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The impact of virtual learning environment on UWTSD.

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Introduction

The purpose of this report is to create an overview of virtual learning environment in general. Primary and secondary research approach will be developed in this report to enhance all the support of virtual learning environment "VLE" UWTSD or another institution. Throughout this research the usage of different methods that can support all evidences it will be stated along with a questionnaire as data can easily be collected. And with the use of this data the excel programme and the use of diagrams will be used to calculate the amount of responses that each individual has answered to support my research. The definition of e-learning and the benefits of it will be mention and the purpose of it alongside with who is more likely to use VLE for example, teachers, students etc. Advantages and disadvantages of online classes, what individuals find about using the online platform as a second form of learning.

Background

VLE, stands for virtual learning environment, is an online platform which allows students to have online classes without physically having contact with their lectures this means that is a system that provides learning for students via web. It uses the computer software and internet engine to give instructions to students. When using VLE you can either access it during class "on campus" or at home "off campus". This is an easier platform, as it allows students to review their lessons 24/7 outside the lecturer's hours. This makes accessible to students who cannot attend on campus so often due to personal reasons, with this they are able to participate and be part of the lessons. Lectures provide their content for a good procedure of a lesson via a management application which allows either lectures or students to access. This management application is the virtual learning, it uses different methods of technology which it implies the online platform that helps lecturers/ teachers to better communicate with the students, giving them a good amount of support on their progress.

Virtual learning comes in different forms, **computer based**, that it provides by a software instruction not by a teacher. It is installed in a computer server that it can be adapted to suit each student's needs. **Internet based**, it is roughly similar to computer based but the software which implies instructions are delivered by web and saved on a remote server. **Remote teacher online**, is a platform which the teacher sets instructions not by face to face presence with the students, but instead the interaction with the students is via internet or other platform that it is set for the respective purpose. **Blended learning**, is a combination of virtual learning and the

traditional way, the face to face classroom teacher's instructions. **Facilitated virtual learning**, it includes the four above points. It supplements by a human facilitator that is not directed by students but yes by tutors or other additional supervisors that are assisting for students. **Online learning**, it is a platform that is instructed over the internet. **Full-time online** is an online learning platform that does not require the idea to be shown face to face, instruction or facilitation.

Secondary research approach will be conducted to collect quantitative and qualitative data.

The purpose of virtual learning environment

The purpose of VLE is to provide educational studies via technology in a web-based platform for digital courses within the educational institution.

VLE has now a big impact in terms of scholar academic society. The development of new methods is growing, and with this, institutions are not using textbook materials anymore as it is not worth it. One of the common materials used in universities or other institutions is blackboard. As blackboard enables lecturers to create a manageable source that can benefit from. students to access the resources online as it enhances teaching and the learning efforts.

Benefits of VLE for students and teachers

For students the benefits of VLE is it allows each student to learn at their own pace, giving the opportunity to achieve new skills without having to leave their homes. It facilitates students who have kids as they don't have to pay for childcare expenses so they can attend the courses, they can easily manage their time with the faculty and their own kids.

As for teachers the benefits of VLE is that they're able to produce lessons or specific training courses that students can complete. Teachers can easily set a lesson for different days allowing them to have more time for other respective tasks that they have to complete. With this it allows the students to engage with their courses giving them the ability to discover what's behind on what they are doing. In general it allows both students and lecturers to gain experience and also it gives the opportunity to deliver courses for more students to join the programme/ course.

Challenges

The challenges that can be faced when using VLE is some lectures who are not familiarised with the programme can often find it difficult to manage as this is a

platform that is combined with many other functions that it helps the system run smoothly. Therefore, when a lecturer is not trained to use this platform, they will not be able to use as they have to select new features and functionalities that they can adapt to it, helping with the management of the platform, alongside with a well-structured development plan.

Integration, students and teachers are expected to use different systems for different purposes.

Aims and objectives

. **To gain more knowledge about the virtual learning environment-** Usage of secondary research and own knowledge to provide information and develop more knowledge about VLE.

. **To understand and identify the impact of university saint David “UWTSD”-** primary research is conducted in a form of a questionnaire, data is then collected to back up all evidences that is provided throughout the research.

. **Understand the e-learning concept-** Secondary research approach is conducted to understand the importance of virtual learning in the education sector

Methods

The methods that was conducted throughout this research was to understand the importance and the impact of VLE on the university Moodle on students and teacher's day to day lives. In this case a primary research was provided with a questionnaire/ an online platform survey that was created and presented to users for example colleagues and teachers, then all the responses were gathered and stored in an appropriated way. Alongside with a secondary research was done to identify the importance of virtual learning, what is virtual learning and what types of services were produced along the research. For example, the usage of articles was used in this research providing appropriated and relevant data that was then collected and stored.

Template of the survey

Questions 1-5	YES	NO
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Are you familiarised with Moodle?		
Have you had any sort of training to used Moodle?		
Are you finding Moodle useful?		
Do you think that Moodle is a good E-learning platform?		
Are you finding that virtual learning is a good way of studying?		

Questions 6-7	Agree	Strongly agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Do you think that e-learning platform has helped you with your learning/ studies?				
Do you recommend the usage of Moodle e-learning platform?				

Questions 8-12	Personal Responses
If you had an opportunity to change something on the e-learning platform/ Moodle what would you change?	
How often do you use Moodle?	
Are you having a good experience with online classes? why?	
How do you feel of having online classes?	
Do you prefer ordinary classes or the virtual platform? why?	

13.How easy is the accessibility to use the online classes?



14.How easy is to communicate with your lectures?



15.From 1-10 rate your overall experience with Moodle

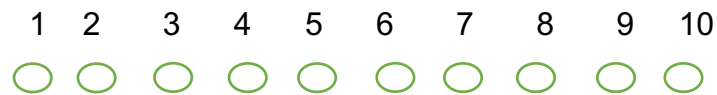
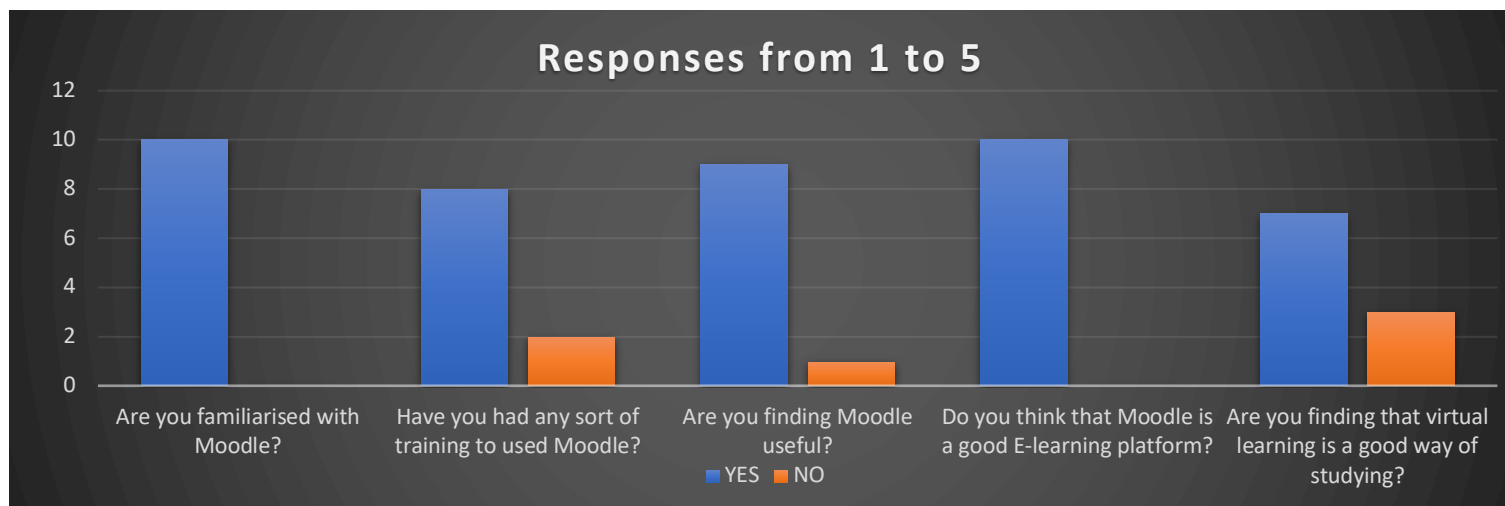


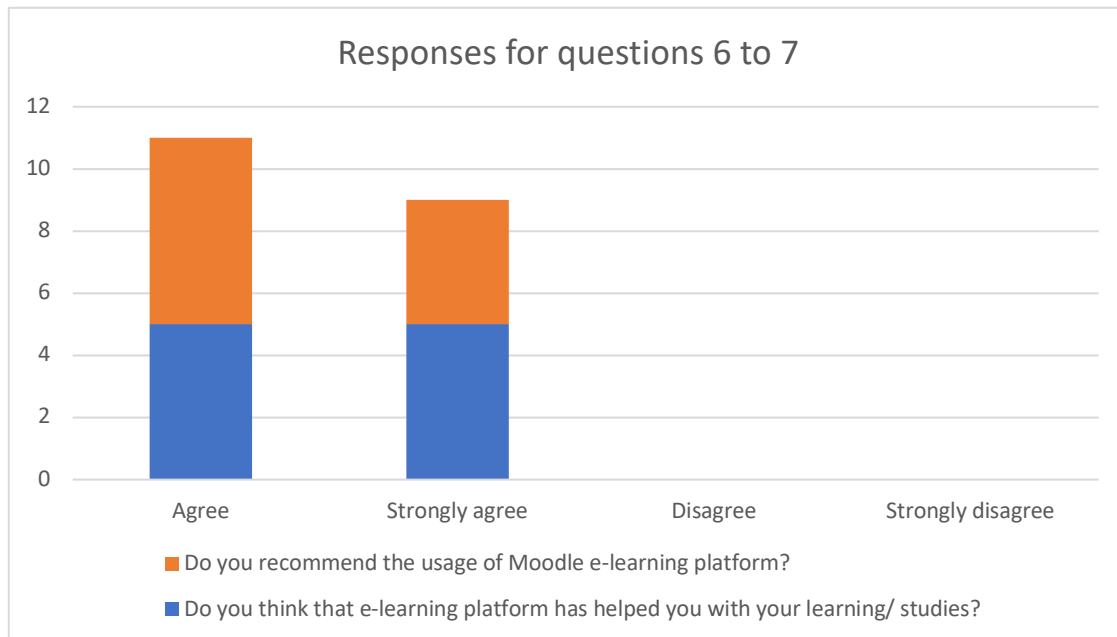
Table of results

Questions 1-5	YES	NO
Are you familiarised with Moodle?	10	0
Have you had any sort of training to used Moodle?	8	2
Are you finding Moodle useful?	9	1
Do you think that Moodle is a good E-learning platform?	10	0
Are you finding that virtual learning is a good way of studying?	7	3



Analysing the graph I can see that major of the results are very positive from question1 to 5 in total only 6 people have had negative responses about the e-learning platform and the university Moodle

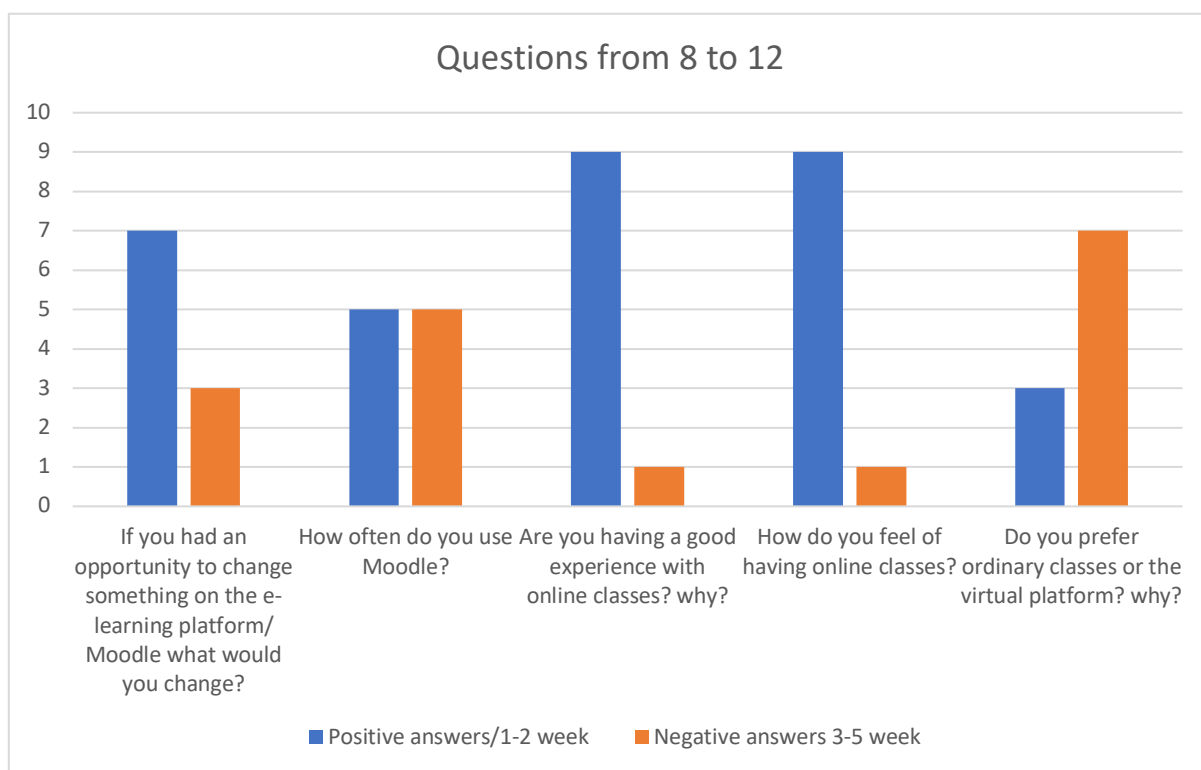
Questions 6-7	Agree	Strongly agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Do you think that e-learning platform has helped you with your learning/ studies?	5	5	0	0
Do you recommend the usage of Moodle e-learning platform?	6	4	0	0



Giving back a feedback to this graph from questions 6 to 7 I can say that the results are 100% positive the answers falls in between agree and strongly agree meaning that people recommend the usage of Moodle in an e-learning platform, as well as they find e-learning to be a good platform of learning and studying alongside, it helps the management of a good learning and studying.

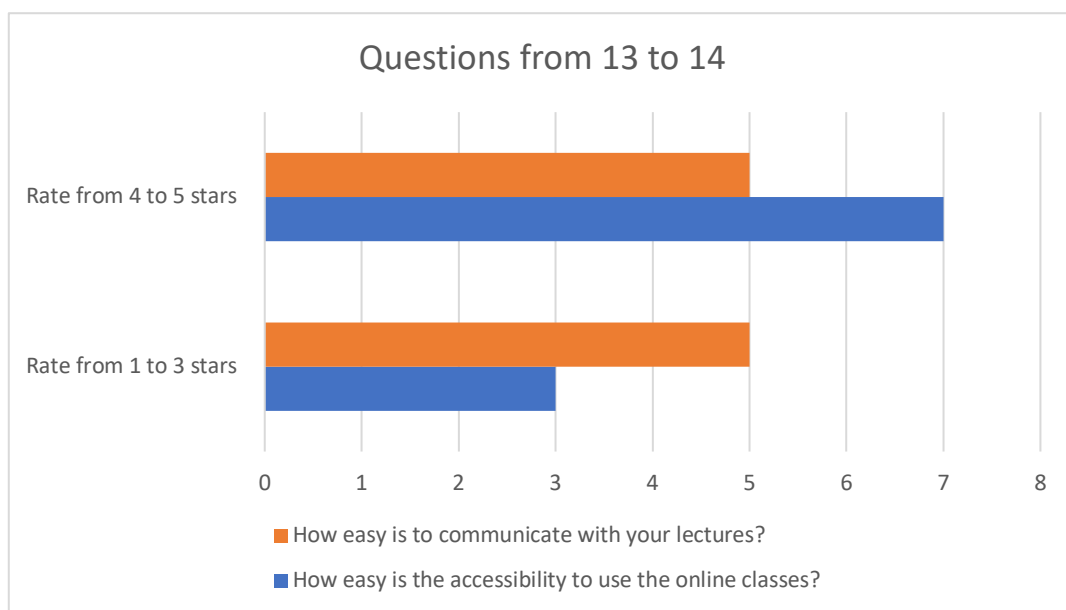
Questions 8-12	Positive answers/1-2 week	Negative answers 3-5 week
If you had an opportunity to change something on the e-learning platform/ Moodle what would you change?	7	3
How often do you use Moodle?	5	5

Are you having a good experience with online classes? why?	9	1
How do you feel of having online classes?	9	1
Do you prefer ordinary classes or the virtual platform? why?	3	7



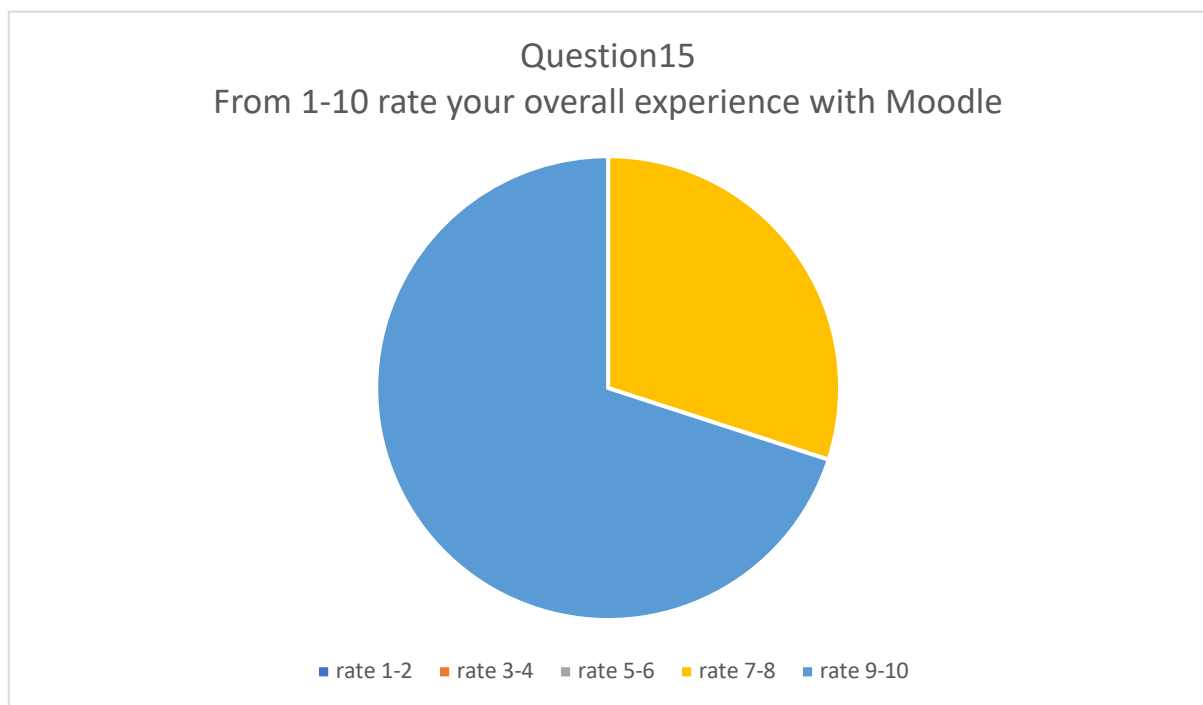
In relation to this graph the questions from 8 to 12 all positive questions are in the lead we can see that people are having good experiences with this online platform, this is why one of the question that is showing in this graphs states if people had opportunity what would they change on either the e-learning platform or Moodle. We also can see that there is an equal response either 1-2 weeks of usage of Moodle or 3-5 a week.

Questions 13 to 14	Rate from 1 to 3 stars	Rate from 4 to 5 stars
How easy is the accessibility to use the online classes?	3	7
How easy is to communicate with your lectures?	5	5



Analysing questions 13 and 14 from this graph I can see a mixture of answers more than half have given 4 to 5 stars to online classes being accessible, less than half have disagreed with that. We can also see that question 14 it is mentioned how easy is to communicate with the lectures, the answers are similar half and half of people that did the questionnaire think that it is easy to communicate with the lectures and in the other hand it is not so easy.

Question 15	1-2	3-4	5-6	7-8	9-10
From 1-10 rate your overall experience with Moodle	0	0	0	3	7



In this pie chart the overall experience of using the Moodle platform is very positive, people are enjoying the different aspects that Moodle is been giving.

Discussion

In relation to the results presented in the questionnaire along with the graphs\pie chart I could presence people's opinions and their point of views about the e-learning

platform, VLE and the University Moodle. I could see that people use different ways that can suit their ability of learning. Therefore, I am very satisfied with the performance of the questionnaire, relevant information that eventually helped me throughout this research.

I have used various methods and platforms that helped complete the research primary and secondary approached was used all along this research. This project was a different way of learning, this because along this project I was only using VLE, E-learning platform and Moodle all along my project, with this pandemic going on at the moment I have realised that my skills have been improved. I was able to carry on with the questionnaires via online platform giving the opportunity to send the questions and get the responses on time, with the ability of using the e-learning platform I was able to carry on with my studies and learning also giving the opportunity to maintain in contact with my lectures.

Conclusion

This research is about the impact of virtual learning environment on UWTSD. This research will be conducted with primary and secondary research which it will back up all evidences that will be provided throughout this research. A table of a questionnaire will be inserted with all the results from people's responses, alongside with graphs and a pie chart showing all answers.

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