

PRIFYSGOL CYMRU

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Virtual Learning Environment - VLE

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Introduction

The report aim is to give accurate information about my Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) - Moodle in students work experience at University Trinity Saint David London Campus. It will provide valid contents, primary and secondary data, qualitative and quantitative research. The context will be extended defining VLE and the importance, looking through advantages of the system and disadvantages. Support evidences will demonstrate the importance of literature research and the understanding of different concepts. An honest and clear reflection of my own experience will be present on this report, explaining my own learnings and practical applications. Skills improvements, acquire knowledge, exercise classes and tasks performed will extend all the concepts and give an order conclusion to my observations and analyses.

VLE Definition

A Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) is an online program build in school knowledge, the system is online every day of the week. It can be used from any place in the world if Internet is available, the platform allows to access learning tools, informations, to communicate with Lecture, and request feedback. (Bello et al.2018)

VLE is a supported tool, easily accessed to help with studs or has a distant learning aid, for students who can not attend classes or prefer to not be present.

At University's VLE is named as Moodle, where every student as a deliberated password provided.

The importance of VLE

This is an effective learning system used in school environments, the impact in the students life's and teaching system is enormous. VLE has a diversity of packages that can be accessed or download for greatest proposes. Lectures can also use this platform when delivering classes, is a visual learning style that helps to understand the context explained by the lectures. Researches confirmed that the use of technology is growing and demanding more and more evolution, the virtual world investment as no end and its impressive. (Martin-Guitierrez et al 2016)

People are now able to access VLE in small devices as smartphones anywhere, when travelling, when able to perform multitasks.

VLE Environments

VLE or LMS (Learning Management System) is presently been used in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), the most ordinary VLE systems in use can be Blackboard or Desire2Learn, or a free online platform such as Moodle.(Rienties et al 2016)

VLE Benefits

VLE access is easier and practical, people can access information, study programs, and communicate, interact with others from everywhere in the world, we are not confined to a space or time. VLE can be accessed anytime, as many times you want, we can study and review with no limitation of accessibility, programs can even be download for free and stored online in one file, that you can open without being online, connection with internet is no longer needed. It also allows to save some costs, as you do not need to spend money in travelling expenses, paying someone for extra help, or even in paper usage support (Austin, Rickard, and Reilly, 2017).

VLE Dis-vantages

VLE programation, concretization is expensive, the costs with specialized professionals, system installations and giving training to staff is a real problem to Institutions. It also can be a problem for students who do not have a computer, a smartphone or access to internet. The system regularly needs to be update, lectures, institutions, support staff need to spend time doing alterations, updating information, doing the system maintenance and this as a cost (Austin, Rickard, and Reilly, 2017).

My VLE experience

At University of Wales Trinity Saint David there is a VLE platform system provided to me with large diversity of materials, information's, tools, for knowledge awareness, and to facilitated my study's, also providing me a useful way to communicate and interact with lectures, staff, institution and colleagues. This is not the first time i am using this system, so I was much familiarized, i did not feel myself in an obscure unknown. I was confident because I find this tool very practical and easier to access at home, at my on space any time I want. My only concern is with my computer that is causing me problems and I need to find a solution, but with the institution support I can access their computer lab. It was imperative to take some observations during this course, and I realised that most of the students were not comfortable using computers, systems, programs, software's, I am always available to help when they need.

At this matter I decided to make a questionnaire about your VLE Moodle, collecting primary data, analyse, reflecting and observe the secondary data.

Questionnaire

The follow questionnaire was made to access and interpret feedback information about VLE system implemented at your University. I created a paper questionnaire that makes

part of my primary data research, it is anonymous, to maintain individuals privacy, on section A: i can interpret basic information as age, gender, status and academic level, at section B and C simple, clear and practical questions were made to be observed and realise my secondary data, interpreting the information previous gathered.

I was able to collect information from a different group at University, the process was not easier has i had to expose myself to them, i was nervous, 50% -50% confident , but i did, i asked the lecture permission to speak with the class room, i introduced myself, expose my case and delivered the questionnaire, i was shacking, the words were failing but i wanted to have another perspective from your own class group. I could also observe different types of behaviours, some of them refused, others said they were going to fill my questionnaire and deliver it later, but they never did, they did not explain why or even why they just left the questionnaire in the top of the table without any feedback, but thanks to most of them i was well welcome. At my class room things they were different, everyone knows each other, so we felt more confidence and we helped each others to answer questionnaires.

Primary Data

The questionnaire is based in 3 Sections, 4 details information questions, 24 questions about VLE system and it was delivered to 13 students, for observation, analysis and conclusion.

Resourche Questionnaire Moodle E-learning Tool

In order to analyse our teaching methods i would like to ask for your opinion and evaluation of your experience in relation to the usage UNI City Model. As a part of my resourche i am presenting this questionary to UWTSO students, Tutours and University City Admin.

Please answer the question bellow and provide your honest feedback.

This questionary is anonymous (no name is required).

Section A: Bio-Data

Age: 16-20 ☐ 21-26 ☐ 27-32 ☐ 33-38 ☐ 39-45 ☐ 45+ ☐

Gender: Male ☐ Female ☐

Status: Staff ☐ Student ☐

Academic Level: Undergraduate ☐ PGD ☐ Master ☐ PhD ☐

Other.....

Section B: In this section questions are marked by YES or NO , to improve the diversity and quality of answers.

	Questions	YES	NO
1	Have you used any Virtual Learning System before?		
2	Are you using Moodle system?		
3	I still think i need help to understand the system		
4	I access Moodle to do my homework		
5	I dowload files to watch at home		
6	I need more pratical demonstrations to use the system		
7	I asked technical support to use the system		

Section C: Factors Influencing MOODLE use system

In this section all questions are marked in a scale from 1- Strongly Disagree, 2-Disagree, 3- Neutral, 4- Agree, 5- Strongly Agree

	Criteria/Analysis	Strongl y Disagre e	Disagre e	Neutral	Agree	Strongl y Agree
1	The system is <u>easy</u> to use					
2	I use Moodle often out of University					
3	Using Moodle its easier to <u>find the information</u> i need					
4	I feel <u>very confident with the system</u>					
5	I think the system is <u>well integrated</u>					
6	The internet is <u>fast</u> to <u>access the system</u>					
7	Moodle is a <u>helpfull tool</u>					
8	The system allows an easier <u>submission of the assignments and</u> <u>access feedback</u>					
9	Using Moodle improves <u>my learning</u>					
10	Following Module Lectures after lectures is <u>usefull</u>					
11	The lecture provided can <u>be found</u> on Moodle					
12	Moodle library is <u>relyable</u>					
13	I find Moodle library <u>efficient</u>					
14	I only use Moodle at University					
15	The Oranization information is clear					
16	I use <u>my e-mail account</u> to <u>interact</u> with the school and colleagues					

Thank you for participate in the questionnaire above and for your honest feedback.

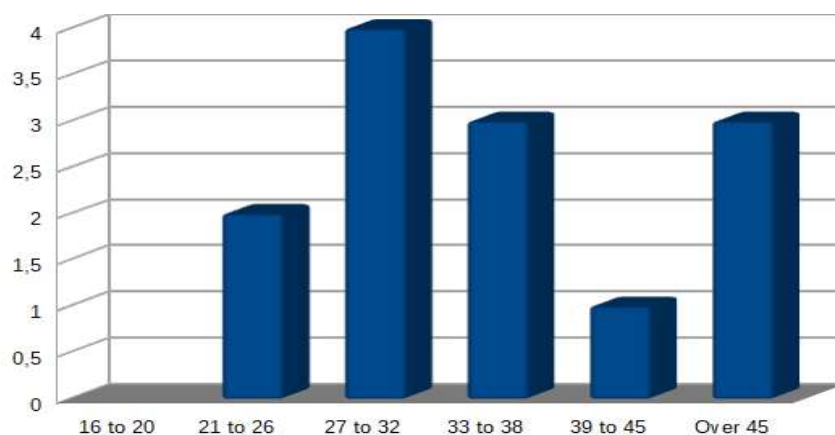
Group 1 – Health and Social Care

Secondary Data

At Section A we have detail information about the person who answer the questions, without identify themselves with their name, as it is an anonymous questionnaire.

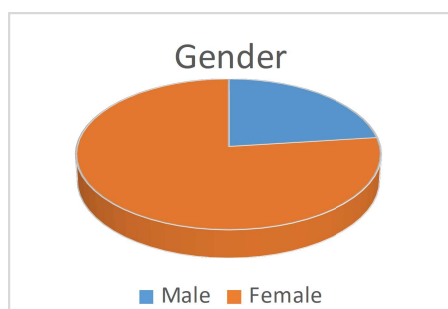
Bio-Data

Question	16 to 20	21 to 26	27 to 32	33 to 38	39 to 45	Over 45
Age		2	4	3	1	3



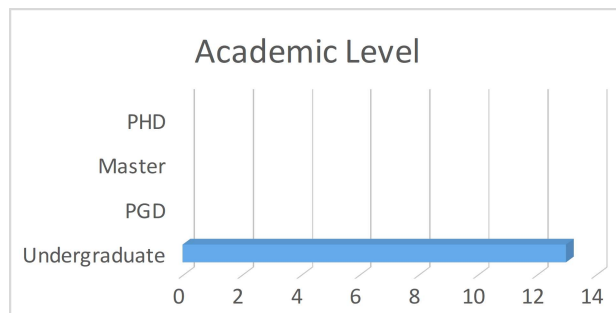
- Through this graphic we can observe that the majority of people answering the question were between the age of 27 to 32 years old with 4 results.
- With similarity results at age 33 to 38 and over 45 in each makes part 3 equal students for both.
- Two students are at the age 21 to 26 and just one student is at age 39 to 45.

Question	Male	Female
Gender	3	10



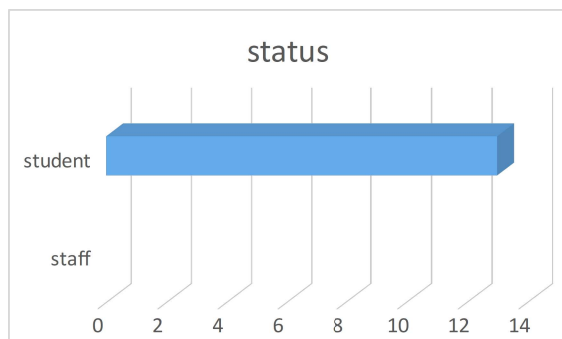
- The majority of the answers came from a female perspective with 10 results.
- The male participation has a result of 3 questions.

Question	Undergraduate	PGD	Master	PHD
Academic Level	13	0	0	0



- The horizontal bar represents that all the students who deliver feedback had a undergraduate academic level

Question	Staff	Student
Status	0	13

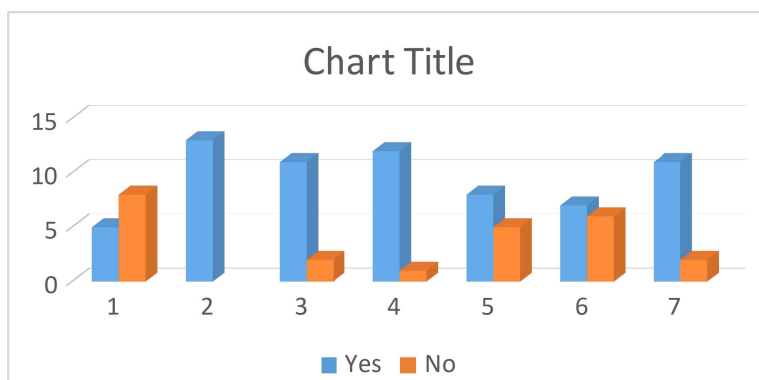


- The graphic comproves that the questionnaire only has been answered by students, with the result of 13 students.

Section B:

On section B there are seven questions based on a YES or NO answer

	Questions	YES	NO
1	Have you used any Virtual Learning System before?	5	8
2	Are you using Moodle system?	13	0
3	I still think i need help to understand the system	11	2
4	I access Moodle to do my homework	12	1
5	I dowload files to watch at home	8	5
6	I need more pratical demonstrations to use the system	7	6
7	I asked technical support to use the system	11	2

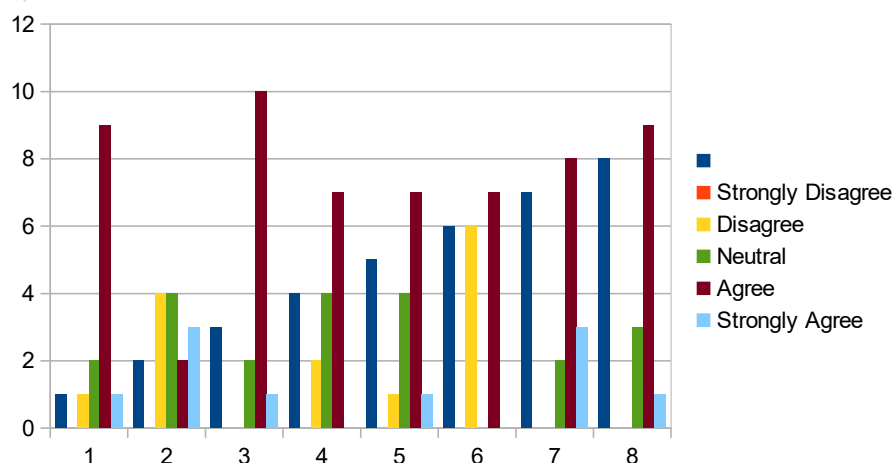


1. Over 13 students , 8 said they never used any VLE before this year, and 5 students confirmed they already used.
2. All students mentioned that at the moment they are using Moodle System
3. Although the majority of students (11 results) are reporting that they still need help to understand the system.
4. Only 1 student reported is not using Moodle to do homework, the all remained 12 students noted they are using Moodle for homework purposes.
5. Moodle files are been download to watch at home by 8 out of 13 students, 5 students are still not downloading material.
6. Practical demonstrations to use the system are still required by 7 students, 6 out of 13 do not need practical sessions.
7. The majority of students asked technical support to use the system, exactly 11 answers, only 2 students did not need any support to use Moodle.

Section C:

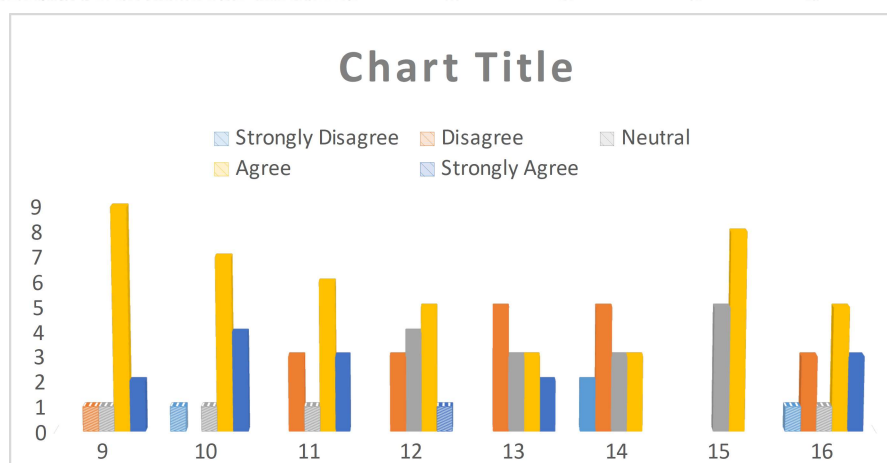
In order to increase the quality and variety of feedback i introduce more possible answers, for each question students have the options between Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Neutral, Agree and a Strongly Agree. There are 16 questions, that i will divide in two tables to observe and analyse.

	Criteria/Analysis	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
1	The system is easy to use	0	1	2	9	1
2	I use Moodle often out of University		4	4	2	3
3	Using Moodle its easier to find the information i need			2	10	1
4	I feel very confident with the system		2	4	7	
5	I think the system is well integrated		1	4	7	1
6	The internet is fast to access the system		6		7	
7	Moodle is a helpfull tool			2	8	3
8	The system allows an easier submission of the assignments and access feedback			3	9	1



1. The majority of students agree that the system is easy to use, 1 student strongly agree, 2 of them maintain a neutral opinion, and 1 disagree.
2. The opinions about using Moodle out of the university are strongly divided, 4 students disagree, 4 choose a neutral position, 2 students agreed and 1 strongly agrees.
3. The majority of students thinks that it is easier to find information that they need on Moodle.
4. The confidence using the system also is divided, 7 out of 13 students agrees that they fell confident with the system, 4 are neutral, and 2 disagree.
5. The system integration also as different opinions, 7 students agree that is system is well integrate, formulate, 4 are neutral about the question, 1 disagree and 1 strongly agree.
6. This question got almost equal results, 7 students agree that the internet is fast and easier to access, and 6 disagree.
7. Moodle system is a helpful tool for 11 students out of 13, 8 agreed and 3 strongly agreed, only 2 are neutral.
8. The system allows easier assignment submission and access feedback for 10 students. 9 agreed and 1 strongly agreed, the remain 3 are neutral.

	Criteria/Analysis	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
9	Using Moodle improves my learning		1	1	9	2
10	Following Module Lectures after lectures is usefull	1		1	7	4
11	The lecture provided can be found on Moodle		3	1	6	3
12	Moodle library is relyable		3	4	5	1
13	I find Moodle library efficient		5	3	3	2
14	I only use Moodle at University	2	5	3	3	
15	The Oranization information is clear			5	8	
16	I use my e-mail account to interact with the school and colleagues	1	3	1	5	3



9. Moodle improves learning for 11 students, 9 agreed, 2 strongly agreed, 1 is neutral and 1 disagrees.
10. 7 students agreed and admitted they are following Module after lectures, 4 strongly agreed, 1 is neutral, and 1 strongly disagree, is not accessing Moodle.
11. 9 students confirmed that they can find the lecture given at Moodle, 6 agreed, 3 strongly agreed, 1 is neutral and 3 disagreed.
12. Students are divided about library reliability, 6 students agreed that the library is reliable, but 4 are neutral and 3 disagree.
13. The library efficiency also has contradictions, 3 students agreed with the efficiency and 2 strongly agreed, but 3 are neutral and 5 disagree about the efficiency.
14. Only 3 students confirmed that they are using Moodle system at home, 3 are neutral, 5 disagreed and 2 strongly disagreed.
15. The majority of students said that the information that they access is clear with 8 results and 5 are neutral.
16. The interaction between school and students are only been performed by 8 students out of 13, 1 is neutral, 3 disagree and 1 strongly disagree.

Practical Application and Development

This research was the right tool to identify and analyse that some students can still feel lost in a school environment, the understanding of digital skills is still far from their knowledge, they are still asking for support and seemed disinterested. It is imperative to find lack of skills, and quizzes should be used to find students needs, although they are trying to follow and progress, but the time that lectures are losing explaining basic concepts, it is reflecting in another areas. With skills identification, further courses should be provided to ensure that students are following the same rhythm as others. Practical activities at computer lab should be used to explaining the system, methods and material. On my own perspective i am just reviewing most of the things i already learned, but i am also learning more about writing skills, researching from reliable documents, Harvard referencing, how to effectively communicate at my workplace and how to explain based in statistics facts and theory's to my employer. The use of VLE is already part of my world, through online trainings.

Conclusion

VLE platform is used at most UK schools, is an online learning tool simply accessed at any time if internet is available. Contains learning material, and is a communication tool. Based on my questionnaire, visual and listening observations, i understood that some students are confused and not understanding the system, some do not have any background supporting skills, changes are needed. For the realization of this assignment i used the Microsoft Office provided for students and the questionnaire was done in a confidential way, maintaining students privacy, following the Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), is written on the questionnaire that was anonymous, no name was required, permission to speak and deliver the paper questionnaires was made.

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