

**Digital Skills and Research Methods: Virtual Learning
Environment (VLE)**

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Introduction

In the modern digital world, e-learning facility is evolving as effective techniques to educate students from a remote distance (Akbarilakeh, Razzaghi and Moghaddam, 2019). Various open-source application is developed by the experts to build a virtual learning environment to integrate the teachers as well as the students. Moodle is one of the open-source application that provides a GUI environment to simplify and create a secure personal learning environment (Africa, 2018). The recent study is involved with the examine the impact of the virtual learning environment through the collection of primary data from the students of the University of Wales Trinity Saint David London Campus. Moreover, the secondary data is collected via related published articles to elaborate on the current impact of virtual learning environment on the existent students of the university. Hence, the questionnaires set by the current researcher to collect the information via digital platforms by face-to-face survey techniques from the university students.

Background of the study

The virtual learning environment has a greater impact within the specified technology implementation for delivering a better outcome to the student (Herrera Mosquera, 2017). The learning environment matters a lot for the student and this also focuses on the career development of the student and this help the universities to provide better education to their student. The career development and also the personal development of the student enhance the perspective towards the skill development that used in the further future. The university that is Saint David London Campus used the virtual learning environment for their student to provide valuable information and for developing their interpersonal skill. This aspect fulfils their career requirement that also helps the student in the future aspect. The university also used the learning application platform for developing several operations within the organisation and this also increases the prospective towards their career development (Jirgensons and Kapenieks,

2018). The Covid-19 also affected the educational sector and this also affected the student career development and also this impacted the university motivation to provide the education with maintained quality. In this pandemic situation, the virtual learning application Moodle help the university to provide education to the students (Octaberlina and Muslimin, 2020). This pandemic situation also changed the educational environment that increases the risk for the specific area that appeared at the time of the online classes take place. For this reason, the researcher used to collect data regarding the educational system development process for enhancing the student perspective towards education.

Objectives of the Study

This study focuses to identify the impact of the virtual learning environment within the Saint David London Campus (Ouherrou *et al.*, 2019). The researcher also focuses on the personal opinion of the student as they used Moodle as their online learning platform and that impacted their education or not. The researcher also focuses to identify the usefulness of Moodle within the university and its students. This study also focuses on understanding the prospectus of Moodle and is considered as the better learning application rather than any other learning application that is available in the market place. The researcher also develops the concept regarding the learning quality as the students of that university experienced through their level of understanding. This objective is helping the researcher to understand the perspective of using the virtual learning application or developing the virtual learning environment within the university. These objectives also help the reader to achieve the future goals required to develop the research work.

Review of the Related Literature

The virtual learning application and environment have taken the place within the world. In the UK they also focus on the online learning method for increasing the demand for the digitalising

education system (Dawadi, Giri and Simkhada, 2020). The virtual learning application increased the opportunity for the students and this develops the new aspect towards the organisational section.

The student more focused on their study and this help them to understand the problem and they also raise a query to the lecturer for appropriate communication. The students also benefited by adapting new sources that improved their perspective towards the world. These sources also changing their perspective towards the education system and also towards the worldwide changes (Pincus *et al.*, 2019). In this virtual learning environment, several models have been used to give the proper brief of their selected topic and this improves the educational quality. This also encourages the student to take an active part in the online activity and this provided them with mental satisfaction through their performance (Bodily and Verbert, 2017). This strategy introduced by the university is very much successful for developing the new aspect towards the society and this also helps the environment to be improved its damaged areas.

Virtual learning also enhances the environment and tried to provide the student with valuable factors that affected the entire system that required to develop the student perspective (Phungsuk, Viriyavejakul and Ratanaolarn, 2017). the teacher and the students both are benefited from using this application and this required to deliver a quality outcome. This also enhances skill development with the help of the VLE. The VLE also allows the comfortable education process that the student whenever to take the classes using this application. These are the major impact on society and this also impacted the students for delivering the appropriate solution to the students.

Methodology

The researcher collected the data through the online survey that the researcher can evaluate the data as required to understand the impact of the Virtual Learning Environment(VLE) (Saleh and Bista, 2017). The researcher used the primary and secondary data collection method as it

is considered as the mixed method that required to develop further research work (van Houwelingen *et al.*, 2018). The primary data is collected through the online survey as the researcher prepared the survey questions to collect valuable information for the students. The researcher sent the questioner to the student through email and the data is collected through email communication. The researcher also takes care of the ethical proportion that can easily be impacted the environment and also decrease the quality of the research work. No student was asked for sharing their personal information with the researcher.

After collecting the data, the researcher evaluating the data and using the descriptive design to deliver the appropriate outcome to the project.

Data analysis and findings

1. Please select your gender.

Table 1: Gender of the responders

Options	Frequenc y	Percentage	Total
Male	18	48.65	37
Female	19	51.35	37

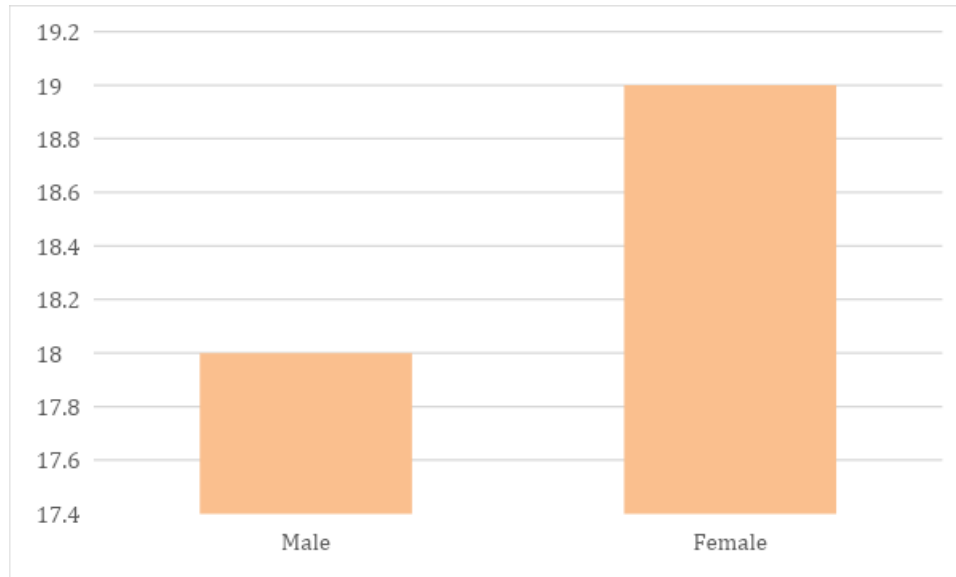


Figure 1: Gender of the responders

(Source: Author)

The above bar-diagram is representing the gender of the responders to analyse the perception of students of the University of Wales Trinity Saint David London Campus. In the presented diagram it is shown that most of the population of the responder is belongs to the female category. Most of the male and female students are concluded the fact that they are benefited by using the virtual learning environment to conduct the study. The assistance provided by the concerned author is very effective to acquire knowledge from a remote distance.

2. Do you believe Moodle has a positive impact on student effectiveness?

Table 2: Positive impact of Moodle on student effectiveness

Options	Frequency	Percentage	Total
Strongly Disagree	2	5.41	37
Disagree	5	13.51	37

Neutral	5	13.51	37
Agree	10	27.03	37
Strongly Agree	15	40.54	37

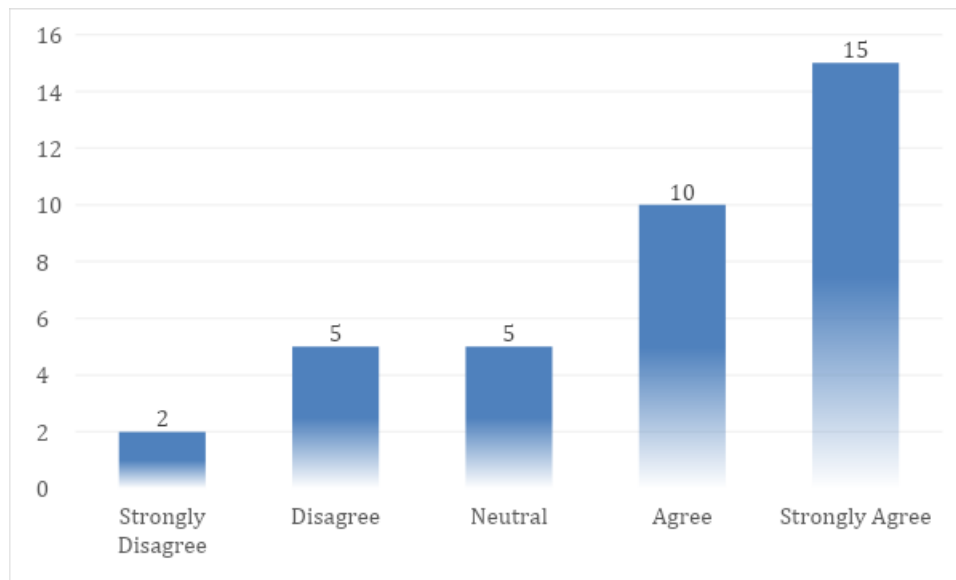


Figure 2: Positive impact of Moodle on student effectiveness

(Source: Author)

As mentioned by most of the respective student of the University of Wales Trinity Saint David London Campus they are feeling more flexible to conduct the study via virtual learning environment which is provided by the developer of Moodle. By examining the above bar-diagram it can be stated that 15 responders out of the 37 responders strongly accept the fact that they are enjoying using Moodle. 27 per cent population from the total responded population accept that they are also benefited from the virtual learning environment. Though, only 5 per cent of the population strongly disagreed with the fact. Although, 15 per cent of the total sample population does not respond to the present question.

3. Do you believe Moodle is a useful and important tool for students in their studies?

Table 3: Usefulness of Moodle to conduct the distance study

Options	Frequency	Percentage	Total
Strongly Disagree	6	16.22	37
Disagree	4	10.81	37
Neutral	6	16.22	37
Agree	10	27.03	37
Strongly Agree	11	29.73	37

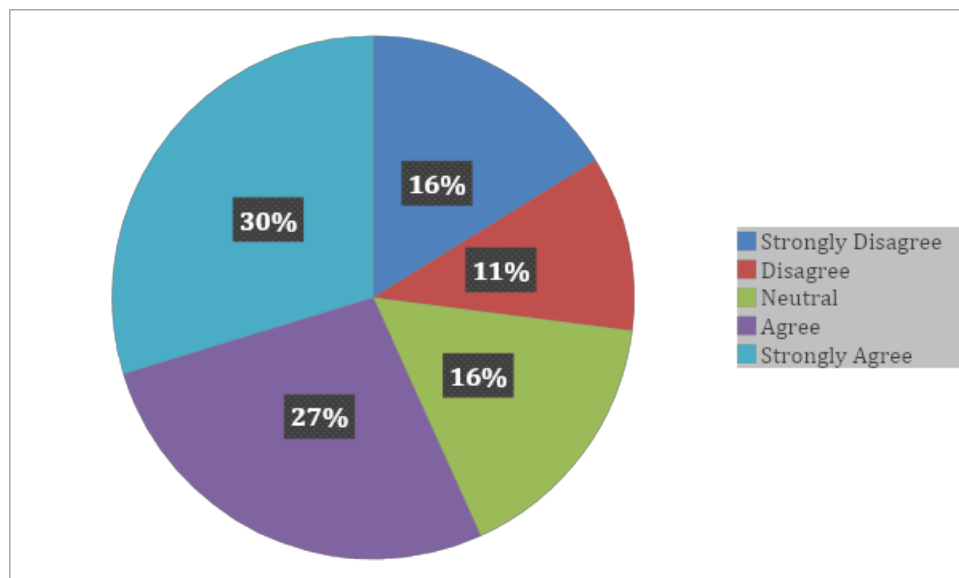


Figure 3: Usefulness of Moodle to conduct the distance study

(Source: Author)

The above pie diagram is prepared to estimate the usefulness of Moodle (Virtual learning environment). Most of the people are strongly agreed with the fact that Moodle has great importance in their life to conduct distance education. Moreover, 27 per cent of the total sample population also accepts the fact. Though, 11 per cent of responder disagreed with the statement.

They are concluded that Moodle is not a useful app for developing and guide students. Although, 16 per cent of the total population does not comment on the statement.

4. Do you believe Moodle helps students learn better than any other learning platform?

Table 4: Acceptance of the Moodle within the students compare to the other learning platform

Options	Frequency	Percentage	Total
Strongly Disagree	9	24.32	37
Disagree	8	21.62	37
Neutral	2	5.41	37
Agree	9	24.32	37
Strongly Agree	9	24.32	37

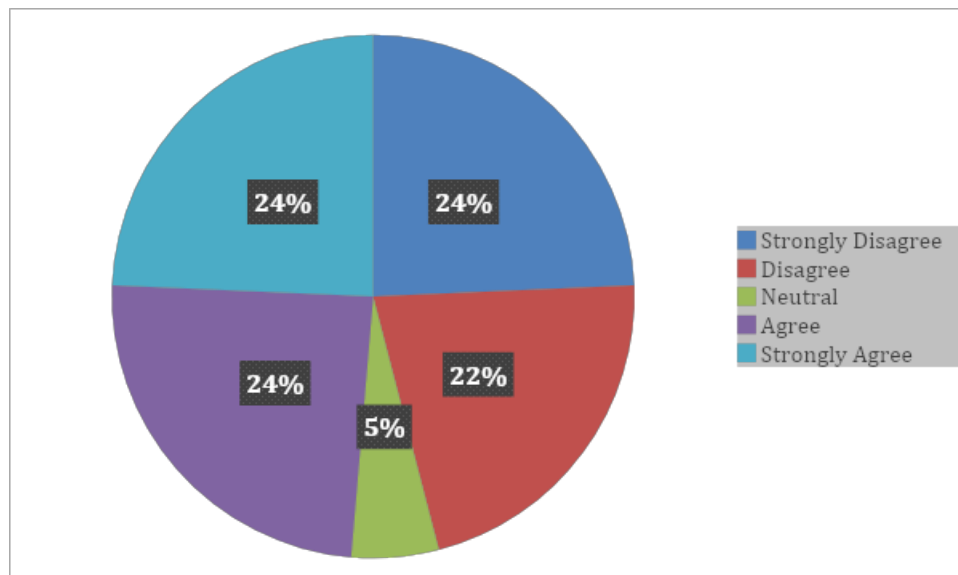


Figure 4: Acceptance of the Moodle within the students

(Source: Author)

The above pie diagram is prepared to examine the acceptance of Moodle among the students compare to the other learning platform. Based on the examination of the above diagram it can examine that 24 per cent of the total population is strongly agreed with the sentence, that is Moodle is the best application in the context of the virtual learning environment. Another, 24 per cent of the population also support the statement. Though 9 people do not agree with the fact, they feel that other virtual learning applications are more flexible than Moodle.

5. Do you believe Moodle increases learning quality?

Table 5: Current learning quality and the use of Moodle

Options	Frequenc y	Percentage	Tota l
Strongly Disagree	3	8.11	37
Disagree	1	2.70	37
Neutral	0	0.00	37
Agree	17	45.95	37
Strongly Agree	16	43.24	37

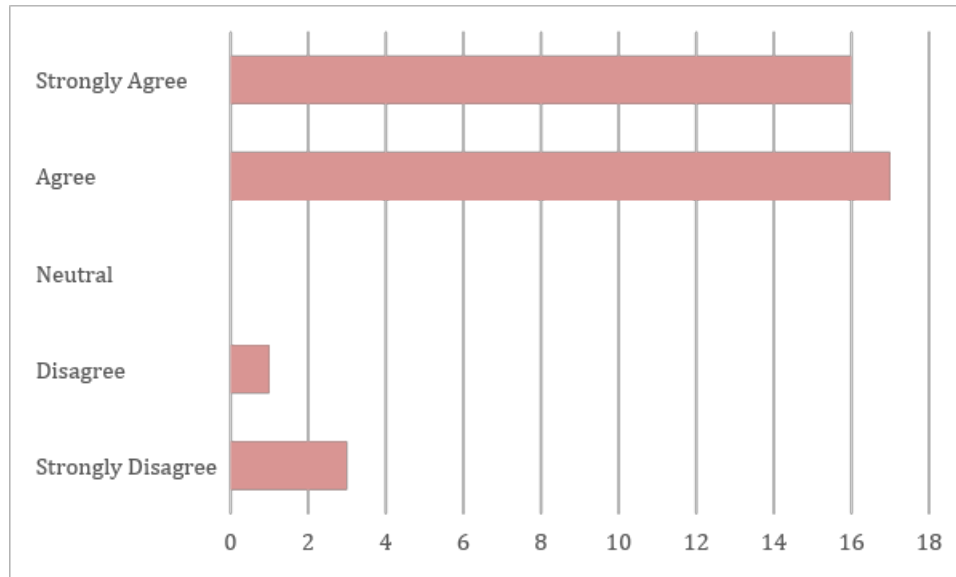


Figure 6: Current learning quality and the use of Moodle

(Source: Author)

The above horizontal bar diagram is prepared based on the information collected through the students of the University of Wales Trinity Saint David London Campus. Hence the specified diagram shows that almost 43 per cent of people strongly and 45 per cent of people agreed that Moodle provide best learning experience in the context of quality of learning. Though, a few people also disagreed with them.

Hence, based on the analysis it can explore that Moodle is the best virtual learning application that provide assistance to the teachers as well as the students to acquire knowledge from the remote distance.

Conclusion

At the end of the study, it can be concluded that the virtual learning environment evolves as a blessing for the students of the University of Wales Trinity Saint David London Campus. Most people are benefited from them utilizing the environment. The module is more flexible rather than any other application as supported by the students of the university. The qualitative

analysis also reflects that it is important to develop a virtual learning environment to provide flexibility in distance education. At the time of the Covid-19 pandemic period, most of the university also accept it as an effective technique to maintain social distance. The quantitative analysis of the entire also explores the perceptions of the student and their experiences regarding the usefulness of the Moodle virtual learning application. Though, few of the students of the University of Wales Trinity Saint David London Campus also disagreed about the usefulness of the application. They are feeling that offline classes are more beneficial to gather practical knowledge. Although, it is important to note that, the implementation of digital technology is enhancing the literacy rate all over the globe. Therefore, the administrators need to implement this kind of technology to spread the knowledge towards every individual.

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