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Digital skills and research
method- assessment 2
individual report

BMSW4003

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Introduction

In this report I will be covering topics that are related to my survey, I will include diagrams and how I analysed my results. I will talk about the positive and negative impacts on VLE. Also, I will include my conclusion and reference list, nevertheless I will talk about some of the advantages and disadvantages whilst using Moodle and what type of contents Moodle links have.

Rationale of the study

VLE stands for Virtual Learning Experience. To begin with I would like to say that by doing this research about how important VLE, I am able to understand the importance of VLE. By doing this research I have found out that VLE connects students and teachers for sharing information and teaching. VLE allows teachers and students, especially during the pandemic of covid-19, to openly get taught or teach with staying safe. This enables students to have a secure place to learn.

VLE is secure and safe because all information is private. It is also a safer way of learning when using VLE because as the pandemic is getting out of hand, student nor teachers do not have to stress about the virus spreading when using VLE.

Not only does VLE keep students and teachers safe, it opens a range of opportunities when students are able to use online. It allows them to understand how to work their way round internet and work with digital work. It expands their digital skills and research skills. This is because when using learning through virtual learning, they need to be able to use online research when presenting something or when having to search up something. For example, when a student learns something but needs a greater clarity of it, by knowing how to work their way round software's and internet, they are able to know how to search it up.

VLE is important worldwide, not only because of the current pandemic outbreak, but also when abroad. On the Hec Academy site it states that students being able to study with vle and knowing how to use their moodles, allowed them to be productive even when abroad. What I can infer on this is that VLE is not only useful during pandemic but also when

students are abroad, that way they don't lose any learning time because they are able to access their moodles.

Literature review

One of the main features that is mainly used when using VLE is Moodle. Moodle is a site which opens up for a student their lessons and tasks. On Moodle it includes a module descriptor and what they have learnt so far according in which semester they are in. It has a curriculum planning where assessments are made and lessons. This can also allow a personalisation of the learning experience.

Moodle contains the content management which storages access to any learning resources which is helpful for your required class. Another aspect of VLE in Moodle is that it contains different ways of communicating, whether its student to teacher or teacher to student, one of the ways you are enabled to communicate are through emails or notices. Moodle allows to track progress and achievements

Positive impacts and advantages of VLE

VLE has many positive impacts and advantages but here are some of the many:

1. Increased convenience

It is as a matter of fact undeniable that virtual classroom removed the limitation of time and location, a common challenge in a traditional classroom. VLE uplifts these limitations which allows learners have the freedom to study and finish the coursework anytime, anywhere. Learners also have the freedom to engage with other on classroom topics, do the assignments, absorb class content, or even finish assignments when they can and are comfortable to do so in their own time.

2. Effective time management

Learning online provides working class adults the idea environment needed to balance between work, family, and the demand of going back to school. If you are such a person, you will require a classroom that helps you manage your time effectively, and virtual classroom achieves it. Attending virtual classes at the comfort of your living room saves many hours that could otherwise be used to commute forth and back to classes on a campus. This allows you to do your own work and spend time with your family without having to use the

time by having to go to the campus hence you turn on your computer and do it all in your own space.

3. Sharped digital skills

Another virtual classroom advantage that many people find to be very interesting is the sharpening of one's digital skills. While increasing your skills and knowledge in your area of study, you are the same time sharpening your digital skills on some of the most sophisticated online learning solutions. As you progress learning in an online world, you will soon become highly productive and confident using interactive online learning tools such as, Microsoft teams, Moodles, emails and so on.

4. Affordable

Another virtual classroom benefits are looking from the affordability point of view. The cost required to set up a classroom and distance learning management system compare incredibly affordable with the cost of building or expanding additional real classrooms to take up extra students. These savings can typically be passed onto the learners, where they are required to pay less of the school fees.

5. Immediate feedback on exams and tests .

Getting instant feedback on exams and tests is another great advantage of virtual classroom. If you are enrolled in an online degree program, you do not have to wait for days or weeks to receive your scores. Exams, assignments, or tests taken online are usually scored as soon the learner finishes. This helps in tracking the progress of the student and it indicates weak areas for improvement.

Negative impacts and disadvantages of VLE.

However, VLE has its disadvantages and here are some of the negative impacts:

1. The need for extra learning about how to use it.

One disadvantage of virtual classroom is the fact some teachers and students are not confident using digital e-Learning tools. Some lectures face challenges in adapting to the technology and most of them report technical problems. Besides that, some online teachers have problems preparing study materials in the soft format. All these and much more may require additional support to get up and running. This explains why it may be necessary to have an IT support conducting training here and there.

2. Infrastructural challenges

Challenges related to infrastructure are considered as one of the main disadvantages of a virtual classroom. Initial adoption of the technology needs massive and good network infrastructure perhaps to carry heavy traffic. Although these days we have highly affordable solutions, the cost of installing such infrastructures is extremely high and some institution might not afford.

3. Slow connections

As you may know, there are internet connections which are slow and sometimes that stop working properly. This is a big disadvantage because when students and students are in a classroom and one's internet is faulty, the student and/or even the teacher gathers problems to be able to teach and learn properly. This is quite frustrating for students to experience because it is then hard for them to keep up.

4. Expensive

It is quite expensive to have the right technologies put it to have a successful online learning experience and therefore some might not be able to afford such. This is a negative impact on them as they are unable to access the class and the lessons, they are acquired to.

Research of Methodology

The type research I have conducted is through a survey in which it includes whether or not VLE is useful. I have sent the link so that students from UWTSD complete however not many took part in the survey I have created. But I will still present to you in what I have found out by doing the survey. My survey is based on VLE learning during the covid-19 and whether students find it helpful or not.

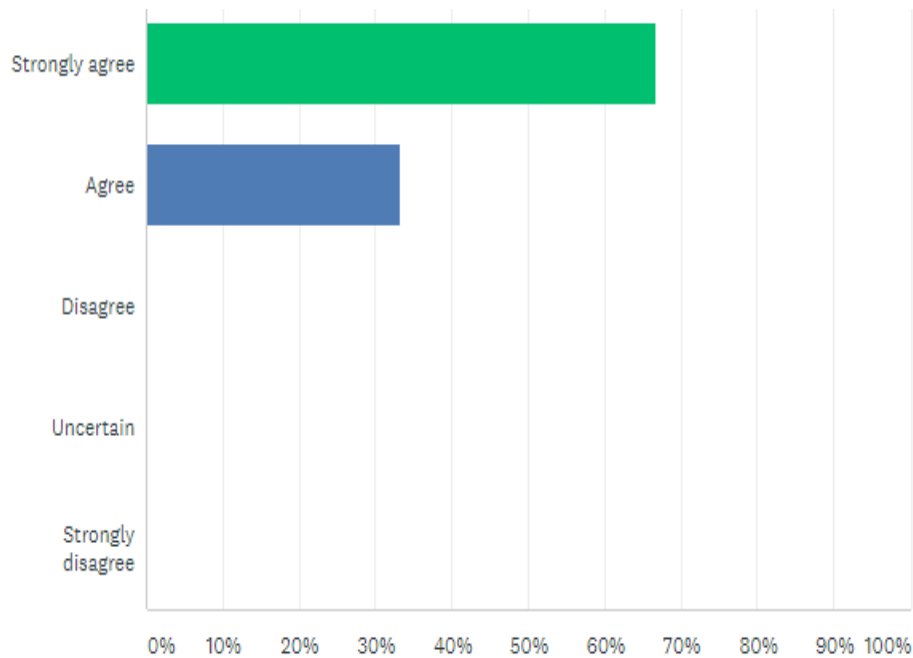
The survey provides information bar charts which analysis the whole data and shows what responses were most and least used.

Analysis and Discussions

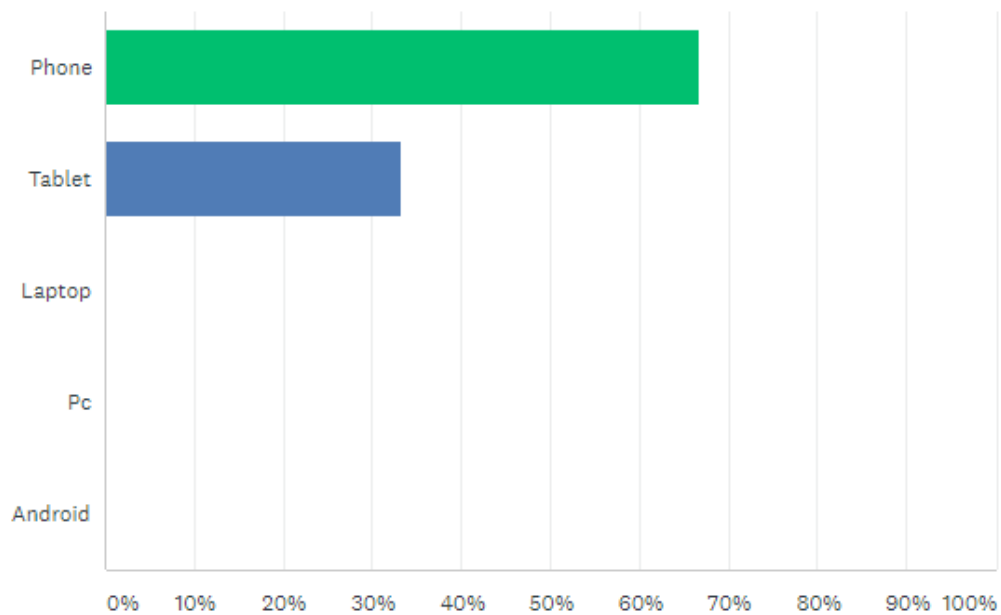
To begin with my survey was based on VLE in 2021.

The questions of the survey were the following and the graphs are below each questions.

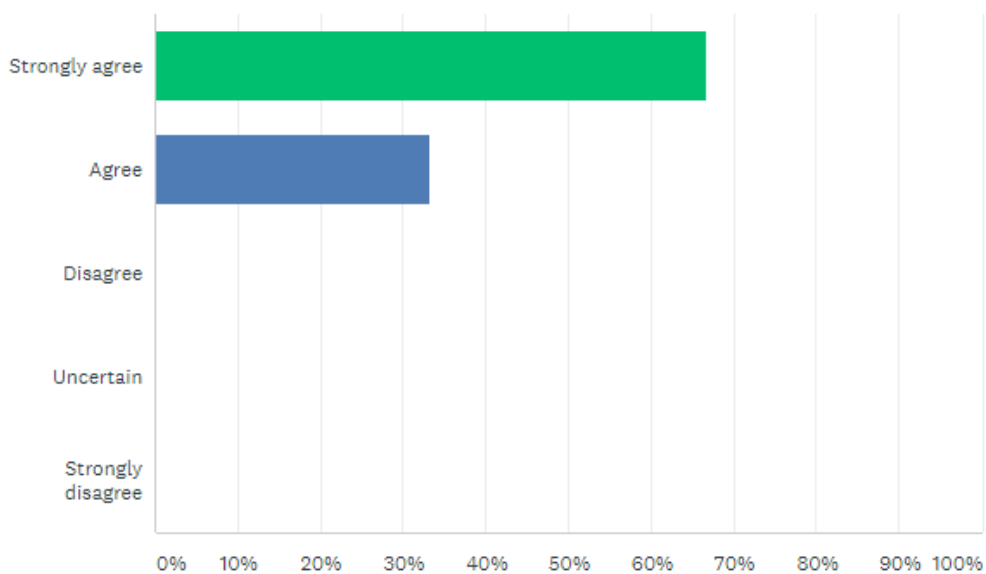
1) DOES VLE HELP YOU WITH YOUR LEARNING
DURING THE COVID-19?



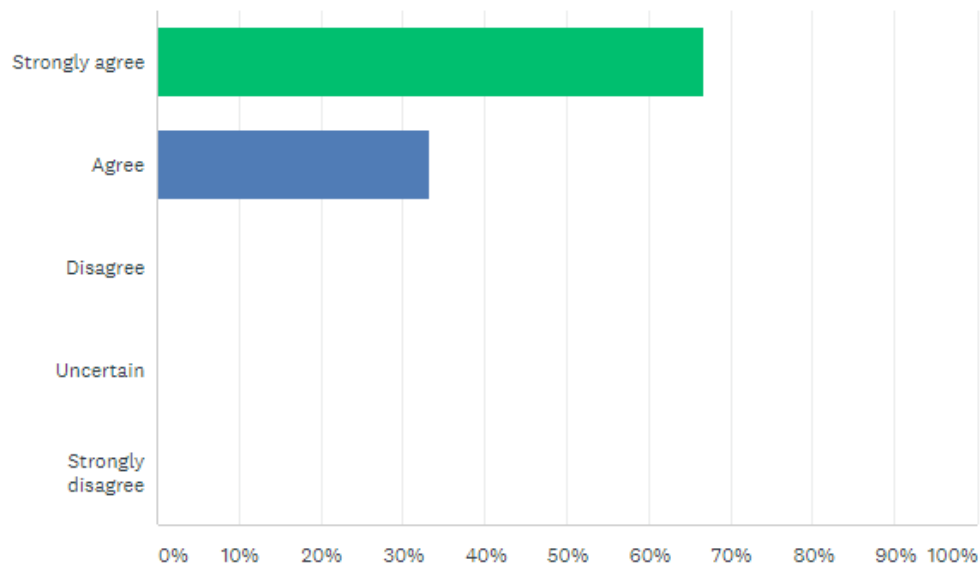
2) On which device do you prefer to use your VLE?



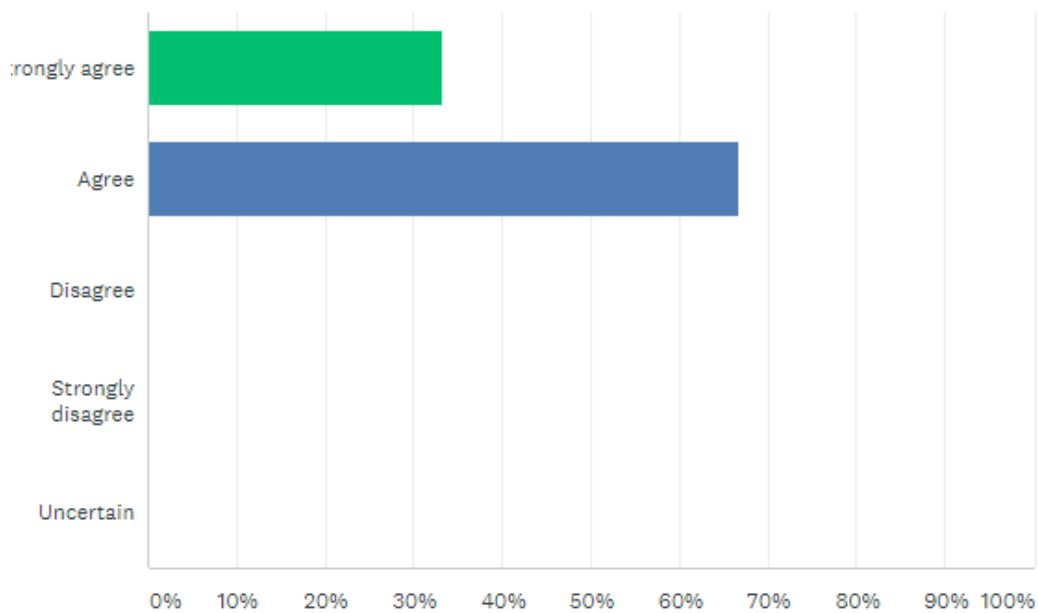
3) would you recommend VLE to anyone during covid-19?



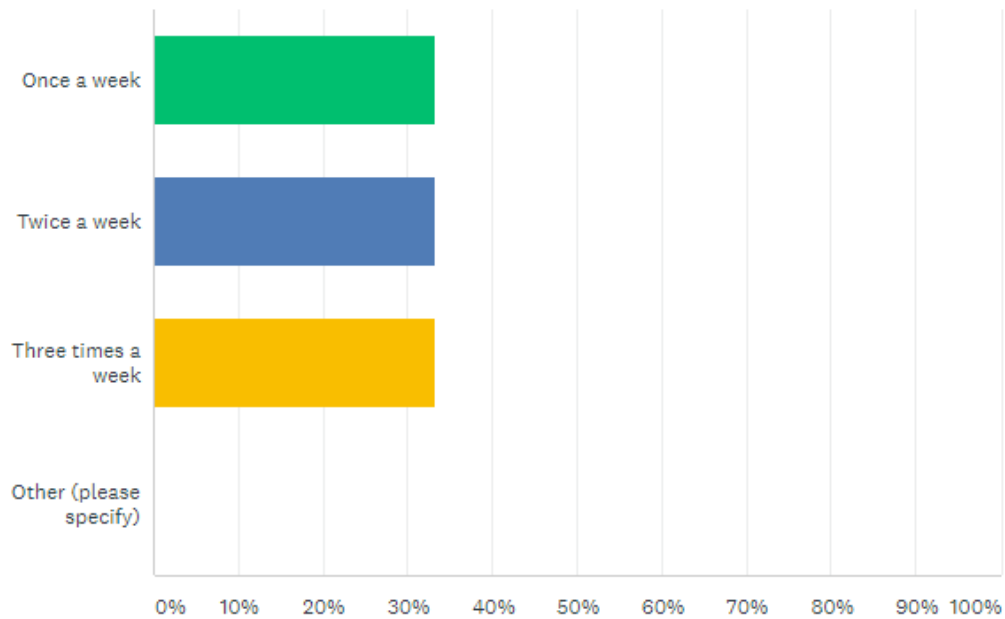
4) Would you recommend VLE lectures in the times of COVID-19?



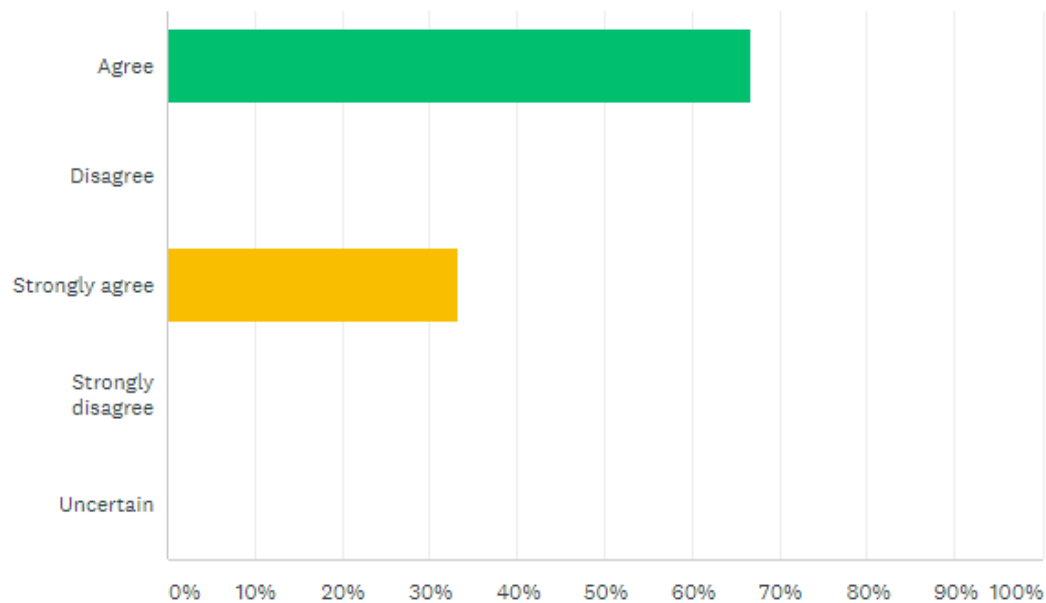
5) Do you understand lectures through VLE?



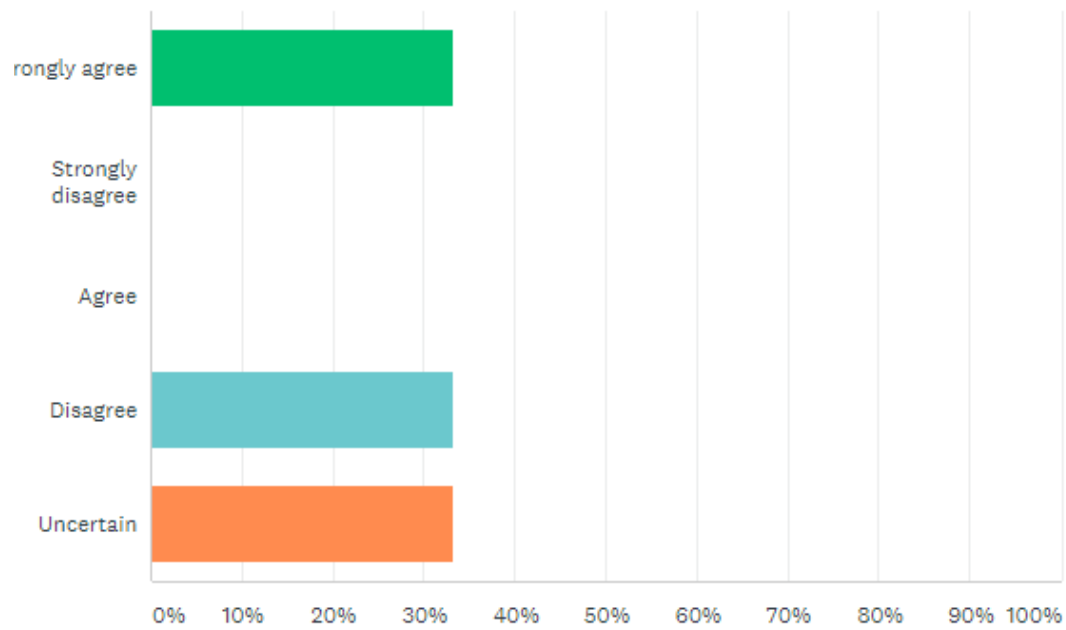
6) How long do you spend your time on moodle using your VLE each week?



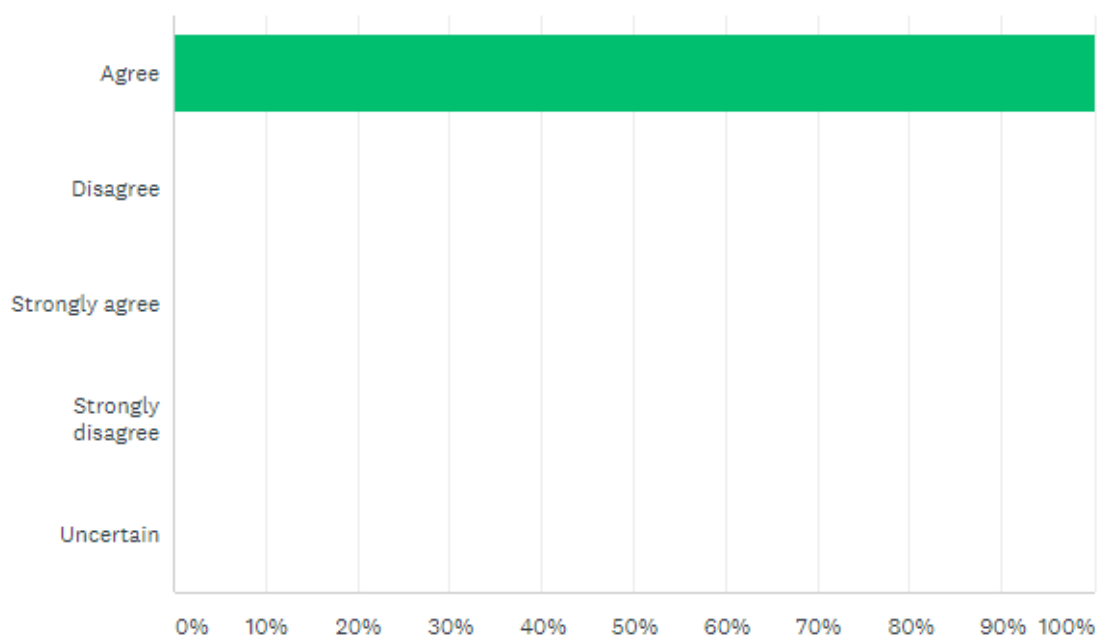
7) VLE should be used during the pandemic?



8) Would you prefer learning in the campus?



9) Is VLE usefull to you?



What I can tell from the collected data is that more people agree at the fact that VLE is more useful, especially during these types of situations such as covid-19. However, I cannot analyse anything deeper as there are plenty of limitations for to do so.

Research ethics/ Ethical considerations.

I manage to keep each person who voted anonymous, as the site I have used, which is survey monkey, keeps everyone anonymous and they can answer without have to register their details. Also, I have considered each and every question so that everyone can answer without hesitance. I skipped questions like; ethnicity, gender and so on.

I have considered General Date protection regulation, GDPR, which means that I kept everyone's personal details secure and they did not have to be hesitant whilst answering my survey.

Limitations

Due to the fact only, several people completed my survey, it has caused limitations on how much data I have collected. Therefore, my source is not reliable.

The data I have collected does not answer whether VLE is useful or not. This is because I have collected too little data to give authentic answers.

Another factor that is a limitation is that I didn't make enough questions which would've given me more data to be collected. Even though little number of people have answered my questionnaire/ survey, if I had more questions for the voters to pick, it would've given me more information whether or not if VLE is useful or if they VLE resources etc.

Conclusion & Recommendations

To conclude I have talked about what type of research I have made to explain if VLE is a successful way of learning. I have gathered information from a survey I have created on survey monkey, and what I have found out I have provided on a bar chart, which shows which elements are most useful for students. By this I mean, students picked which answer fits right with their view on VLE.

Therefore, even if there are limited responses, I am able to say yes, VLE is very useful for interactions for students and teachers. It allows them during the covid-19 outbreak to attend class and learn useful skills. Even the action of using online resources teaches one how to work around digital research.

This makes the student/teacher gain more digital skills. This will not only help with virtual learning but also with everyday work. As they will be able to use software's successfully.

For my own experience I do recommend VLE because during the course of time in the semester I have enjoyed learning online. It has helped me improve my own digital skills. I wasn't able to use digital devices and resources well however now I am getting more used to it and it has helped me a lot.

List of reference

- Survey Monkey
- <https://www.elearninglearning.com/reference/vle>
- EzTALKS

Appendix

Overall, we have studied in the class of Digital Research skills how to make a good presentation, how to structure a successful report. We were also taught how to make a relatable good survey which was supposed to help collect data to help us on VLE.

We have also learnt how social media helps present your work and how it helps sell your business to make you more successful.

It was a pleasure learning in this class. Thank you.

