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DIGITAL SKILLS AND RESEARCH METHODS (BMSW 4003)

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**THE IMPACT OF VIRTUAL LEARNING (VLE) –
MOODLE O STUDENT’S LEARNING UWTSD**

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

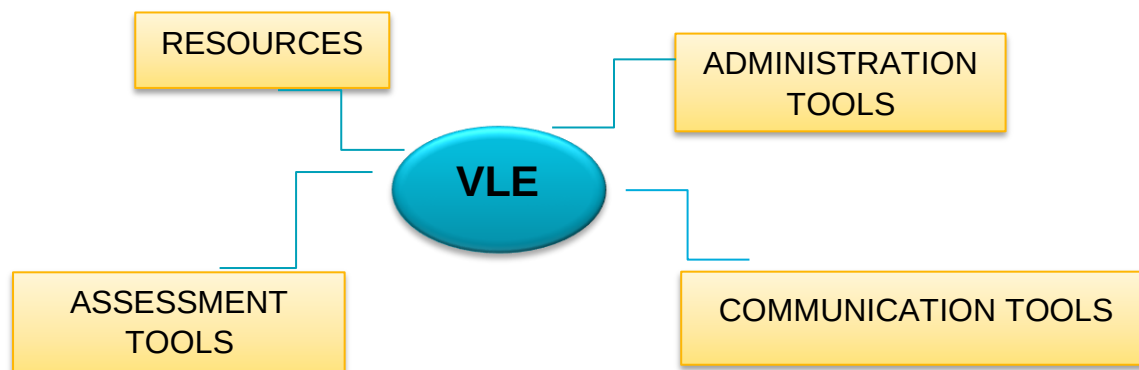
Virtual learning environment is a computer-based software and it uses the internet to delivers instructions to students. It is used both by students and teachers. It is designed not only for distant education, but it is also used for in class activities. (Kanimozhi, 2018)

For this particular report I am going to base my research on UWTSD Moodle e-learning platform, trying to find out how useful the e-learning platform is, the importance it has in students way of studying, the impact it had on their lives and ways that they study, especially at a time when we had to suddenly change from presential to online classes. I will be conducting a primary research in the form of a questionnaire (survey) and send it to my colleagues, teachers and administration staff, to find all the required information. After I obtain all the relevant information, I will be giving the result in this report.

2.0 BACKGROUND

For this part of the report I conducted a secondary research, using data from online sources like books, journals and articles, to find information about virtual learning environment to gather qualitative and quantitative data.

Virtual learning environment is a computer-based software and it uses the internet to delivers instructions to students. It is a way to transform students' way of learning and even improving their learning achievements, it is normally used for educational access to the university e-learning platforms, used both by students and teachers. Virtual learning environment consists of resources, administration tools, communication tools and assessment tools, to help students. It is a classroom teaching but in a virtual form that distributes information in form of documents. (Kanimozhi, 2018)



The purpose of virtual learning environment is an online system, to help the learner, so that he can have access to internet websites, online classroom trainings, online libraries, online communities, links to outside sources, field experts and online training. All these tools help to facilitate the students learning experience. It provides important and gratifying experiences and advanced opportunities. (Kanimozhi, 2018) Virtual learning environment tools support multiple functions: like information, communication, collaboration, learning and management, and the environment is of integration. (Peraya & al., 1999)

The virtual learning environment, e- learning platform that we use at our university UWTSD is Moodle.

Moodle was designed in 2002, by Martin Dougiamas when he was doing his Ph.D. as a tool for his dissertation about Socio-constructivist approach to learning, at Curtin University of Technology in Perth, Australia, as a sit for user interaction and support. (N. Robb, 2004)

Moodle's components include, the course information, administration information, it has a notice board, the contents of the course, support for communication, it has additional resources and links within the contents of the course. You can submit your assignments through it. (Moodle, 2020)

Moodle is user friendly, even for people with little computer literacy. it is easy to use and very helpful in a way that even when you miss a lecture, you can go to that particular week's lesson and see what were taught in class, something that without e-learning, would be impossible. Or even when you want to revise, you have access to the all lesson.

Now during this unprecedented time, that the all world is going through, due to the outbreak of Covid 19 pandemic, and being everybody's on lockdown, due to the high contagious virus, we are not allowed to share the classroom, thanks to the fact that virtual learning exists, we were able to continue our classes, instead of being presential, we were taught online. That way we did not miss any lecture and were able to get all the help needed from the lectures, and access the online library for research, for the completion of our assignments. If it did not exist, we would be missing out on classes and maybe even had to redo the all year, had this pandemic happen a couple of years ago. But luckily since 2010 most of the large institutions have adopted e-learning, as a complement for studying. (Oproiu, 2015)

So personally, I think that virtual learning environment is extremely important in a student's life's and for their studies, nowadays. It facilitates a student's life, compared to some years ago. The positive aspects of virtual e-learning are independence and time management, you can do it at your own pace, you save time travelling to and from university. The negative part is that there is no face-to-

face interaction, and sometimes it can be boring, and you can get distracted easily, and you also need self-motivation to start, knowing you have it at your disposal anytime can make you postpone and not stick to schedule.

3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- To find out the impact of virtual e-learning in students' life's
- The importance of virtual e-learning for students'
- The effectiveness of virtual e-learning

To obtain all the relevant information regarding virtual e-learning environment, I will conduct an primary research in the form of a questionnaire (survey) online, to get the answers to my questions regarding virtual e-learning, the impact it has had on students and their studies, the importance of using virtual learning for their studies and the effectiveness that it has had in students' life.

4.0 METHOD

In this report, I used a primary and secondary research approach to collect quantitative and qualitative data from primary and secondary sources in relation to the topic about the impact of virtual learning environment in our lives. Because the research is about the e-learning platform Moodle that we use at UWTSD, I collected data using a primary research from other users of this particular Moodle platform, to collect the necessary data to complete this report, I created an online questionnaire (survey), using Microsoft Forms, and sent it to my colleagues, teachers and some of the administration workers at UWTSD. During other circumstances, because unfortunately we had to change from presential classes to online classes, I could have made paper questionnaires to hand out to some other students at the campus, and get their feedback, but unfortunately this was impossible to do, during this time. I asked some students (my daughter, her boyfriend that uses CANVAS e-learning platform, my flat mate that also uses Moodle, but from another university and my friend that uses KEATS e-learning platform) that use other e-learning platforms their opinion about virtual learning environment and got their feedback as well. As a secondary research I collected information about the impact of virtual learning environment, by searching in online articles, journals and books. It was quite challenging getting all the

relevant information, under other circumstances I could have maybe found more data.

THIS IS A TEMPLATE OF MY ONLINE SURVEY

Survey about the impact of virtual learning environment

I'm creating this survey in order to understand more about the impact of virtual learning environment in your studies and life, can you please help me with some feedback. Thank you!

1. Are you familiar with the term virtual learning environment?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not applied

2. Do you use any virtual learning environment?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not applied

3. Do you find virtual learning useful in your studies?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe

4. Do you use virtual learning environment on a daily basis?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe

5. Has virtual learning had an impact in your way of studying?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe

6. Is the e-learning platform Moodle easy to use?

- ☐ Do not agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Strongly agree

7. Do you find that the e-learning platform Moodle has helped with your studies?

- ☐ Do not agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Strongly agree

8. Do you find it easy to navigate and has it helped to keep up when you miss a lecture?

- ☐ Do not agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Strongly agree

9. Do you find everything that you need for your studies on the e-learning platform Moodle?

- ☐ Do not agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Strongly agree

10. Would you recommend e-learning platform Moodle to your colleagues, friends or family?

- ☐ Do not agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Strongly agree

11. What is your overall satisfaction with the e-learning platform Moodle?

- ☐ Satisfied
- ☐ Not satisfied

12. In your opinion what makes it easy or useful to study through virtual learning environment?

13. And what do you think makes it difficult to study through virtual learning environment?

14. How would you rate the e-learning platform Moodle?

★★★★★

15. Overall how would you rate virtual learning environment?

★★★★★

Add new

5.0 RESULTS

These are the questions in my survey:

YES/NO

1. Are you familiar with the term virtual learning environment?
2. Do you use any virtual learning environment?
3. Do you find virtual learning useful in your studies?
4. Do you use virtual learning environment on a daily basis?
5. Has virtual learning had an impact in your way of studying?

DO NOT AGREE/ AGREE/ STRONGLY AGREE

6. Is the e-learning platform Moodle easy to use?
7. Do you find that the e-learning platform Moodle has helped with your studies?

8. Do you find it easy to navigate and has it helped to keep up when you miss a lecture?
9. Do you find everything that you need for your studies on the e-learning platform Moodle?
10. Would you recommend e-learning platform Moodle to your colleagues, friends or family?

SATISFIED/ NOT SATISFIED

11. What is your overall satisfaction with the e-learning platform Moodle?

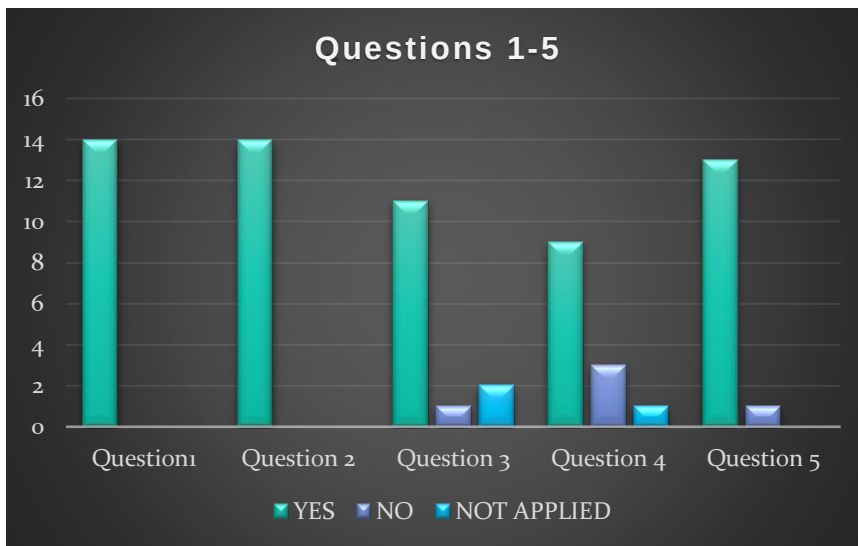
GIVING ANSWERS

12. In your opinion what makes it easy or useful to study through virtual learning environment?
13. And what do you think makes it difficult to study through virtual learning environment?

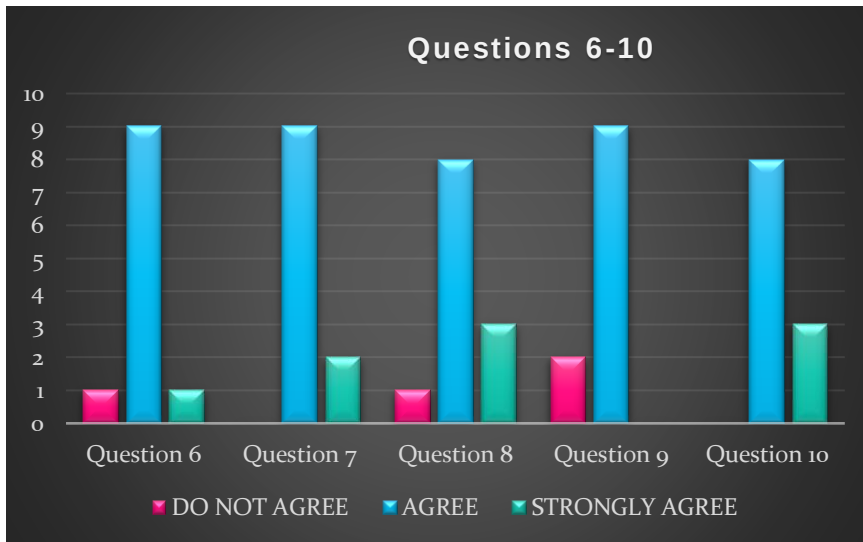
RATING (0-5*)

14. How do you rate the e-learning platform Moodle?
15. Overall how would you rate virtual learning environment?

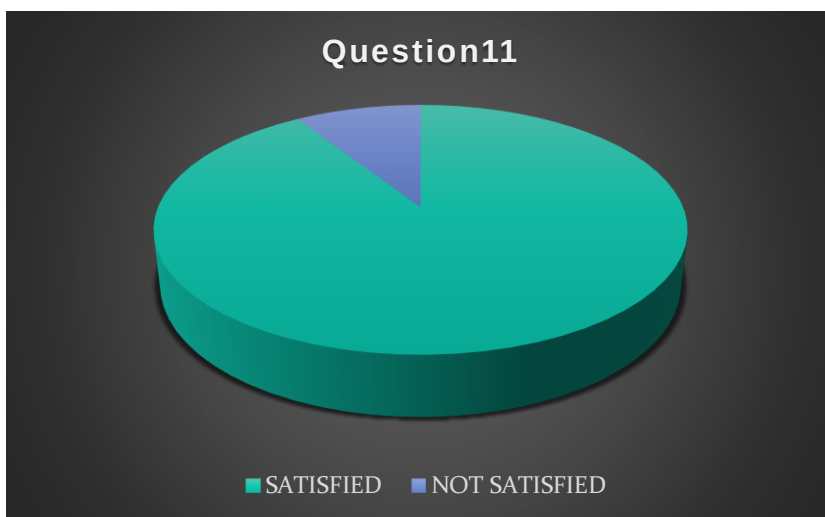
QUESTIONS	YES	NO	NOT APPLIED
Question1	14	0	0
Question 2	14	0	0
Question 3	11	1	2
Question 4	9	3	1
Question 5	13	1	0



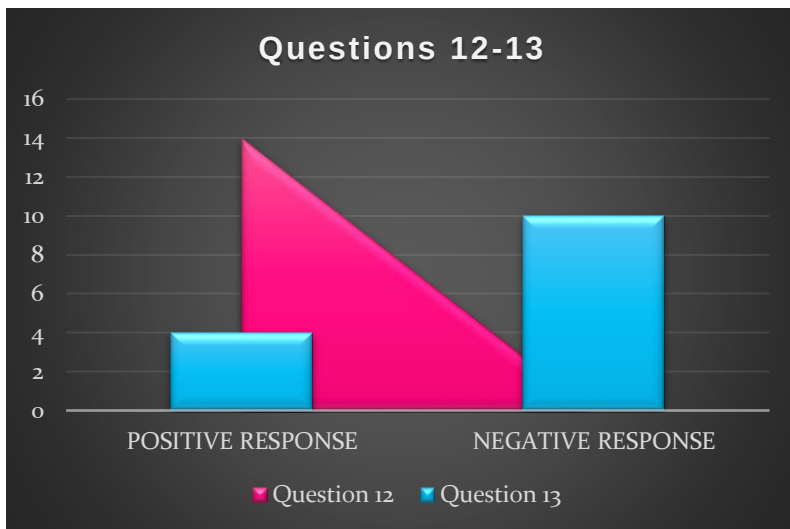
QUESTIONS	DO NOT AGREE	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE
Question 6	1	9	1
Question 7	0	9	2
Question 8	1	8	3
Question 9	2	9	0
Question 10	0	8	3



QUESTIONS	SATISFIED	NOT SATISFIED
Question11	10	1



QUESTIONS	POSITIVE RESPONSE	NEGATIVE RESPONSE
Question 12	14	0
Question 13	4	10



RATED QUESTIONS

Question 14 = **4.08 average rating** (12 responses)

2* - 1

4* - 6

5* - 7

Question 15 = **4.36 average rating** (14 responses)

2* - 1

3* - 1

4* - 6

5* - 4

The outcome of my questionnaire (survey) is as follow: 14 people responded to my survey. When I asked the question if they were familiar with the term virtual learning environment, 14 people answered yes. When asked if they used any

virtual learning environment, 14 people answered yes. When asked if they found virtual learning useful in their studies, 11 people answered yes, 1 responded no, and 2 responded not applied. When asked if they used virtual learning a daily basis 9 answered yes, 3 answered no and 1 not applied. When asked if virtual learning had an impact in their way of studying, 13 people answered yes, 1 answered no. When I asked if the e-learning platform Moodle was easy to use, 1 person answered that he does not agree, 9 answered that they agree, and 1 answered that he strongly agrees. When asked if they found that e-learning platform Moodle had helped of their studies, 9 people answered agree, and 2 answered that they strongly agree. When asked if they found it easy to navigate and if it had helped to keep up with their studies when they missed a lecture, 1 answered not agree, 8 answered agree, and 3 strongly agreed. When asked if they would recommend e-learning platform Moodle to your colleagues, friends or family, 2 did not agree, 9 answered agree. When asked what their overall satisfaction with the e-learning platform Moodle was, 10 answered they were satisfied and 1 not satisfied. When asked to give their opinion about what makes it easy or useful to study trough virtual learning environment, I obtained 14 positive answers. And what they thought makes it difficult to study trough virtual learning environment, 4 gave positive, 10 gave negative answers. When asked to rate the e-learning platform Moodle, on scale from 1-5, it was rated 4.08 average. And to rate the overall satisfaction with virtual learning environment, it was rated 4.36 average.

6.0 DISCUSION

Doing this report, I mainly discovered that virtual learning became an extremely fundamental tool aiding with our studies. If with wasn't for virtual learning when the Covid 19 pandemic forced us all into lockdown and prevented us from attending classes, due to the risk of catching the virus, we would not have been able to continue with this terms classes, but thanks to virtual learning, we switched to online classes instead, and had the opportunity to continue with the scheduled classes. And it was amazing to see how fast the IT teams worked to prepare everything so that we did not miss any scheduled classes. Even though some of the students had some difficulties to connect to the online classes, some of the teachers sometimes had their screen blocking when they were trying to share their screen with us, I think that everything turned out better than most people probably expected. We were still able to interact both with the teachers and with other students, even though it was virtually. Personally, and since I felt

sick for some time, if it was not for virtual learning I would have probably missed out on some classes.

I also found while doing my research (survey) for the required topic for this report, that unfortunately some of my colleagues, sadly, are not willing to help each other out, most of them had problems, due to the fact that they did not respond to each other's surveys.

Lastly about the topic the impact of virtual learning environment, Moodle. I found that from the answers I received in my survey, and also from the online classes, that some of the students have difficulties with Moodle and sometimes with understanding teachers instructions, I presume it has to do with the language barrier. On the other hand, all of them had positive things to say about their overall experience with Moodle. Personally, I found this all very positive, I am happy that through Moodle I can always review, or even before the next lecture I can see what we are going to do in the next class. I find it user friendly, as it is easy to navigate, find all the required information, submitting the assignments is easy, being notified of any changes regarding the university or assignments is extremely helpful.

7.0 CONCLUSION

To conclude this report, I would like to highlight that virtual learning environment was one of the most important tools that was created to facilitate students, with their studies. And that even when something does not go according to plan, you do not have to miss out on classes.

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8.0 APPENDIX

Here is my survey questions and answers:

Survey about the impact of virtual learning environment

I'm creating this survey in order to understand more about the impact of virtual learning environment in your studies and life, can you please help me with some feedback. Thank you!

1. Are you familiar with the term virtual learning environment?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not applied

2. Do you use any virtual learning environment?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not applied

3. Do you find virtual learning useful in your studies?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe

4. Do you use virtual learning environment on a daily basis?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe

5. Has virtual learning had an impact in your way of studying?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe

6. Is the e-learning platform Moodle easy to use?

- ☐ Do not agree
- ☐ Agree

☐ Strongly agree

7. Do you find that the e-learning platform Moodle has helped with your studies?

☐ Do not agree

☐ Agree

☐ Strongly agree

8. Do you find it easy to navigate and has it helped to keep up when you miss a lecture?

☐ Do not agree

☐ Agree

☐ Strongly agree

9. Do you find everything that you need for your studies on the e-learning platform Moodle?

☐ Do not agree

☐ Agree

☐ Strongly agree

10. Would you recommend e-learning platform Moodle to your colleagues, friends or family?

☐ Do not agree

☐ Agree

☐ Strongly agree

11. What is your overall satisfaction with the e-learning platform Moodle?

☐ Satisfied

☐ Not satisfied

12. In your opinion what makes it easy or useful to study through virtual learning environment?

13. And what do you think makes it difficult to study through virtual learning environment?

14. How would you rate the e-learning platform Moodle?

15. Overall how would you rate virtual learning environment?



Add new

Survey about the impact of virtual learning environment

14 responses

14

Responses

Average time to complete: 3 minutes and 51 seconds

03:51

Average time to complete

The form status is Active

Active

Status

View results

Open in Excel

1.

Are you familiar with the term virtual learning environment?

[More Details](#)

Yes	14
No	0
Not applied	0

2.

Do you use any virtual learning environment?

[More Details](#)

Yes	14
No	0
Not applied	0

3.

Do you find virtual learning useful in your studies?

[More Details](#)

Yes	11
No	1
Maybe	2

4.

Do you use virtual learning environment on a daily basis?

[More Details](#)

Yes	9
No	3
Maybe	1

5.

Has virtual learning had an impact in your way of studying?

[More Details](#)

Yes	13
No	1
Maybe	0

6.

Is the e-learning platform Moodle easy to use?

[More Details](#)

Do not agree	1
Agree	9
Strongly agree	1

7.

Do you find that the e-learning platform Moodle has helped with your studies?

[More Details](#)

Do not agree	0
Agree	9
Strongly agree	2

8.

Do you find it easy to navigate and has it helped to keep up when you miss a lecture?

[More Details](#)

Do not agree	1
Agree	8
Strongly agree	3

9.

Do you find everything that you need for your studies on the e-learning platform Moodle?

[More Details](#)

Do not agree	2
Agree	9
Strongly agree	0

10.

Would you recommend e-learning platform Moodle to your colleagues, friends or family?

[More Details](#)

Do not agree	0
Agree	8
Strongly agree	3

11.

What is your overall satisfaction with the e-learning platform Moodle?

[More Details](#)

Satisfied	10
Not satisfied	1

12.

In your opinion what makes it easy or useful to study through virtual learning environment?

[More Details](#)

14

Responses

Latest Responses

"VLE Pre training is important. "

"since this is an online learning platform, we could access in any place. "

"being able to access materials when I need it "

13.

And what do you think makes it difficult to study through virtual learning environment?

[More Details](#)

12

Responses

Latest Responses

"no comment "

"group involvement is high in a classroom teaching and learning environment. "

"not being able to access the lecturer "

14.

How would you rate the e-learning platform Moodle?

[More Details](#)

12

Responses

□ □ □ □ □

□ □ □ □ □

4.08 Average Rating

15.

Overall how would you rate virtual learning environment?

[More Details](#)

14

Responses

???

???

4.36 Average Rating

12. In your opinion what makes it easy or useful to study through virtual learning environment?

14 Responses

ID	Name	Responses
1	anonymous	Navigation and Simplicity
2	anonymous	Easy to find information ..easy to collaborate with others
3	anonymous	The ability to record each class
4	anonymous	It's helpful
5	anonymous	Do not need books and paper
6	anonymous	It saves money, as people don't need to use the transport and it is also flexible, you can use it everywhere at any time.
7	anonymous	saves you time
8	anonymous	Mobility. You can study anywhere anytime.
9	anonymous	You can easily find the school material online, in case you missed a lesson or you didn't understand a particular topic.
10	anonymous	you can study from anywhere anytime
11	anonymous	Wide Range of information
12	anonymous	being able to access materials when I need it

ID	Name	Responses
13	anonymous	since this is an online learning platform, we could access in any place.
14	anonymous	VLE Pre training is important.

13. And what do you think makes it difficult to study through virtual learning environment?

12 Responses

ID	Name	Responses
1	anonymous	There are not difficulty
2	anonymous	Not a physical call
3	anonymous	For me not difficult
4	anonymous	The Library is quite complex to use
5	anonymous	People that are not so good with computers or with the new technologies
6	anonymous	poor computer knowledge
7	anonymous	If you have questions and you can't find answers through the platform
8	anonymous	In case you need help about a topic online you can't ask clarification to your tutor and get a quick response.
9	anonymous	sometimes hard to understand
10	anonymous	not being able to access the lecturer

ID	Name	Responses
11	anonymous	group involvement is high in a classroom teaching and learning environment.
12	anonymous	no coment

14. How would you rate the e-learning platform Moodle?

12 Responses

ID	Name	Responses
1	anonymous	4
2	anonymous	5
3	anonymous	4
4	anonymous	5
5	anonymous	3
6	anonymous	5
7	anonymous	4
8	anonymous	4
9	anonymous	4
10	anonymous	4
11	anonymous	5
12	anonymous	2

15. Overall how would you rate virtual learning environment?

14 Responses

ID	Name	Responses
1	anonymous	5
2	anonymous	5
3	anonymous	5
4	anonymous	5
5	anonymous	4
6	anonymous	5
7	anonymous	5
8	anonymous	4
9	anonymous	4
10	anonymous	4
11	anonymous	4
12	anonymous	4
13	anonymous	5
14	anonymous	2