



Digital skills and research methods

**Moodle -Virtual Learning
Environment**

BMSW 4003

By

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1. INTRODUCTION

The modern method of teaching and learning (*Virtual Learning Environment*), has been introduced in the late 20th century and first has been used by organizations to train workers, and after the great results that offered has been introduced in the schools and universities. However, *Virtual Learning Environment* (VLE) known also like e-learning seems to be more effective than the traditional learning with related knowledge sources such as e-mails services, online library, video and technological tools which can be used at any time and place. A research report has been created to understand the *Virtual Learning Environment*, which in 2020, has a wide range of online learning opportunities and all students and teachers is using it for sharing information about courses, modules, researches, and schools or universities programme. This research report is focused on Moodle platform, which University of Wales Trinity Saint Davis is using in purpose of teaching and learning. However, before introducing Moodle platform, Virtual Learning Environment need to be understood.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 VIRTUAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT – VLE

Virtual Learning Environment (**VLE**), is the online platform offered by schools and universities with the purpose of learning and teaching, using the modern technology, which is made with range of applications and processes for a good delivery of information (Arkorful and Abidoo, 2015).

VLE known also as e – learning, is an educational software, with the purpose to delivery information about courses. Thus, (Dillenbourg, Schneider and Synteta, 2002), says that **VLE** does not refer to all educational platforms and not all the environments are labelled as **VLE**.

Although, a secondary research approach has been conducted in order to identify main factors that affects and evaluate the **VLE** platform. However, by doing this research has been founded frameworks that identify different opinions about the efficiency of e-learning, being criticized the creation of a good quality of learning for students.

For example, **VLE** seems to be criticized by (Tavangarian et al., 2004), in their research, telling that the e-learning environment is mostly beneficial in aspects of teaching than learning as an individual.

However, in another journal article has been found that (Martinez, 2003), says that many students who are doing well in the classrooms, are not prepared for the online teaching, and so most of them quit the courses before they complete the objectives. Moreover, the University of Phoenix published an article in June 2003, saying that only 65% of the students go on to graduate, because of the new approach of teaching by e-leaning methods 35% of them quit (Martinez, 2003).

Furthermore, another framework of a research about e-learning has been found, where (Gilbert, Morton and Rowley, 2007), collected data from a student module evaluation process in order to see the student experience of e-learning. The methodology has been a

questionnaire to mature students which are working and studying part-time, having the support that they need. The results show a good understanding of the module with high level of analysis, reaching the learning outcomes (Gilbert, Morton and Rowley, 2007).

However, using **VLE** has positive and negative aspects which the users are talking about.

Some advantages of using **VLE**:

- Flexibility – can be used at any time and place
- A wide range of information
- Choice of how to study – slow or quick
- Helps with language barriers
- Less time and money spent.

Some disadvantages of using **VLE**:

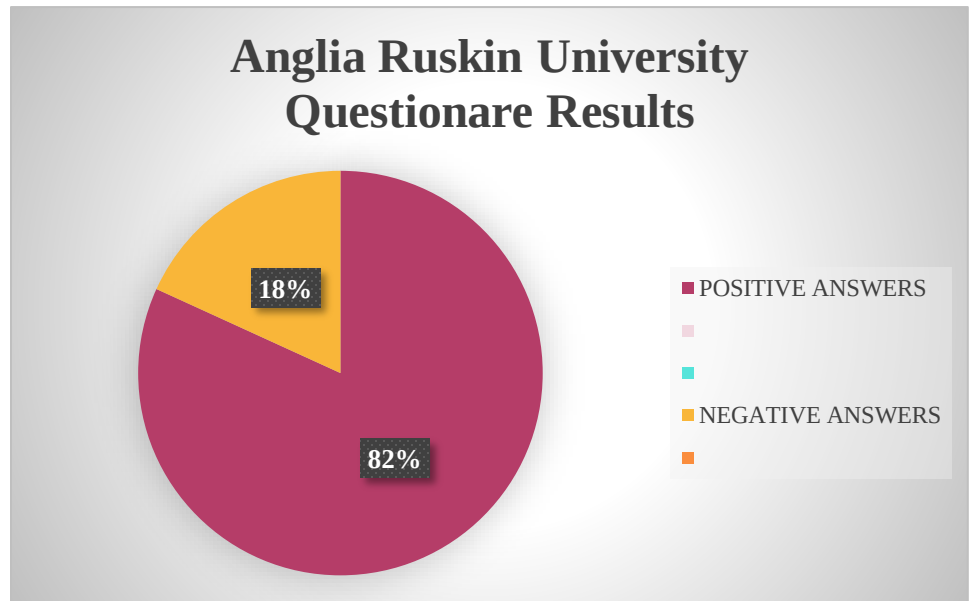
- If there is not connection / internet, you cannot access the information
- May be less effective than the traditional methods of learning
- Lack of interaction or relation between members (students, teachers)
- Difficulties of using some of the websites that could cost you money
- No data protection (a hacker could take your data) (Arkorful and Abidoo, 2015).

However, a primary research approach has been conducted also in order to collect quantitative and qualitative data, and to understand the needs of the students. A survey has been conducted in Anglia Ruskin University, London, asking 11 students of their opinion about using **VLE**.

Thus, **80%** of them enjoy use VLE, **100%** are feeling safe using VLE , when it is coming to get resources **73%** find it easy, **91%** are satisfied of the results of their research on VLE, **100%** believe that that is better the VLE platform than the traditional learning, **82%** believe that their critical technological skills had been improved with VLE, **91%** believe that VLE helped them in the academic route, **82%** agree that VLE is the perfect way for collaboration between lecturers and students, **90%** of them think that 2020 VLE met expectation of innovation, **82%** think that something should be improved, only **36%** of them are using VLE every day and **36%** few times a week, **90%** of

them find easy to submit their work, **100%** like this method of learning, and **82%** think that VLE platform is easy to use for everyone.

- *Under appendix is going to be attached the questionnaire with the results.*



Furthermore, in the primary research, are more positive aspects of using VLE, then negative, which exceed the expectation after the results of the secondary research.

2.2 MOODLE

University of Wales Trinity Sant Davis is using **Moodle** platform in order to deliver online teaching and learning. However, **Moodle** is the platform where 80% of the information is been delivered for teachers, and students who wants to read further for individual learning or in case that the students miss any classroom.

Thus, a primary and secondary research approach has been conducted in order to understand **Moodle**.

The secondary research approach relate that Moodle platform has many tools which help teachers and students to perform with the modern pedagogical method.

However, (Dimopoulos et al., 2013) says that teachers have access on **Moodle** assessments tools, which help them to make grades easier onto students' assignments. As (Dimopoulos et al., 2013) found in their research, one of these tools is Learning Analytics Enriched Rubric (LAe-R), which teachers use for the assessment of student's performance. The results from (Dimopoulos et al., 2013) research, says that the teachers are familiar with the tool and they enjoy it.

Moreover, **Moodle** has a software for the assessments named Turnitin Software, which help to detect student's plagiarism in the assignment. However, from the research conducted from (Dahl, 2007), which include a questionnaire asking 24 students of their opinion about Turnitin, and the results are on the whole positive of using Turnitin Software.

Furthermore, **Moodle** has many applications which help students and teachers, such as e-mail where there is interaction between the University, teachers and students, online library, where can be founded articles, journals, books and many other sources for the research, the HwB, where there are forms, chat, teams and most of the applications, and the IT Service Desk which accessing is been impossible because was not work.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this research are:

- Understand how students are facing this challenge of learning
- The advantages and disadvantages of using online platform of teaching and learning
- Collect quantitative and qualitative data by primary and secondary research approach

The aims of this research are:

- Understand the Virtual Learning Environment and **Moodle** platform

- Importance of **Moodle** in the course
- Create improvements if necessary

In order to get the results of this research, the aims and objectives are the main factors that encourage the researcher to provide accuracy of the information and to deliver an understandable concept of using **Moodle**- Virtual Learning Environment.

4. METHOD

A secondary research approach has been conducted with the purpose to collect quantitative and qualitative data from other people research (articles, journals, reports) in relation to **VLE** and **Moodle**.

However, since the research is about University of Wales Trinity Saint David **Moodle**, a primary research approach has been conducted with the purpose to collect quantitative and qualitative data from teachers and students of **Moodle** platform. Furthermore, a questionnaire has been created and presented to teachers and students.

Thus, the questions had been related to the **Moodle** platform, to understand how the students and teachers faced this challenge. Most of them stopped to study or teach before the new method of teaching and learning and having no training of usage. However, they could find it difficult or easy, or they could have some queries about **Moodle** platform and had no courage to ask questions about it, this has been their possibility to be heard.

The questionnaire has been presented to 18 students and 20 teachers, online, because of the Covid-19 pandemic, which did not permit anymore face-to-face meetings. However, all of them had been from University of Wales Trinity Saint Davis, London Campus.

However, below will be attached the template of the survey conducted.

Moodle - Virtual Learning Environment

Page 1

1) How much do you enjoy using Moodle?

A A lot

B A little

C Not at all

2) How safe do you feel using Moodle platform

A Very safe

B Safe

C Not so safe

D Not at all safe

3) How easy was to get resources that you need it on Moodle?

a) Easy b) Very easy c) Not so easy

CREATE YOUR
FREE SURVEY



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D Not at all easy

4) How satisfied are you with the results of your research on Moodle?

- A Very satisfied B Satisfied C Not so satisfied
D Not at all satisfied

5) Do you think it is better to use Moodle (VLE) than the traditional learning?

- A Yes B No

6) Do you think that your critical technological skills have been improved with Moodle ?

- A Yes B No

7) It was helpful the usage of Moodle for your academic route ?

- A Extremely helpful B Very helpful C Helpful
D Not so helpful E Not at all helpful

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FREE SURVEY

8) According with a research Moodle is the perfect way for collaboration between lecturers and students, do you agree ?

- A Strongly agree B Agree C Disagree
D Strongly disagree

9) Is the 2021 Moodle enough innovative for your expectation ?

- A Exceeded expectation B Met expectation C Below expectation

10) Do you think that something should be improved on Moodle?

- A Yes B No

11) With what frequency do you use Moodle ?

- A Every day B Few times a week C Few times a month
D Once a month E Less than once a month

12) Do you find it easy to submit your work on Moodle?

CREATE YOUR
FREE SURVEY

A Yes**B** No

13) Do you like this method of learning ?

A Yes**B** No

14) Do you think Moodle is easy to use for everyone ?

A Yes**B** No

15) Anything else you would like to let us know about Moodle ?

Finish

Remember: Never send passwords (Report Abuse)

CREATE YOUR
FREE SURVEY

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1. * the question no 7 has been changed on the results template with yes or no.
2. * the results template is different from the questionnaire template (find attached in appendix).

5. RESULTS

The data was collected and stored in tables. The questionnaire has been presented to 17 students and 20 teachers from who just 2 teachers completed and 10 students. Thus, the results are out of 12

The first 7 questions are:

Questions 1-7	Yes	No
1 Do you think it is better to use Moodle (VLE) than the traditional learning?	7	5
2 It was helpful the usage of Moodle for your academic route?	11	1
3 Do you think that your critical technological skills have been improved with Moodle?	7	5
4 Do you think that something should be improved on Moodle?	8	4
5 Do you find easy to submit your work on Moodle?	10	2
6 Do you like this method of learning?	8	4
7 Do you think Moodle is easy to use for everyone?	10	2

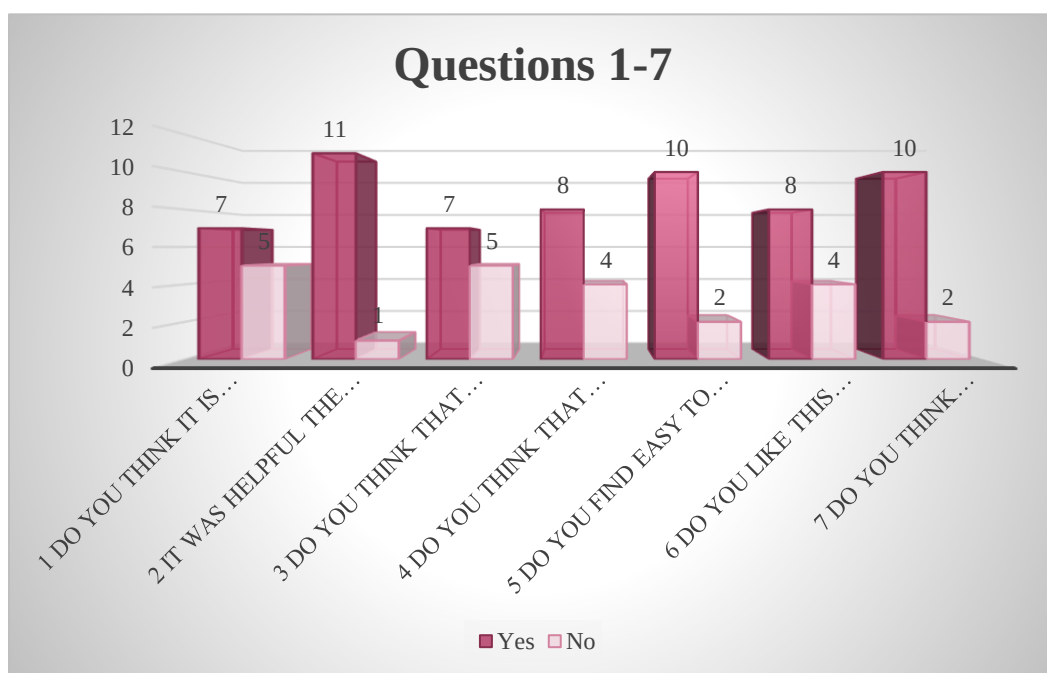


Chart no. 1

The next questions will be grouped separately, each one having different responses.

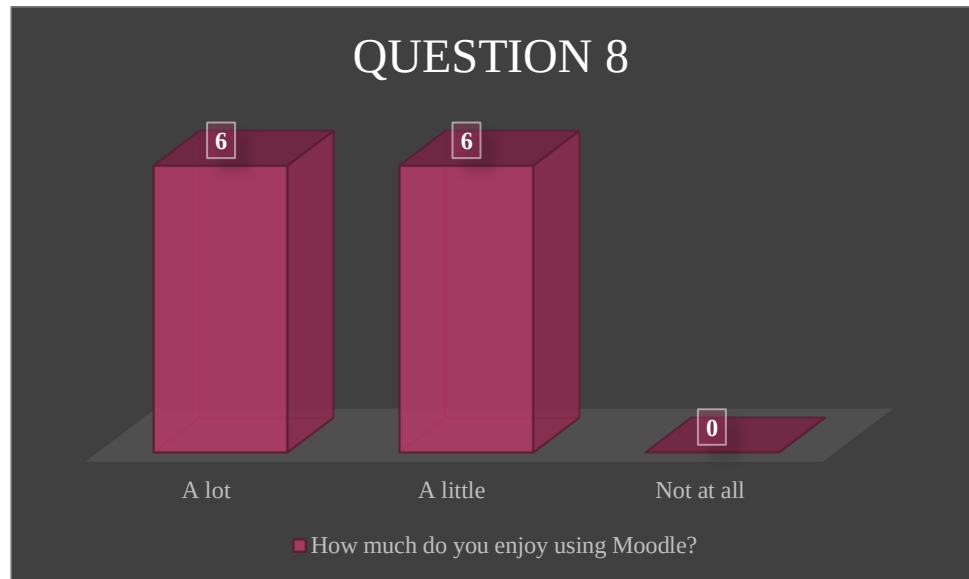


Chart no. 2

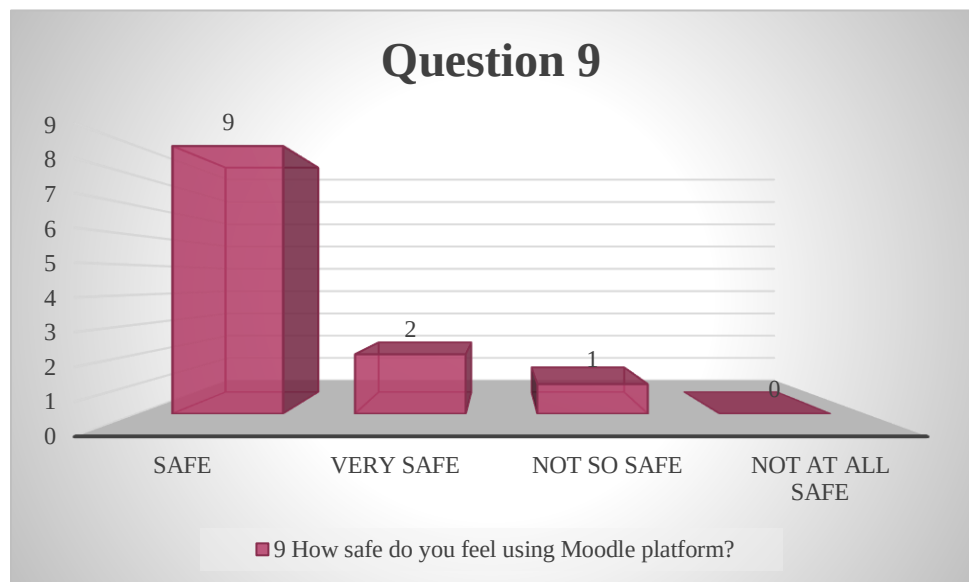


Chart no. 3

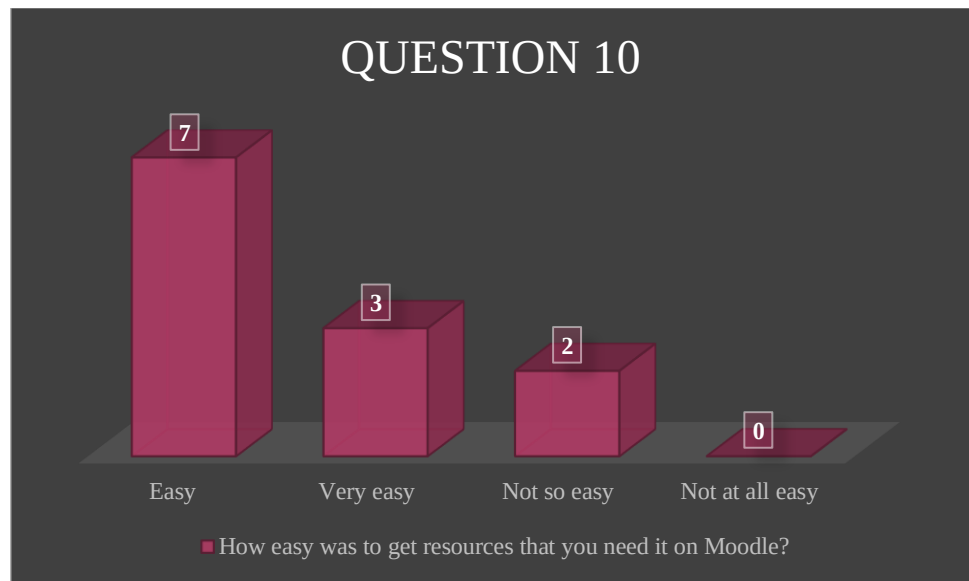


Chart no. 4

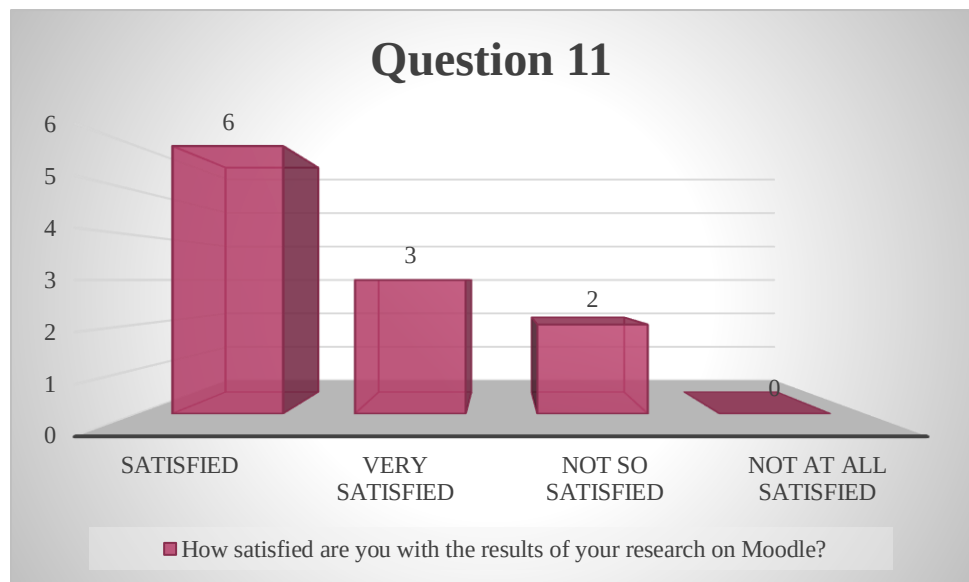


Chart no. 5

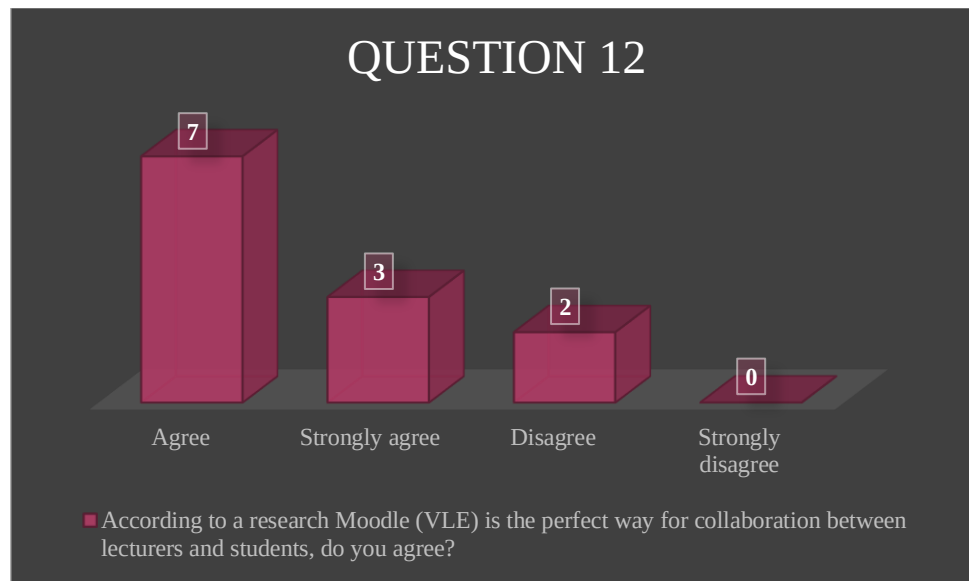


Chart no. 6

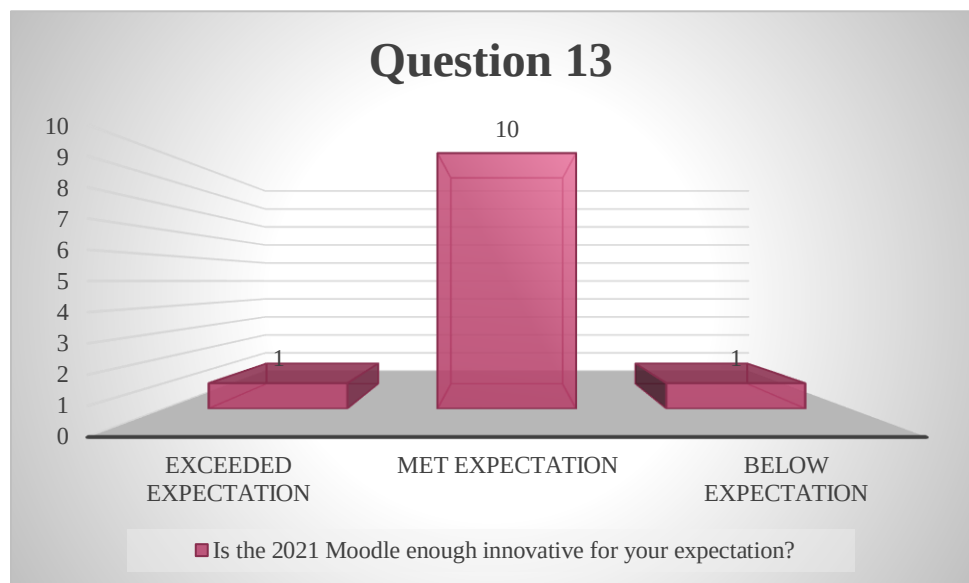


Chart no. 7

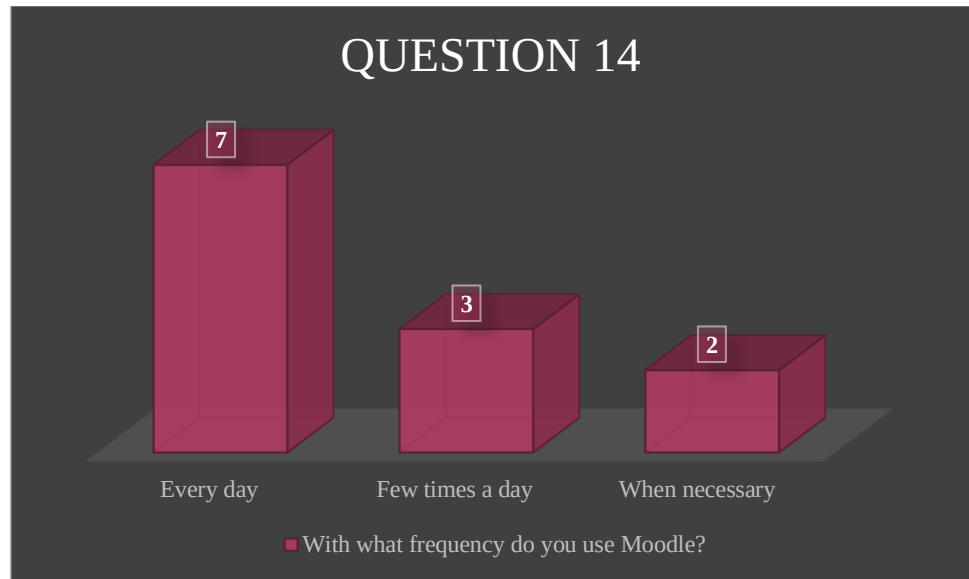


Chart no. 8

Question 15

Anything else you would like to let us know about Moodle?

Answers:

We need more teaching material
No
A good platform
Great platform
Those who have not used online learning, they need a training as this method is used by most of the education institution

6. DISCUSSION

Thus, as a result from the responses of the users, we can see that the new method of teaching and learning has been appreciated by most of them, and the majority give positive answers related to Moodle – platform.

However, are few of them which are struggling with finding resources and does not like this method of teaching, they think that their technological skills had not been improved, and most of them think that something should be improved on Moodle.

Thinking of those results, how can be that only few of them are struggling? Thus, all of them did not have training of the usage, and all of them being from the same University. As a result of this question, I can say that most of them did have technological skills before starting the course, and maybe they had the interest of the funding ways of self- learning.

As an example, at the beginning of the usage of Moodle-platform, I have been struggling as well, but I did try to find out how it works, trying many times I need it, until from weakness it became a strength.

I strongly agree with the users which says that something should be improved on Moodle. My opinion is that the first term and second term should be placed in 2 different folders as the students not need to lose time finding out which one is the assessment brief for the current term or which timetable is for current term. As an example, when the second term should start, I went to find out my timetable. It was many there, wrote 2nd term, and I did not know which one it is. Thanks to my colleagues I find out which was the right one.

A second thing which I strongly believe that should be improved, are the links where we need to submit the assignments. However, all the the groups links are one after one, and the links from another course. Thus, I think that we could have access just to our second term group, the possibility that the students struggling finding out how to submit their work, it would be diminished.

Furthermore, as we can see, most of the responses had been positive, and Moodle platform is enough innovative and meeting expectations.

Therefore, most of the users of Moodle platform prefer the traditional learning instead of the modern teaching and learning method. In my opinion, after the situation that we have been faced (Covid-19), I do believe that this new method of teaching and learning is much better, giving to the students the possibility to continue the studies from home and to do not miss lections and having the opportunity to finish the academic year.

7. CONCLUSION

The Virtual learning Environment has been introduced in almost all the education institution, having many different tools for supporting the teaching and learning environment. However, the Moodle platform is helping the students and teachers with the learning outcome and it is providing many sources of information, helping to reduce time spent and money. Therefore, many are not happy with it, on the other hand most of the users are more than enough satisfied of the Moodle platform and as I always say : “ Every day is a new day for learn more”.

8. REFERENCES

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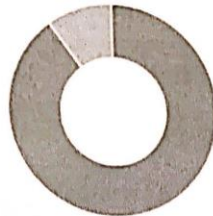
<https://www.elearningguild.com/pdf/2/071403mgt-l.pdf>

[Accessed 13 Apr. 2020].

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9. APPENDIX

12 Do you find it easy to submit your work on the VLE platform?



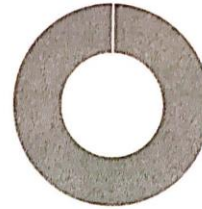
90% (9)
Yes

10% (1)
No

4
Standard Deviation

10
Responses

13 Do you like this method of learning?



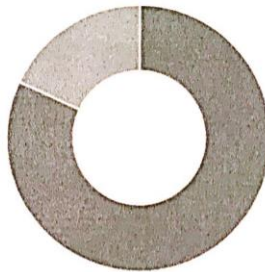
100% (11)
Yes

0% (0)
No

5.5
Standard Deviation

11
Responses

14 Do you think that the VLE platform is easy to use for everyone?



82% (9)
Yes

18% (2)
No

3.5
Standard Deviation

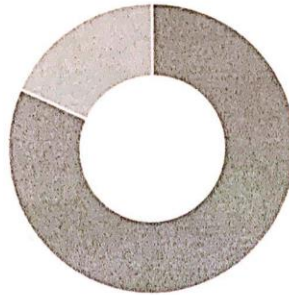
11
Responses

15 Anything else you would like to let us know about VLE?

No

No

Do you think that something should be improved on VLE platform?



82% (9)

Yes

18% (2)

No

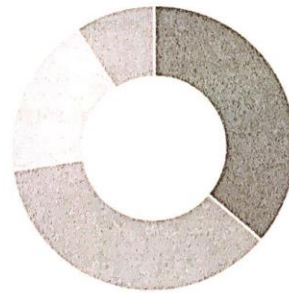
3.5

Standard Deviation

11

Responses

11 With what frequency do you use VLE?



36% (4)

Every day

36% (4)

Few times a week

18% (2)

Few times a month

9% (1)

Once a month

0% (0)

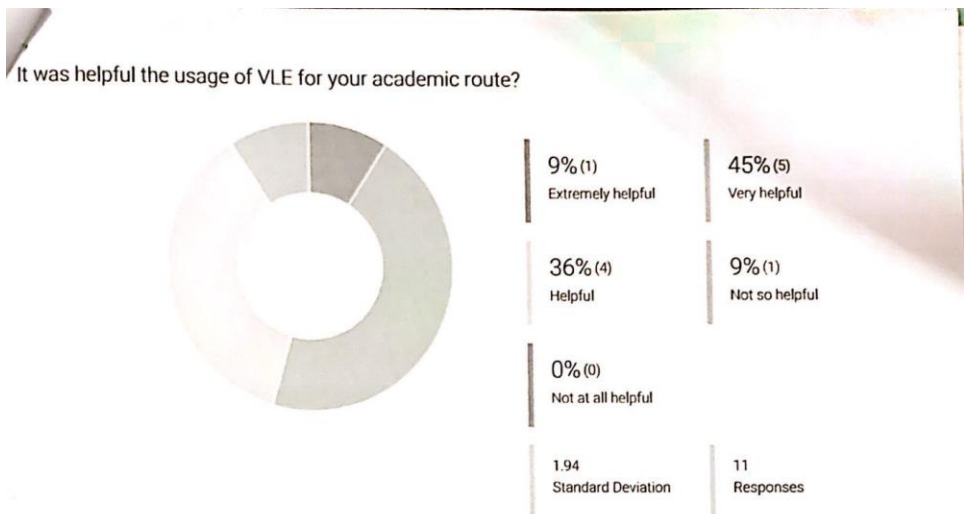
Less than once a month

1.6

Standard Deviation

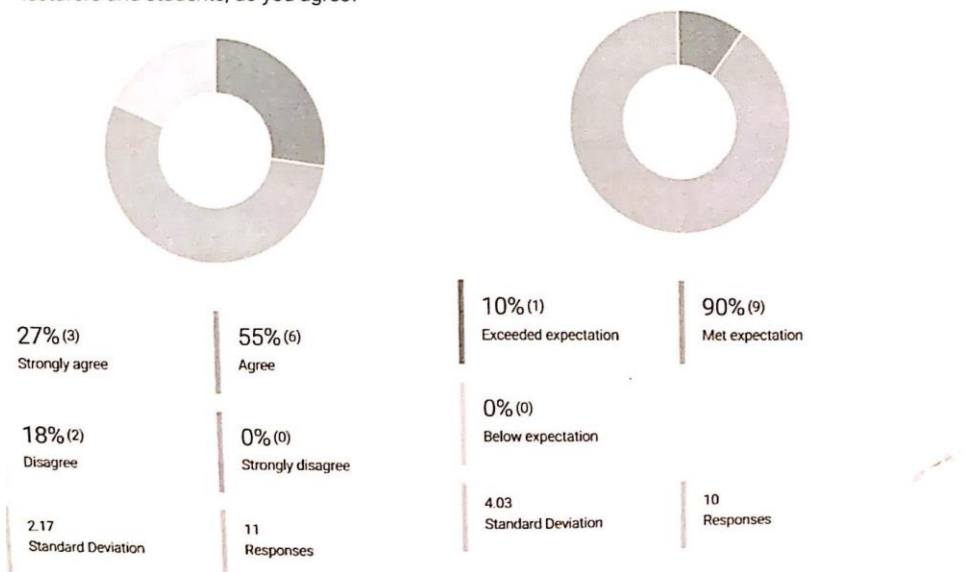
11

Responses



According with a research VLE platform is the perfect way for collaboration between lecturers and students, do you agree?

9 Is the 2021 VLE enough innovative for your expectation?



How satisfied are you with the results of your research on VLE?



91% (10)
Satisfied

9% (1)
Not so satisfied

4.21
Standard Deviation

0% (0)
Very Satisfied

0% (0)
Not at all satisfied

11
Responses

5 Do you think it is better to use VLE platform than the traditional learning?



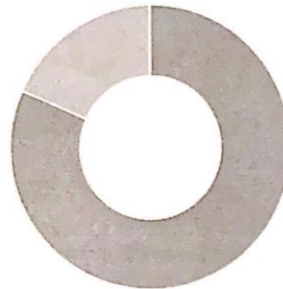
100% (11)
Yes

5.5
Standard Deviation

0% (0)
No

11
Responses

6 Do you think that your critical technological skills have been improved with VLE?



82% (9)
Yes

3.5
Standard Deviation

18% (2)
No

11
Responses

Virtual Learning Environment - VLE

Students Survey "ANGLIA RUSKIN UNIVERSITY"

1 How much do you enjoy using VLE ?



80% (8)
A lot

10% (1)
A little

10% (1)
Not at all

3.3
Standard Deviation

10
Responses

2 How safe do you feel using VLE ?



45% (5)
Very safe

55% (6)
Safe

0% (0)
Not so safe

0% (0)
Not at all safe

2.77
Standard Deviation

11
Responses

3 How easy was to get resources that you need it on VLE platform?



73% (8)
Easy

9% (1)
Very easy

18% (2)
Not so easy

0% (0)
Not at all easy

3.11
Standard Deviation

11
Responses



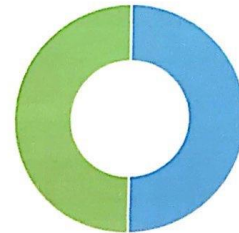
Moodle - Virtual Learning Environment

Enter some body text

STUDENTS SURVEY

LIMITSD

1 How much do you enjoy using Moodle ?



50% (5)
A lot

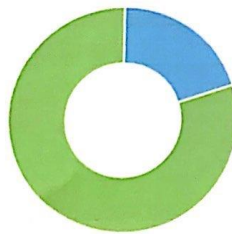
50% (5)
A little

0% (0)
Not at all

2.36
Standard Deviation

10
Responses

2 How safe do you feel using Moodle platform?



20% (2)
Very safe

80% (8)
safe

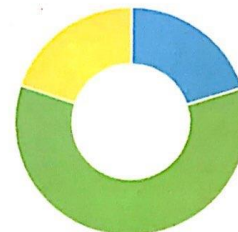
0% (0)
Not so safe

0% (0)
Not at all safe

3.28
Standard Deviation

10
Responses

3 Hoe easy was to get resources that you need it on Moodle?



20% (2)
Very easy

60% (6)
Easy

20% (2)
Not so easy

0% (0)
Not easy at all

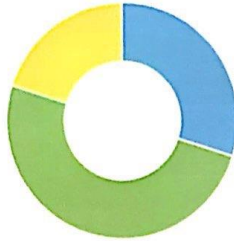
2.18
Standard Deviation

10
Responses



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How satisfied are you with the results of your research on Moodle?



30% (3)
Very satisfied

50% (5)
Satisfied

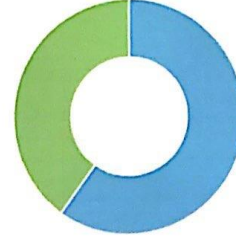
20% (2)
Not so satisfied

0% (0)
Not at all satisfied

1.8
Standard Deviation

10
Responses

5 Do you think it is better to use Moodle (VLE) than the traditional learning ?



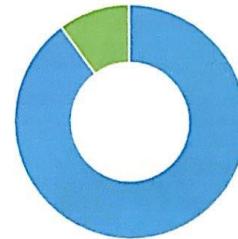
60% (6)
Yes

40% (4)
No

1
Standard Deviation

10
Responses

6 It was helpful the usage of Moodle for your academic route?



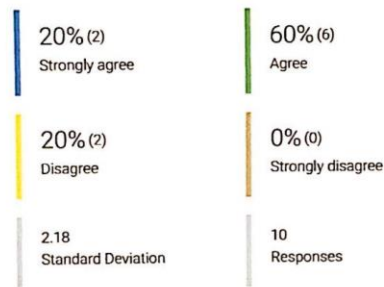
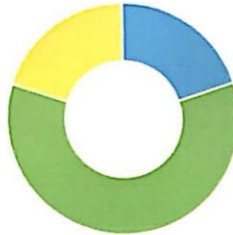
90% (9)
Yes

10% (1)
No

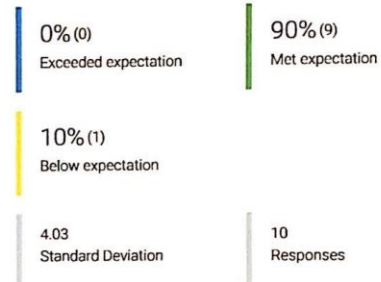
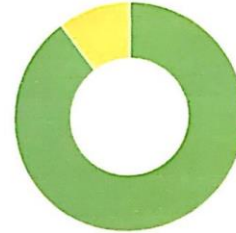
4
Standard Deviation

10
Responses

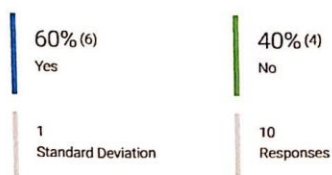
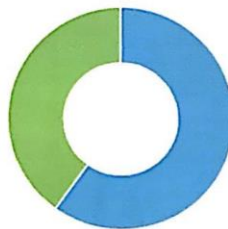
7 According with a research Moodle (VLE) is the perfect way for collaboration between lecturers and students, do you agree?



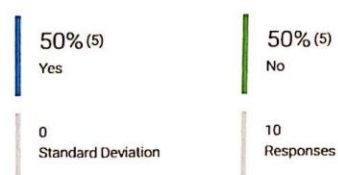
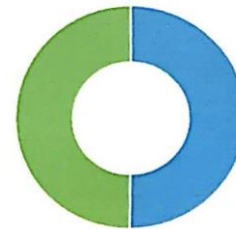
8 Is the 2021 Moodle enough innovative for your expectation?



9 Do you think that something should be improved on Moodle?



10 Do you think that your critical technological skills have been improved with Moodle?



11 With what frequency do you use Moodle?



50% (5)
Every day

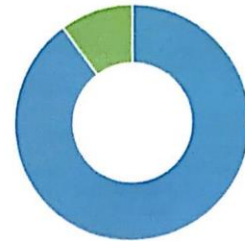
30% (3)
Few times a week

20% (2)
When necessary

1.25
Standard Deviation

10
Responses

12 Do you find it easy to submit your work on Moodle?



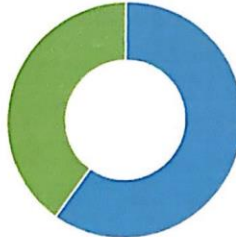
90% (9)
Yes

10% (1)
No

4
Standard Deviation

10
Responses

13 Do you like this method of learning?



60% (6)
Yes

40% (4)
No

1
Standard Deviation

10
Responses



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