

Digital Skills And Research Methods

DSR Assessment 2

BMSW4003

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Introduction

Online learning is more popular among educational institutions as well as people in the twenty-first era. With the continued spread of something like the Covid-19 epidemic, online education is now more important in terms of maintaining the reliability of educational opportunities.

A major outcome of this research module seems to be the improvement in the overall standard of online classes, which has been done regularly and effectively. It is portion of the wonderful pleasure of online education to be able to complete most courses from the convenience of your own home. It has been discovered that the online learning experience module is inadequate to satisfy learners who choose traditional learning methods and who are unable to devote sufficient time to education projects. As a result of the worldwide epidemic of physical touch, traditional learners were averse to the concept of online learning. According to Hewson, (2018) the reason for the lovely conclusion to this academic program is that, inside the face of worldwide epidemics or global limitations, online learning appears to have emerged as the safest option for learning and continuing one's education. Learners and students who want to acquire or study during a busy time can consider studying online, which would be accessible from anywhere and provides a great learning experience. As per my opinion online education play a vital role in the pandemic time. The disadvantage of this course could be that this would not place sufficient emphasis on how normal students may improve their school experience. In this report we will see the impact of virtual learning environment in general and how it is similar or different among the student of University of Wales and Trinity Saint David London campus who are using Moodle as a virtual learning environment.

Virtual Learning Environment

A Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) is a web-based system provided and managed by the institution to facilitate the students equipped with all academic recourses. Students are able to access the resources from their convenient location and time which encourage their independent learning and increase their motivation to learn.

Student Learning Experience:

Student learning experience is the experience of the students which specifies what they are learning and how they are learning, what the students will know. This is a statement demonstration their learning experience when they have participated or completed an educational program.

Literature Review:

In 2005, as a part of UK Government's strategy "Harnessing Technology – Transforming learning and children's services, which suggest that learning providers and institutions should make effective use of technology. During the study they have found that half of the school that they surveyed were positive about the VLE and about half of the colleges (out of 58) had VLA at that time and one quarter of them suggested VLE's were helping learners. (Becta, 2009).

By reviewing the literature, we may find some advantages and disadvantages of using Virtual Learning Environment:

Advantages-

- Easily Accessible to anyone who has smartphone or personal computer.
- One can join an online class from anywhere in the world if they have active internet connection.
- VLE gives the student flexibility. They can complete the task during their convenient time.
- As there is no physical presence needed or no travel cost involved, VLE is normally tends to be affordable.
- VLE is more convenient than traditional learning as this can be done from anywhere and anytime.

Disadvantage-

- It is difficult to finish the task without self-discipline
- VLE can feel a bit lonely as there is no human communication.
- There is no physical interaction with other students so, understanding through discussion is difficult.
- Most of the cases instant clarification is not possible. Mostly solo learning.
- VLE performance depends on the technological smoothness. A virtual classroom is only as good as the technology behind it.

According to Lederman, (2020) experts weigh in on how the sudden, forced adoption of technology-delivered instruction will affect the well-being of professors and students alike. Virtual learning environment has changed the face of education system. It gave the opportunity to learn new skills or enhance the existing ones and available to the adults and working professionals. The interactive and flexible nature of VLE makes it highly effective working in this digital age. Its helping career advancement and increasing the employability. Many experts arguing that VLE is better than the traditional classroom-based learning.

During a research done by Ryan,E & Poole,C (2019) with the 40 students attended a virtual learning session it was found that the student group taught using the VLE had higher mean score than the didactic group and has shown improvement in students satisfaction, recall and engagement. The result is encouraging even though it is still undetermined whether the VLE is better than conventional teaching method or not. The research suggests 7 benefits of VLE are:

- Engage students at a deeper level
- Improve Digital Literacy
- Offer flexibility
- No need for actual classrooms
- Get to know students better
- Enhance career prospects for students and faculty
- Offer multiple ways to learn

Ryan,E & Poole,C findings were supported by another research undertaken by Diochon and Cameron (2001) who has done a research where they made learning material available only on VLE;s to a group of undergraduate student and they have found that the necessity to be active learners when using a VLE has increased capacity & confidence with the students enthusiasm which ultimately providing a opportunity to develop competencies and employability skills.

In a research study in West Virginia, USA has found that the students using an online tool to communicate with the institutions and faculties has significantly improved their analytical skills and boost their motivation towards their learning.

Methodology:

Population: All Students of University of Wales Trinity Saint David London Campus.

Sample: 40 students using Moodle in my course.

Data collection process:

The primary data has been collected through the questioner created by MS Office Forms. To study the student learning experience, I sent the questioner form through email and group chat to total 46 students and got the reply from total 8 students.

Research question:

Three research questions were analysed:

Q1. Does the use of a VLE have a positive impact on student learning?

Q2. Does the use of a VLE in learning and teaching help develop student independent learning?

And

Q3. Does the use of a VLE for learning and teaching increase students' motivation to learn?

Analysis:

The quantitative research was carried out in the form of an e-questionnaire allowing analysis with Excel. The questions were organised and grouped around the three research questions as mentioned above. All 40 students in my group were invited to complete the survey in their own time. I got total 8 (25%) response from my participants.

Findings:

After analysing the data received through my questioner, I have found some interesting facts:

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Microsoft Forms

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Questions

Responses 8

7. Do you think the virtual learning normally increase your competency ?

Yes	4
No	1
Maybe	3



8. Do you think online study is better than face to face ?

Yes	1
No	4
Maybe	3



9. Is your study materials easily accessible on online

Yes	7
No	1
Maybe	0



10. How likely will you recommend virtual learning to your friends and family

Very likely	1
Somewhat likely	5
Neither likely nor unlikely	2
Somewhat unlikely	0
Very unlikely	0



<https://forms.office.com/Pages/DesignPage.aspx?lang=en-GB&origin=OfficeDotCom&route=Start#Analysis=true&FormId=-REPTm4EBUWcuNshUjEeIW0Y...> 1/1

By analysing the data, we can see that 50% of the respondents agreed that Virtual Learning Environment has increased their competency and that's aligned with the previous literature review. From this survey it is difficult to say whether the students think VLE is better than face to face or not as 4 out of 8 respondents think VLE is not better than face to face. It is almost certain that from the response we can say that the study materials are easily accessible in the MOODLE as we got about 90% positive response for this question. We got 60% response in favour of recommendation of VLE by the respondent and we can assume that this is because the students think that VLE helps their independent learning and increase their motivation towards learning.

Limitations of the study:

There are some limitations of this study, which are:

- Low sample size
- Low questioner response rate
- Not using elaborate and organized survey questioner.
- Not using advanced statistical tools.

Conclusion:

According to literature review VLE improve students' satisfaction, retention achievement which is more diverse, and this improvement applies not only for students it's also applied for teachers or their teaching process that is not only for student these improvements work for teacher or teaching process as well. This research suggests learning on VLE is a great opportunity for an individual learners use the resources from anywhere in their convenient time and in convenient places.

To get more accurate picture of VLE and its effect on students learning experience we should take larger and various audience. Ensure that all the students have the access of virtual learning environment from home.

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