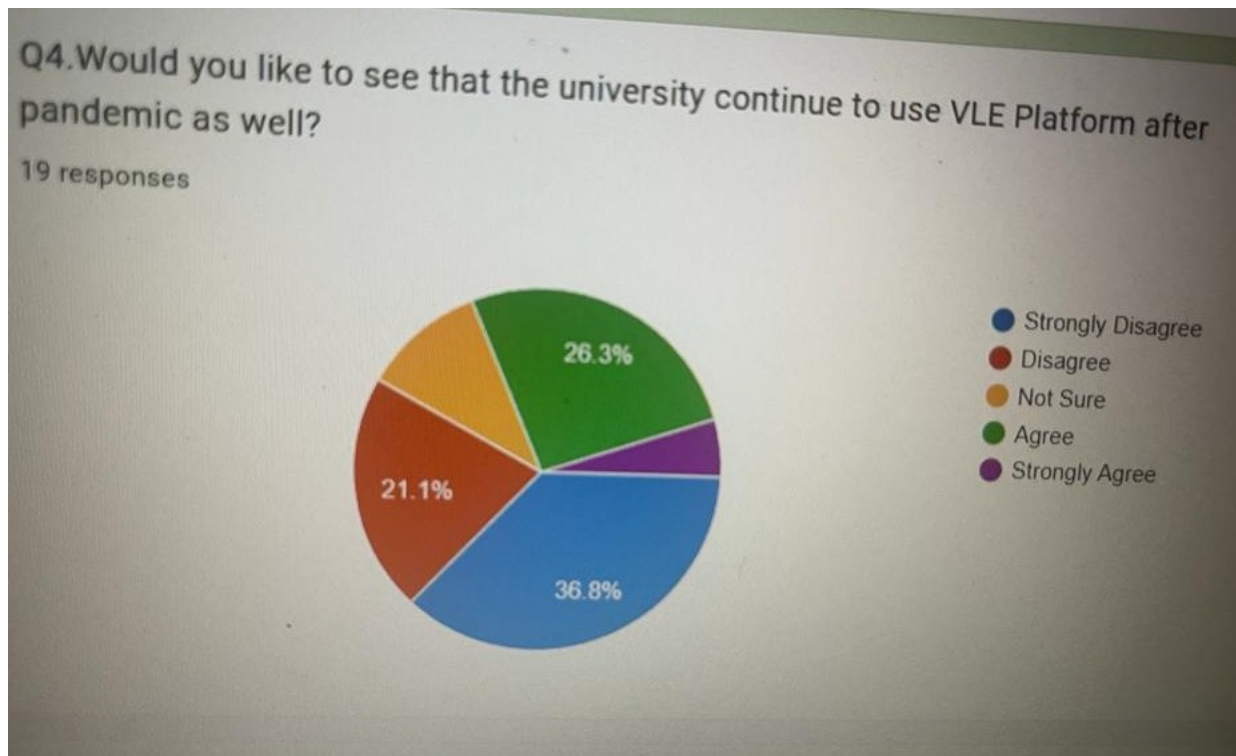


Figure 5.4: Response from survey

Source: (Developed by learner)

36.8% of the respondents have strongly agreed that they would prefer VLE after the pandemic but 21.1% disagreed that they would deny to use the VLE platform.

5.5

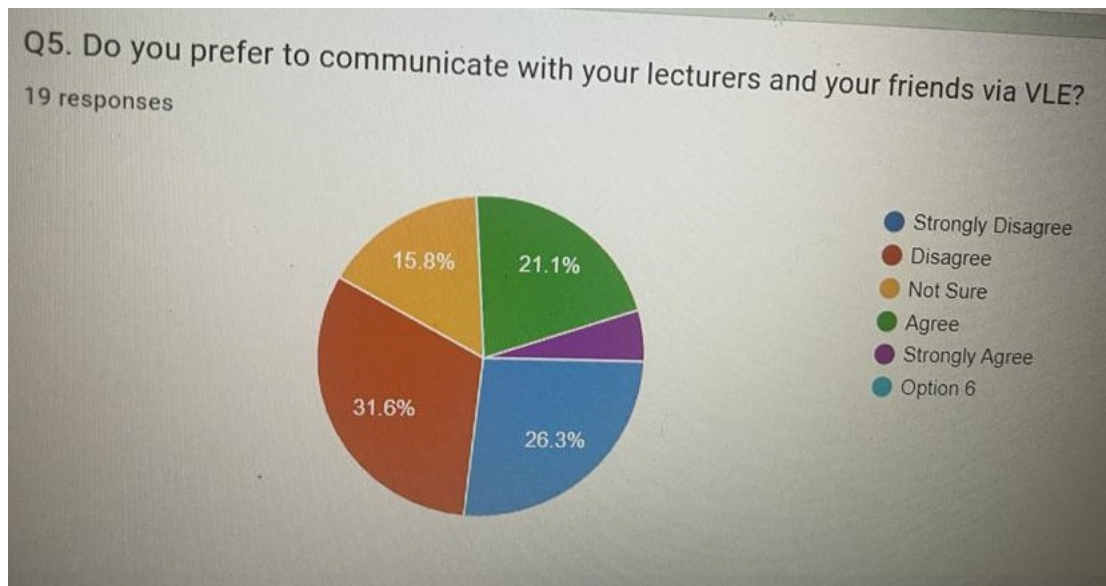


Figure 5.5: Response from survey

Source: (Developed by learner)

26.3% participants have highlighted that they would like to communicate with the lecturers and friends via VLE but 15.8% have stated that they have no ideas.

5.6

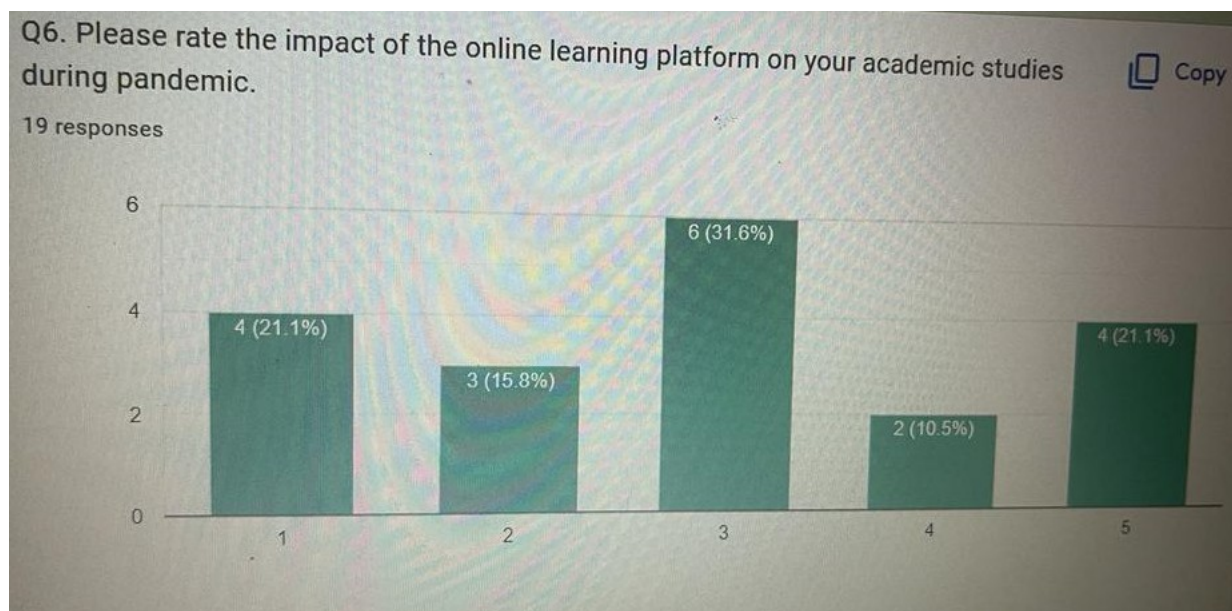


Figure 5.6: Response from survey

Source: (Developed by learner)

31.6% of the respondents have stated that online learning platform had higher impacts on the academic studies. 10.5% have stated that the impacts are low.

5.7

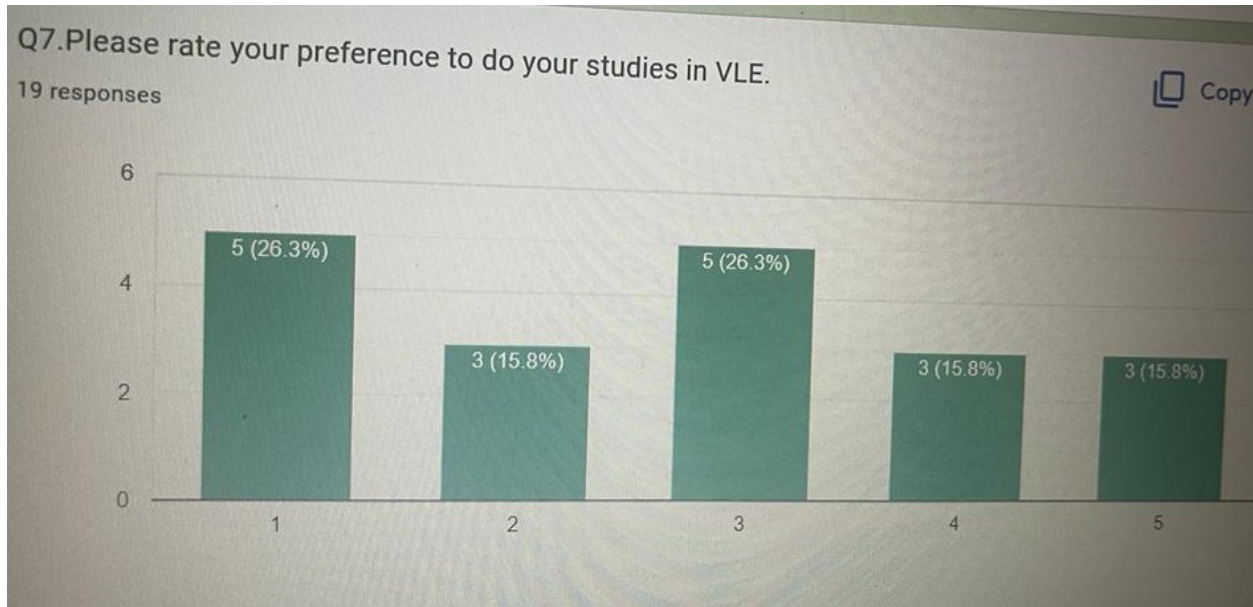


Figure 5.7: Response from survey

Source: (Developed by learner)

5 participants have highlighted that they would prefer studies through VLE and 3 have highlighted no interests.

5.8

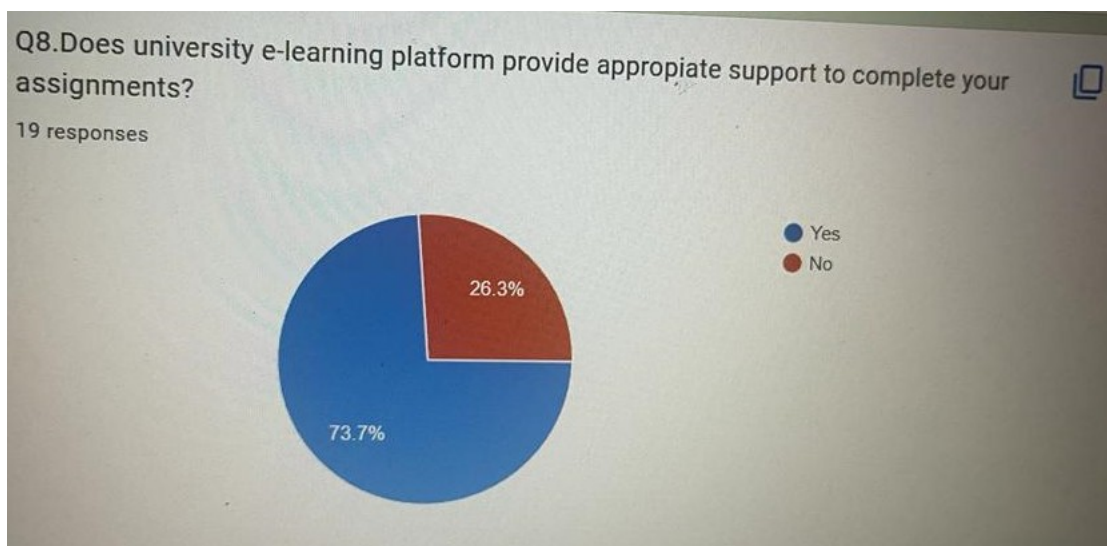


Figure 5.8: Response from survey

Source: (Developed by learner)

73.7% of the respondents have stated that e-learning platform supports to complete the assignments whereas 26.3% have denied this.

5.9

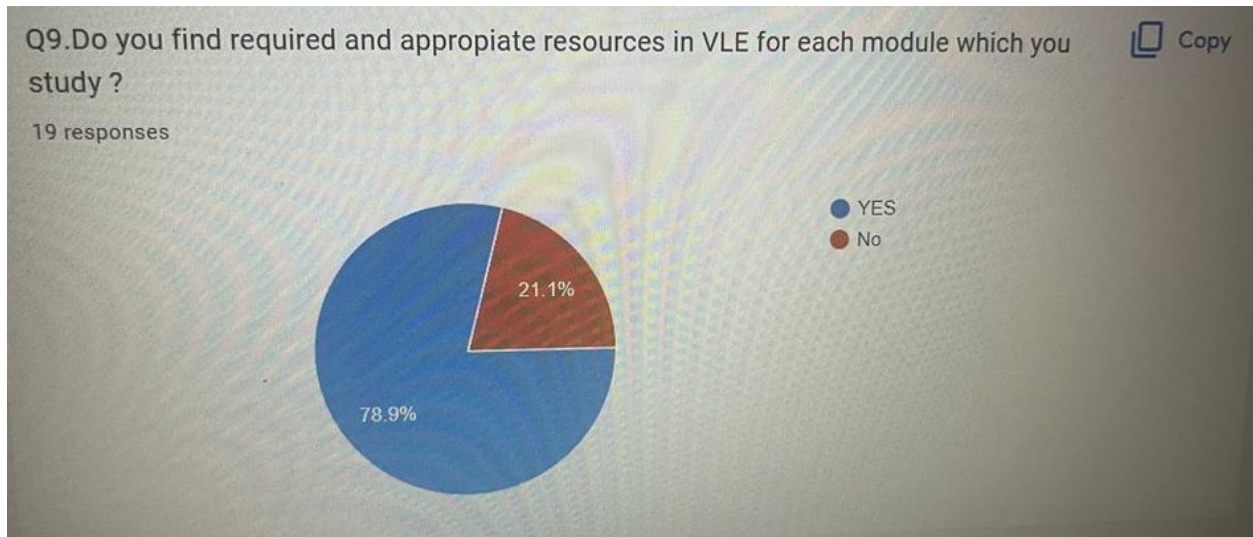


Figure 5.9: Response from survey

Source: (Developed by learner)

78.9% have highlighted that appropriate resources are offered by the VLE whereas 21.1% have denied that VLE have no resources.

6.0 Discussion

6.1 Moodle learning provides opportunities to gain knowledge effectively

From the collected responses of the survey it has been understood that Moodle serves several opportunities to students. In the opinion of Gluchmanova, (2016) not only it provides the opportunity to the needful students to contact their study without any obstacle but Moodle also helps people to get advanced opportunities in their professional career. Moodle helps students to learn from it and at the same time teach others in Moodle. A person can play both the role of learner and teacher at the same time and enhance their future career possibilities. A student is

learning science concepts in Moodle classes and at the same time he is teaching English to the students of the English language courses.

6.2 Legislation in the UK helps students to keep their information security form others

It is obvious that as students and teachers create their account in Moodle for classes they share various necessary and crucial information in their account profile. Amo *et al.*, (2019) shows their concern on this fact and suggest that as a result of this information they can face risk of data privacy. But as Moodle is adopted by universities and schools at a huge rate it is necessary to solve this risk and for this reason the government of UK took the initiative and implemented the data protection law that will help students to keep their information safe from others.

6.3 Debates about Moodle being as beneficial to students as regular classes

On the beneficiary of Moodle class in comparison to the regular classes a controversy has been raised. It has been observed that according to some students Moodle classes are as much helpful for them as regular classes while some students are not satisfied with these online classes and they feel the facilities that they get in regular classes are much better. According to Polhun *et al.*, (2021) during the Covid 19 pandemic Moodle plays an significant role in students' education that shows its benefits within students' education. The reason for this debate depends on the situation of students. Those who have no other option than attending the online classes find it beneficial while others do not. At the same time it depends on the teaching techniques of teachers also. Some teachers are able to explain their students the same concept in online classes as well as in the regular classes or in notes as well as in lectures. Students face various distractions during the online classes in Moodle and they cannot ask their queries immediately to their teachers as these things make students dissatisfied towards their Moodle class.

7.0 Conclusion

From the entire research it has been realized that Moodle learning has a huge demand globally. Not only is the University of Wales Trinity Saint David London Campus where students are enjoying Moodle learning and benefited from it but from the secondary research it has been observed that all the other universities and schools are benefiting from it. There are several

people who want to complete their education or who want to go for higher studies but because of several reasons they are not able to do it but Moodle plays a vital role in accomplishing their desires. Though there are several challenges faced by students and teachers in using Moodle, it can be said that in this age of advanced technology those issues can be solved soon. It can be recommended that for the convenience of the Moodle users Moodle needs to update and develop their software. There are several other technologies that can help Moodle in helping students to come with their big projects and to complete them.

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