



06.09.2021

The research report on the impact of Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)

Student name: Aurelia Calancea

Module name: Digital Skills and Research Methods

Student ID: 2029143

Module code: BMSW4003

Module Leader: Terry Walcott

Executive summary

The purpose of this study is to investigate the impact of a virtual learning environment on improving the learning experiences among students and employees in an organisation. The data and information regarding the virtual learning environment are collected from secondary and primary sources and it is identified that there are many advantages and disadvantages of the virtual learning environment.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	3
EVALUATE WAYS AND CONTEMPORARY TECHNIQUES TO IMPROVE WORKPLACE EFFICIENCY AND EMPLOYABILITY.....	3
IDENTIFY AND EFFECTIVELY EVALUATE A RANGE OF INFORMATION SOURCES FOR VLE.3	
A COMPETENCE IN WORKPLACE DATA HANDLING	3
IMPACT OF THE VIRTUAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT IN THE WORKPLACE ON LEARNING EXPERIENCE	4
PRIMARY DATA COLLECTION.....	5
ANALYSIS OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY DATA COLLECTION	6
CONCLUSION	6
REFERENCES	7
APPENDIX	7

INTRODUCTION

A virtual learning environment is introduced to influence the learning practices among students from passive to active learning capability. The active learning ability increases the critical thinking skills required for transferring classroom acquired knowledge into the clinical setting (Rienties and Toetenel, 2016). It is a vital component of skill development among the students within different ranges of disciplines. Considering these factors, further research on the impact of the virtual learning environment will be performed in the present study. The information will be collected from the secondary and primary sources of data.

EVALUATE WAYS AND CONTEMPORARY TECHNIQUES TO IMPROVE WORKPLACE EFFICIENCY AND EMPLOYABILITY.

The different ways and techniques to improve workplace efficiency and employability are concerned regarding the requirement of employees. It is the first significant factor for the organisation to understand the needs of the employees. After understanding the needs of the employees, it is important to provide them with suitable solutions in order to increase their working engagement. For example, providing them with a financial reward, recognition motivation and training and development facilities are some of the ways that improve their work engagement. In case the employees are highly motivated to work they feel free to work with more flexibility and it, in turn, increases workplace efficiency (Martin and Bolliger, 2018). Providing flexibility in the work reduces absenteeism and increases employability in the organisation. Considering the digital age virtual learning environment is one of the ways training and development can be provided to the Employees to improve one's work engagement and learning practices.

IDENTIFY AND EFFECTIVELY EVALUATE A RANGE OF INFORMATION SOURCES FOR VLE.

The different source required for a virtual learning environment is internet connectivity so that the communication during the lecture session can be maintained with a smooth facility. The other source is a technological device which is the main source of connecting the tutor and the student. Knowledge and understanding regarding handling different computer devices and software is yet another source that is highly required in the case of a virtual learning environment (Tarhini *et al.*, 2017). Moreover, a quiet and sound environment is required to increase concentration.

A COMPETENCE IN WORKPLACE DATA HANDLING

A virtual learning environment provides an opportunity to get competency in the workplace for performing tasks effectively (Nikou and Economides, 2018). This way the employees can be easily trained in a virtual environment without having to travel to a physical location. Moreover, the files and the information shared during the virtual learning environment can be stored effectively for future use. Therefore, it is one of the ways that involve the process of storing data and discovering Useful information for future use.

IMPACT OF THE VIRTUAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT IN THE WORKPLACE ON LEARNING EXPERIENCE

According to the study of the author Herrera (2017), a Virtual learning environment is an online platform that is used for educational and training purposes. It helps in encapsulating the entire online environment and acts as a supplement to the course where a physical learning environment is not feasible. It includes online courses, informational side and reading resources which help in standing alone for skills assessment and virtual learning programs in different forms.

Moreover, according to the study of the author Aljohani *et al.* (2019), the virtual learning environment has increased due to technological advancement, and it is a great way to deliver learning objectives for the learner. It so also increases the engagement between the learner and tutor. In addition, the tutor also gets an opportunity for learning different technological fields based on the educational delivery system and provides a more manageable engaging and dynamic learning environment to the students. According to the study of the author Makransky *et al.* (2016), there are major impacts of the virtual learning environment on the learning experiences of the learner because it helps in receiving real-time data which is beneficial for the student to relate with the learning practices. It helps in communicating with peers and the teacher in the most efficient manner and the course that was scheduled can also be personalized to everyone. All the work assigned can be completed anywhere and the learner does not have to travel to any physical location in case of a physical learning environment.

According to the information in the article presented by the author Larmuseau *et al.* (2018), it is signified that the virtual learning environment has the ability to turn the module and lesson into two more effective ways to offer a reward with a friendly competition to influence the learning experiences of the student. Moreover, the virtual learning platform is also used by businesses for increasing work engagement and learning practices for employees. It influences social networking and includes message forums and other ways to communicate with each other which is also beneficial in business areas.

Furthermore, it also includes certification tracking and learning ability to gain and achieve new levels of expertise and skill which is highly beneficial to increase the learning experience among the students as

well as the employees. In addition, these benefits also boost confidence and morale among the students to become self-dependent and continuously develop their professional expectations. Similarly, it helps in motivating the employees as well and boosting their learning capability which increases their work engagement in the organisation.

However, according to this statement of the author Rienties *et al.*, (2016), there are several challenges in the virtual learning environment related to infrastructural challenges because it requires a lot of expenditure to set up the online lectures. The training provider requires extra training for learning different technological aspects to present their course module among the students which can easily be understood. Moreover, lack of social and technological skills may be one of the main challenges to deliver effective virtual learning courses. Furthermore, in the case of students, the physical activities are compromised as they get less time to communicate with their friends and peers physically. Additionally, the cost is involved due to internet and broadband connectivity along with handling different technological devices which require expertise for the student as well.

PRIMARY DATA COLLECTION

Primary data on virtual learning environments to influence learning experiences among the students and employees in an organisation is collected from a survey conducted by offering questionnaires presented in the **appendix** below. The questionnaire was provided to 25 students selected for the survey from the course of Certificate in Higher Education 'Skills for the Workplace'. The responses of survey conducted (***shown in appendix***) of the student are considered for primary data collection and it is found that virtual learning environment has become one of the main learning platforms during this digital age. It not only influences the learning of students but also increases the concentration of the tutor and helps them learn different technological aspects.

However, their responses indicate that training and cost are required to prepare effective courses in order to make the student understand. A virtual learning environment requires great engagement by both the tutor and the students. Moreover, seeking the attention of the student is also one of the challenges they have faced.

On the other hand, the responses from students indicate that some of them enjoyed the virtual learning environment and have achieved positive experiences. They believe that a virtual learning environment is a great way to learn without travelling anywhere and concentration can be increased by staying at home. Moreover, the learning courses can also be accessed whenever they want which is a major advantage for them. Considering the comparison of virtual and traditional learning environments, they believe that

lack of interaction with friends and teachers is one of the challenges. Moreover, the student also responded that lack of knowledge in handling different devices; computer software and cost for internet connection are some of the challenges. On the other hand, many students also responded that their experiences were negative because they were unable to find the sources and dedicated much time in searching the material of The Course work. In a business environment, they believe that it is the same technique as their experiences which will be beneficial for the employees as well.

ANALYSIS OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY DATA COLLECTION

From the primary and secondary data collected above, it can be analysed that the impact of a virtual learning environment has positive and negative effects on learning experiences. It is accessed that a virtual learning environment is highly beneficial at the time of pandemic because it promotes self-paced learning among the student, and they do not have to travel to a physical learning environment and get all the materials of learning at their home. However, there is the cost of internet connection and internet issues are one of the main challenges. On the other hand, the other challenge is work engagement and attention among the students during online classes. Moreover, the students also showed positive and negative concerns regarding the impact of the virtual learning environment on learning experiences. It is analysed that the virtual learning environment is a great way to get the same level of learning experiences without travelling anywhere but on the other hand lack of technological knowledge and computer software handling devices may be challenging and time-consuming. Moreover, the student can also access the study material whenever they want to, which is a major advantage and a virtual learning environment.

CONCLUSION

From the above discussion, it can be concluded that a virtual learning environment has positive and negative impacts on learning experiences. One of the positive impacts is it influences the learning of different techniques and software hanging devices among both students and the tutor. The course work and the module can easily be accessed and stored in the computer devices which are a major advantage for the student as they do not have to devote time to note-making. However, lack of knowledge in handling devices and the cost of broadband connection are some of the challenges. In addition, lack of engagement and physical contact with teachers and peers can be highly isolating for the students.

REFERENCES

- Aljohani, N.R., Fayoumi, A. and Hassan, S.U., 2019. Predicting at-risk students using clickstream data in the virtual learning environment. *Sustainability*, 11(24), p.7238.
- Herrera, L., 2017. Impact of implementing a virtual learning environment (VLE) in the EFL classroom. *Ikala*, 22(3), pp.479-498.
- Larmuseau, C., Evens, M., Elen, J., Van Den Noortgate, W., Desmet, P. and Depaepe, F., 2018. The relationship between acceptance, actual use of a virtual learning environment and performance: An ecological approach. *Journal of Computers in Education*, 5(1), pp.95-111.
- Makransky, G., Bonde, M.T., Wulff, J.S., Wandall, J., Hood, M., Creed, P.A., Bache, I., Silahtaroglu, A. and Nørremølle, A., 2016. Simulation based virtual learning environment in medical genetics counseling: an example of bridging the gap between theory and practice in medical education. *BMC medical education*, 16(1), pp.1-9.
- Martin, F. and Bolliger, D.U., 2018. Engagement matters: Student perceptions on the importance of engagement strategies in the online learning environment. *Online Learning*, 22(1), pp.205-222.
- Nikou, S.A. and Economides, A.A., 2018. Mobile-Based micro-Learning and Assessment: Impact on learning performance and motivation of high school students. *Journal of Computer Assisted Learning*, 34(3), pp.269-278.
- Rienties, B. and Toetenel, L., 2016. The impact of learning design on student behaviour, satisfaction and performance: A cross-institutional comparison across 151 modules. *Computers in Human Behavior*, 60, pp.333-341.
- Rienties, B., Giesbers, B., Lygo-Baker, S., Ma, H.W.S. and Rees, R., 2016. Why some teachers easily learn to use a new virtual learning environment: A technology acceptance perspective. *Interactive Learning Environments*, 24(3), pp.539-552.
- Tarhini, A., Hone, K., Liu, X. and Tarhini, T., 2017. Examining the moderating effect of individual-level cultural values on users' acceptance of E-learning in developing countries: a structural equation modeling of an extended technology acceptance model. *Interactive Learning Environments*, 25(3), pp.306-328.

APPENDIX

Questionnaire

1) What are the advantages you get in a virtual learning environment?

- Flexible timing
- Easy access of materials

2) What is the impact of the virtual learning environment on the learning experiences of the learners?

- Increases engagement
- Influence learning
- Technical knowledge

3) Is the supplement of courses being feasible in a virtual learning environment?

- Yes
- No

4) What are the disadvantages of a virtual learning environment?

- Cost
- Work engagement
- Time management

5) Is the reading sources and information obtained on the virtual learning environment is effective for use?

- Yes
- No

6) How do you compare the virtual learning environment and the physical learning environment?

- VLE is flexible
- Physical learning is good for face-to-face interaction

7) How is the engagement level between the faculty and the student in a virtual learning environment?

- High
- Neutral
- Low

8) How far do you agree that in a business platform, a virtual learning environment can be effective for the employees for improving their training and development process?

- Highly agree

- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Highly disagree

9) What values does VLE brings to you as a student

- Learning new skills
- Self-paced learning
- Less travelling

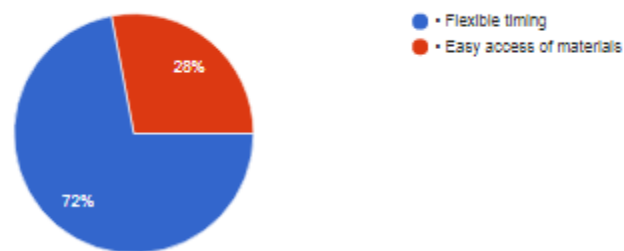
10) What is the effectiveness of VLE?

- Communication tool
- Sharing classroom notes
- Collaborating

Survey

1) What are the advantages you get in a virtual learning environment?

25 responses

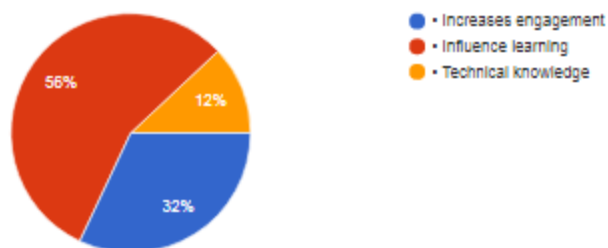


Row Labels	Responses
• Easy access of materials	7
• Flexible timing	18
Grand Total	25

DSR Assessment 2 Individual Report

2) What is the impact of the virtual learning environment on the learning experiences of the learners?

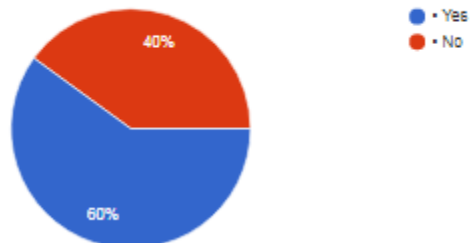
25 responses



Row Labels	Responses
• Increases engagement	8
• Influence learning	14
• Technical knowledge	3
Grand Total	25

3) Is the supplement of courses being feasible in a virtual learning environment?

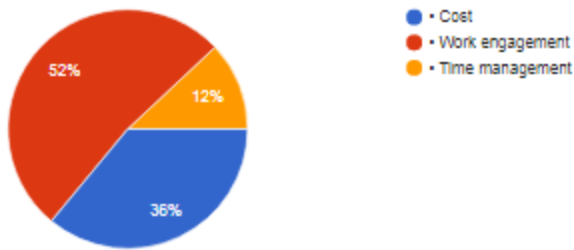
25 responses



Row Labels	Responses
• No	10
• Yes	15
Grand Total	25

4) What are the disadvantages of a virtual learning environment?

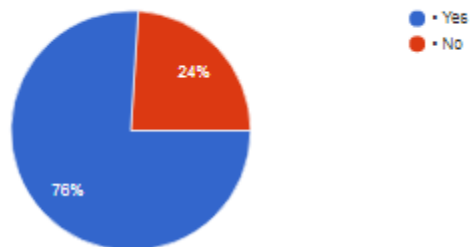
25 responses



Row Labels	Responses
• Cost	9
• Time management	3
• Work engagement	13
Grand Total	25

5) Is the reading sources and information obtained on the virtual learning environment is effective for use?

25 responses

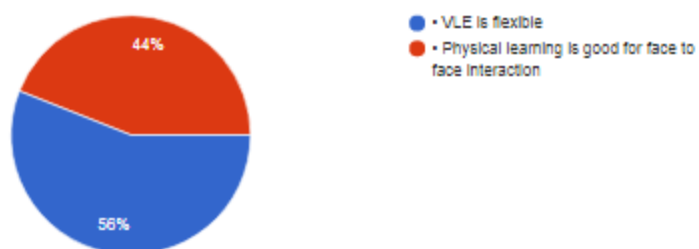


Row Labels	Responses
• No	6
• Yes	19
Grand Total	25

DSR Assessment 2 Individual Report

6) How do you compare the virtual learning environment and the physical learning environment?

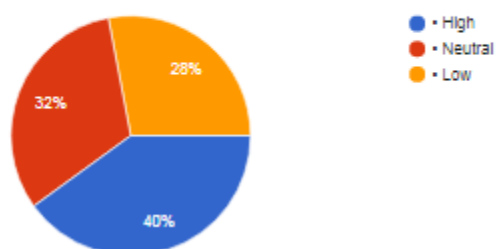
25 responses



Row Labels	Responses
• Physical learning is good for face to face interaction	11
• VLE is flexible	14
Grand Total	25

7) How is the engagement level between the faculty and the student in a virtual learning environment?

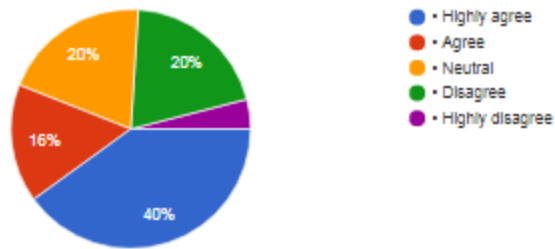
25 responses



Row Labels	Responses
• High	10
• Low	7
• Neutral	8
Grand Total	25

8) How far do you agree that in a business platform, a virtual learning environment can be effective for the employees for improving their training and development process?

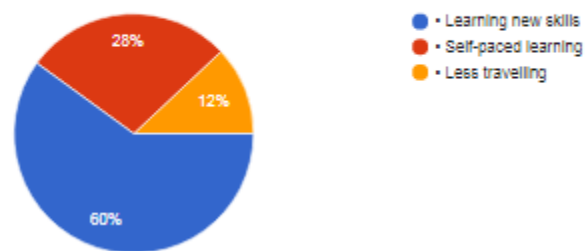
25 responses



Row Labels	Responses
• Agree	4
• Disagree	5
• Highly agree	10
• Highly disagree	1
• Neutral	5
Grand Total	25

9) What values does VLE brings to you as a student

25 responses

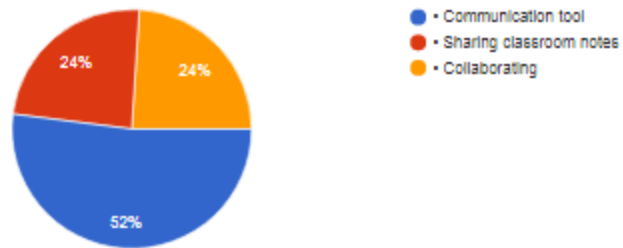


Row Labels	Responses
• Learning new skills	15
• Less travelling	3
• Self-paced learning	7
Grand Total	25

DSR Assessment 2 Individual Report

10) What is the effectiveness of VLE?

25 responses



Row Labels	Responses
• Collaborating	6
• Communication tool	13
• Sharing classroom notes	6
Grand Total	25