

Digital Skills and Research Methods

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INTRODUCTION

Digital skills are the abilities of an individual to use the internet to its full capacity. It has become very important for everyone to excel in this as now everything is digitalised and has become a necessity (Guasch, Alvarez and Espasa, 2010). This project is carried out for University of Wales Trinity Saint David London. The following report will discuss what is the impact of virtual learning in students of the same institution. To collect the relevant information use of both primary and secondary methods of data collection will be done as this way broad understating of the topic is possible.

Aim:

“To analyse the impact of virtual learning environment Moodle on students learning experience” a case study of University of Wales Trinity Saint David London.

Rationale

With the advancement in the technologies it has become important for the different institutions to upgrade their teaching and learning styles. It is for the benefit of the students as they have to be trained according to the requirements of their future. Due to this reason analysing the impact of virtual learning on students is crucial so that accordingly the changes in the different institutions are adopted.

Objectives

To understand the concept of virtual learning

To determine the impact of virtual learning on students learning

Questions

What is the concept of virtual learning on student?

What is the impact of virtual learning on students?

Scope

The chosen topic for the research has wide scope as in the present world almost everything now is done through the digital technology and has made the work easier. User will get to know about how it has impacted and changed the learning process. Much of information will be available as use of both secondary and primary source is done which will help in understanding the concept in more details.

LITERATURE REVIEW

According to (Xu and et.al., 2011) virtual learning is a process which is carried out through computers and internet and can be used within and outside the education institution. Use of different software's is done to facilitate the learning process and made teaching process more effective and interesting for the students. Author added that it has solved the issue of close monitoring on every student as through this activity of every student can be traced which was not earlier possible in the traditional learning styles. He says that now teachers can simply by log- in from anywhere can revise their syllabus, design the patterns and can plan their next lecture which has helped much to those who run short of time and finds it difficult to do all the work on their own. Apart from this not only the teachers but also the students can get the lecture if they were absent on a particular date which further has helped them to remain updated and loss which was faced before due to nonattendance is evaluated.

According to Pellas, (2014) the virtual learning model has a significant impact on students' learning because there is critical relation between way of learning and students. In the virtual learning model, students are provided digital gadgets to under any concept or study. Due to this learning the level of satisfaction and engagement raised in an effective manner. The traditional model of learning is being avoided by most of the students because in this model, old techniques of learning are used. While in the virtual learning method, new and advanced technologies are used that help to students to learn in a quick manner as well as it is become cause of promoting education among learners. In addition, the another impact of this model on learning of students is that they can do study at any time and from nearly any location. This model offers an effective way to train students, to change the traditional approach of studying and to attract more number of students around the globe.

Though, along with the above mentioned positive impact of virtual learning on students, it has some negative impact too. Such as under this, due to absence of face to face meeting, various issues raise like lack of understanding of students. As well as in this model, about 78% of students fail to complete their course. The key reason of this is the lack of student engagement and their ineffectiveness to find needed activities. Basically, this model can become successful only if students engage actively. In some cases, students are getting benefit of this learning model because they involve completely in all the activities. In the economical perspective, this

model is less costly and those students who have shortage of funds can get learning in less time. So overall, the virtual learning model has a positive impact on students if they involve actively.

Methodology

In order to collect the information on relevant topics use of different methods is done. The following report uses these below approaches:

Primary method – It is a process in which the data is collected for the first time. In this the researcher does the search by themselves on the topic and present them (Flaherty, Honeycutt and Powers, 2015). Here in this report use of survey will be done that will be conducted in the class among the students. Simple random sampling method will be used and then observations will be further presented in graphical format so that the analyses can be done easily. Sample size of 30 would be taken.

Secondary method – This is the other method of gathering the information. Here the data which already collected once by someone else is used to do the analysis (Quinlan and et.al., 2019). It is important that the source of information is wisely chosen as it will affect the quality of final work. In this research the views and aspects of different authors will be analysed and recorded to make the conclusions.

Ethical considerations – While collecting the information from different resources it would be given care that the data is authenticated and has the copyright. No manipulation with the results will be done and presented in a simple language which do not mislead the user.

PRIMARY DATA ANALYSIS (RESULTS)

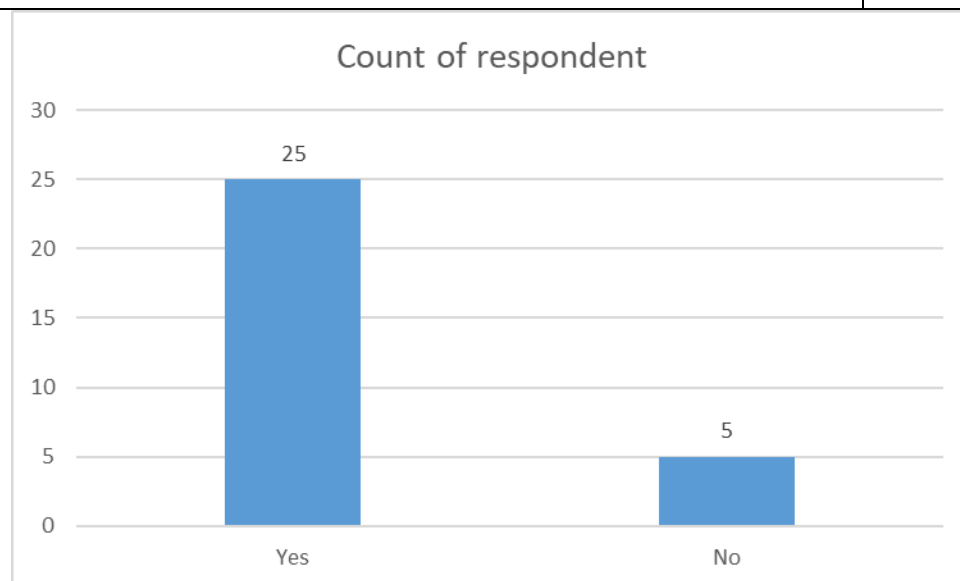
Question1:

1.	Are you aware with the concept of virtual learning?	Yes No
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Frequency table:

	Count of respondent
Yes	25

No	5
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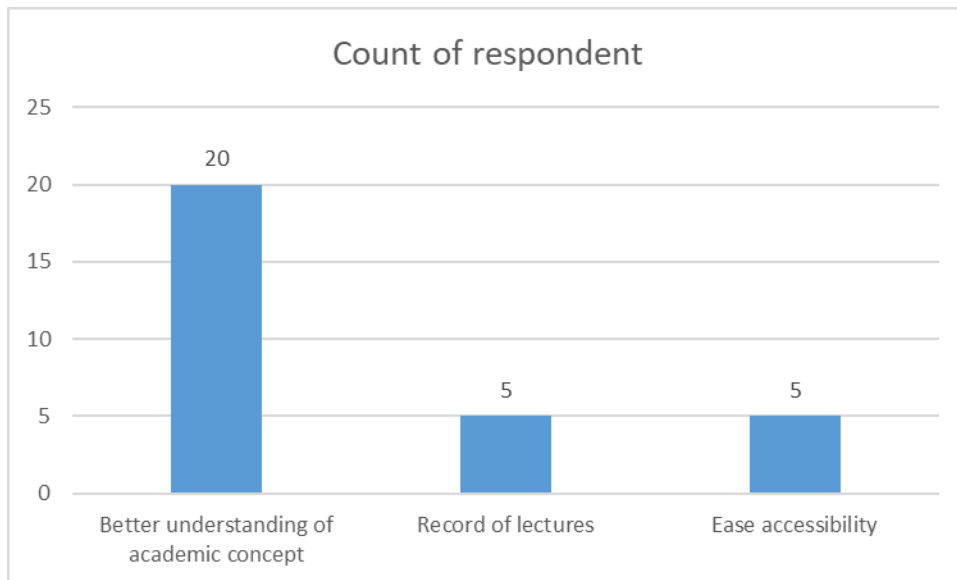
Interpretation – The aim behind conducting this study is to ascertain the perception of students against the virtual learning method. From the above frequency table and graph, it can be said that majority of people has enough knowledge about the concept of virtual learning which influences them to use this technique of learning.

Question 2:

2.	What are the changes found after implementing virtual learning?	• Better understanding of academic concept • Record of lectures • Ease accessibility
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Frequency table:

	Count of respondent
Better understanding of academic concept	20
Record of lectures	5
Ease accessibility	5



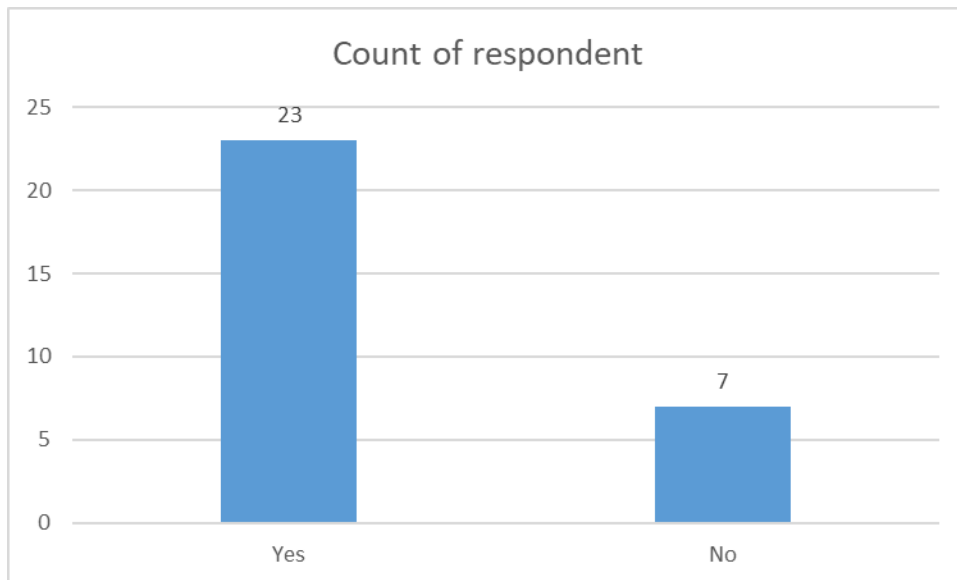
Interpretation – From the above analysis, it has been ascertained that majority of the students experienced change of better understanding of academic concepts due to implementation of virtual learning in their institutes. Besides this, 5 students have experienced the change that they are now enable to record their lectures and other 5 students observed that they now have easy accessibility of their lectures and learning materials. Virtual learning is a process in which students try to learn from sources of web and internet due to which they can record their lectures and can access them from anywhere they want.

Question 3:

3.	Did you found any issues while learning from virtual processes?	• Yes • No
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Frequency table:

	Count of respondent
Yes	23
No	7



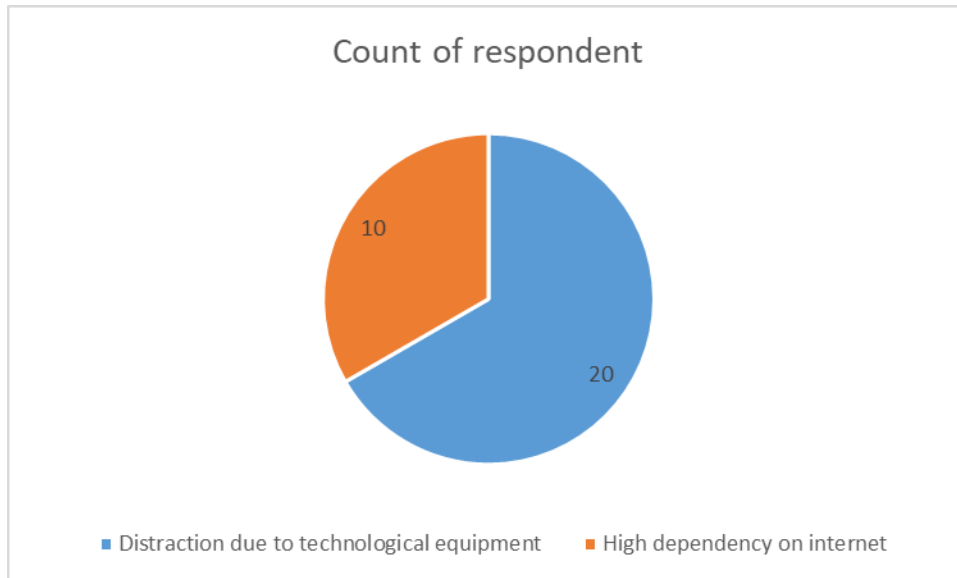
Interpretation – In the course of bringing any change, there are various issues which can be faced by an institute and its students. From the above analysis, it has been seen that 23 students among 30 have experienced major issues. But only 7 among 3 students have not experienced any issues by the implementation of virtual learning.

Question 4:

4.	If any, what are the issues faced by you while learning from virtual processes?	• Distraction due to technological equipment • High dependency on internet
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Frequency table:

	Count of respondent
Distraction due to technological equipment	20
High dependency on internet	10



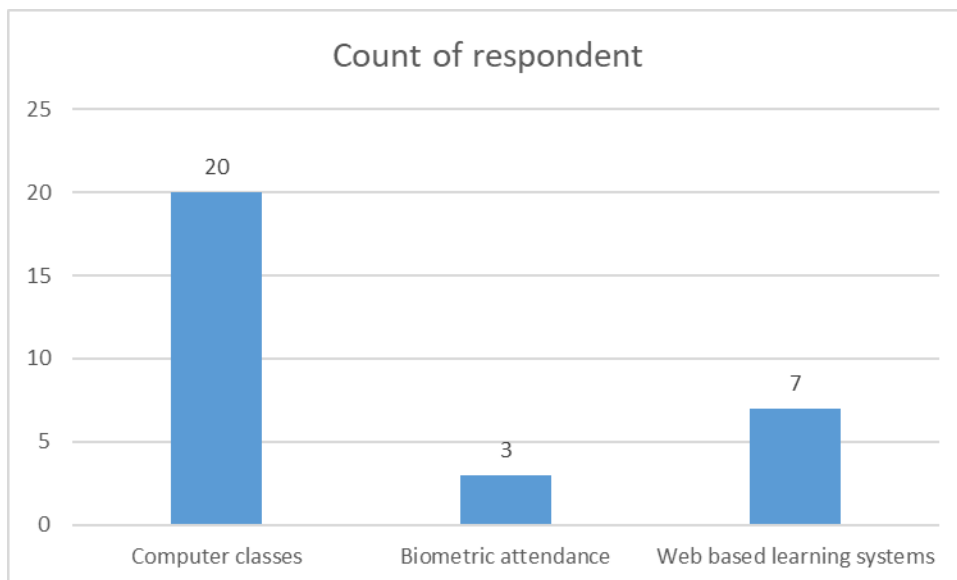
Interpretation – From the above pie chart and created frequency table, it has been asceratined that 20 among 30 students are experiencing the issue of distraction from the technological equipment. This issue is faced by them due to complexities of technological equipment. Besides this, 10 students among 30 faces issue as virtual learning is highly depended upon internet. It has analysed from the analysis that virtaul learning is an efcetive mode of learning but it also has few issues which limits the potential of learning. The technique of virtual learning is based on web browsing and internet due to which distractions are faced in students.

Question 5:

5.	What are the different forms of virtual learning implemented at your institutions?	• Computer classes • Biometric attendance • Web based learning systems
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Frequency table:

	Count of respondent
Computer classes	20
Biometric attendance	3
Web based learning systems	7



Interpretation – Virtual learning is considered as a vital part of learning in current scenario. This virtual learning can be adopted through various ways. In order to analyse this concept, 30 students were asked to state the form of virtual learning which is used in their institute. From this analysis, it has been observed that 20 among 30 students experienced that their institute follows the technique of computer classes. Other 3 students experienced that their institute has biometric attendance equipment and other 7 observed that their institute has web based learning systems.

Limitations of the study

There are various limitations to this study which are experienced after completing the above report. The students which were selected for the survey were 30 which are not enough to conduct a reliable research. Along with this, it also observed that the literature review which is conducted only is developed using source of few books and journals which limits the scope of this research. In order mitigate these limitations, investigator must select a large sample of respondents so that reliability and accuracy of the project can get enhanced. This is also seen that this project has limited scope and can only be used by students and not the professionals which are also going through the new experience of virtual learning.

CONCLUSION

From the above report, it has been concluded that virtual based learning is an important aspect in the process of learning. In this competitive world, in which learning plays an important role, virtual learning helps in easy accessibility of the lectures anywhere at school or at home. In

the above report, primary and secondary both methods are used to investigate the impact of the virtual based learning. There were few limitations in the secondary investigation which were fulfilled from the primary one. Secondary research which is conducted using literature review had few flaws that are limitation to the access were fulfilled from the primary investigation in which 30 students were surveyed.

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