

Rositsa Kamenova

Student ID: 1915914

Digital Skills And Research Methods Term 2

Introduction

In this assignment I will explain and point out the factors around VLE, I will also identify the advantages and disadvantages by including some research as well as personal experience. I will include a discussion about why VLE (MOUDLE, TEAMS) is important for students and how it helps them.

Background

The investment and development of Virtual Learning Environments, for students plays a significant role and it became a very important online learning tool that supports full time, and part time students and worker based learners. VLE contains a lot of virtual features that can help students complete their work and learn in the best way they can, such as, online activities, research areas, immediate help, history files, past presentation with notes and bullet points written in order to help and make the work easier. VLE tools and features give a very good opportunity to any student studying in the time of this pandemic (Covid19) by making sure everyone is safe and still going on with their studies as expected.

Reviewed Literature

In the literature reviewed, a great number of studies have aimed at determining whether computer-mediated education in the form of e-learning, blended learning or hybrid learning is better than traditional face-to-face teaching in relation to, for instance, learning outcome and student satisfaction. Researchers, educators and educational decision makers alike are eager to find out which format leads to the best results for their students and the educational institutions. However, as we shall see below, comparative studies of educational formats show different results, which might indicate that factors other than the format alone influence learning outcome, satisfaction, student retention et cetera .

Rapid developments in technology have made distance education easy (McBrien et al., 2009). “Most of the terms (online learning, open learning, web-based learning, computer-mediated learning, blended learning, m-learning, for ex.) have in common the ability to use a computer connected to a network, that offers the possibility to learn from anywhere, anytime, in any rhythm, with any means” (Cojocariu et al., 2014). Online learning can be termed as a tool that can make the teaching–learning process more student-centered, more innovative, and even more flexible. Online learning is defined as “learning experiences in synchronous or asynchronous environments using different devices (e.g., mobile phones, laptops, etc.) with internet access. In these environments, students can be anywhere (independent) to learn and interact with instructors and other students” (Singh & Thurman, 2019). The synchronous learning environment is structured in the sense that students attend live lectures, there are real-time interactions between educators and learners, and there is a possibility of instant feedback, whereas asynchronous learning environments are not properly structured. In such a learning environment, learning content is not available in the form of live lectures or classes; it is available at different learning systems and forums. Instant feedback and immediate response are not possible under such an environment (Littlefield, 2018). Synchronous learning can provide a lot of opportunities for social interaction (McBrien et al., 2009). Amidst this deadly virus spread such online platforms are needed where (a) video conferencing with at least 40 to 50 students is possible, (b) discussions with students can be done to keep classes organic, (c) internet connections are good, (d) lectures are accessible in mobile phones also and not just laptops, (e) possibility of watching already recorded lectures, and (f) instant feedback from students can be achieved and assignments can be taken (Basilaia et al., 2020).

Online Teaching Is No More an Option, It Is a Necessity

The major part of the world is on quarantine due to the serious outbreak of this global pandemic Covid-19 and therefore many cities have turned into phantom cities and its effects can be seen in schools, colleges, and universities too. Betwixt all this online teaching and online learning can be termed as the panacea for the crisis. The Corona Virus has made institutions to go from offline mode to online mode of pedagogy. This crisis will make the institutions, which were earlier reluctant to change, to accept modern technology. This catastrophe will show us the lucrative side of online teaching and learning.

With the help of online teaching modes, we can sermonize a large number of students at any time and in any part of the world. All institutions must scramble different options of online pedagogical approaches and try to use technology more aptly. Many universities around the world have fully digitalized their operations understanding the dire need of this current situation. Online learning is emerging as a victor ludorum amidst this chaos. Therefore, the quality enhancement of online teaching–learning is crucial at this stage. Online education in Chinese universities has increased exponentially after the Covid-19 outbreak. There was an overnight shift of normal classrooms into e-classrooms, that is, educators have shifted their entire pedagogical approach to tackle new market conditions and adapt to the changing situations. During this tough time, the concern is not about whether online teaching–learning methods can provide quality education, it is rather how academic institutions will be able to adopt online learning in such a massive manner (Carey, 2020). **In-text: (Online Learning: A Panacea in the Time of COVID-19 Crisis - Shivangi Dhawan, 2020, 2021)**

Advantages of VLE

There are a lot of advantages to virtual learning environments, the first is that there is more personal time left for yourself even when you are attending classes, you could still be around your kids and be attending your classes whenever needed.

The way of taking notes and studying is easier, because you can have access to all files with written old notes and you could even research online in order to complete something.

Saving finances, some people travel a lot and give a lot of money on traveling to school and back, being able to study from home saves a lot of finances to people.

Getting more rest, VLE allows you to get more rest when it comes to spending energy and time when travelling back from a long day of lectures and studying, instead they are home and while studying they could even get themselves a cup of tea, or a sandwich and sit on the comfortable couch while taking notes and participating in the online activities.

Being more open and comfortable when it comes to participating in the class activities, because you are not surrounded by people and you don't have to see irtual learning can usually take place at a time that is convenient for the

student. There is no longer any need to be in a classroom at a specific time on a specific day. them face to face would be easier to present ideas and speak out opinions which makes VLE flexible for everyone.

Disadvantages of VLE

SELF-DISCIPLINE – it's essential that you have the motivation necessary to sit and do the course. This type of learning is more difficult for those who are prone to procrastination. IMPERSONAL – because there is no actual human communication involved, the virtual environment can feel a little lonely.

ISOLATION – there are no other students with whom to discuss the course so the type of classroom discussions that can lead to understanding of the subject do not happen. SOLO LEARNING – if you need clarification on a topic, it's not instantly available as it would be if a teacher were present whom you could ask. You can still ask for clarification in a virtual learning situation, but the answer may be delayed due to online availability of the person who could answer your question.

TECHNOLOGY ISSUES – Technology problems are always frustrating, but if they take place when you're in the middle of attending a virtual class, they can be extremely disruptive. A virtual classroom is only as good as the technology behind it. If the learning software doesn't work well with your computer, or your Internet connection fails in the midst of a lesson, you may end up spending more time working with the software or repairing your connection than learning the material. **In-text: (The Advantages and Disadvantages of Virtual Learning | CIF Training, 2021)**

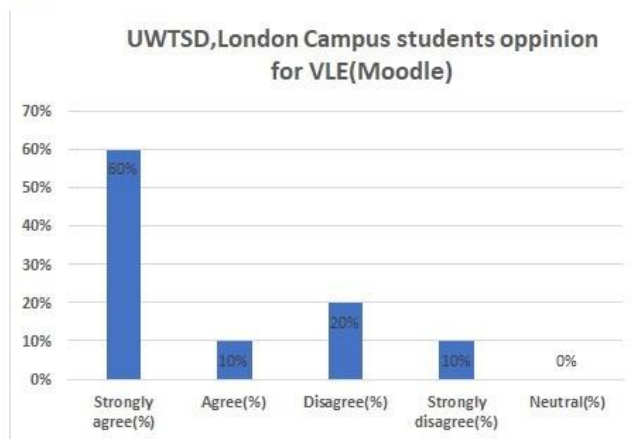
Results of Questionnaire

Section 5 Results

Figure 1

Questions	Total	Strongly agree(%)	Agree(%)	Disagree(%)	Strongly disagree(%)	Neutral(%)	Total
Question 1	10	60%	10%	20%	10%	0%	100%
Question 2	10	30%	70%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Question 3	10	50%	30%	0%	0%	20%	100%
Question 4	10	50%	50%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Question 5	10	20%	40%	0%	10%	30%	100%
Question 6	10	50%	20%	0%	30%	0%	100%
Question 7	10	50%	50%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Question 8	10	70%	30%	0%	0%	0%	100%

Figure 2



Reference

In-text: (Online Learning: A Panacea in the Time of COVID-19 Crisis - Shivangi Dhawan, 2020, 2021)

Your Bibliography: SAGE Journals. 2021. Online Learning: A Panacea In The Time Of COVID-19 Crisis - Shivangi Dhawan, 2020. [online] Available at:

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/0047239520934018>

In-text: (The Advantages and Disadvantages of Virtual Learning | CIF Training, 2021)

Your Bibliography: CIF Training. 2021. The Advantages And Disadvantages Of Virtual Learning | CIF Training. [online] Available at:

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