



IMPACT OF VIRTUAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Digital Skills And Research Methods – BMSW4003



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Introduction

Virtual learning environments are virtual platforms which enables teachers & students to discuss and share resources and interact with each other. These platforms are designed to teach online alternatively work as a exclusive feature for face-to-face online courses. VLE aims to ease, persuade, and provide learning experiences that go past the classroom learnings. VLE enables students to take lecture notes, making assignments, questionnaires, and other learning materials and make them ready for revising and examinations or create projects on a specific subject through the software such as Zoom, Google Meet, Google Classroom, Microsoft Teams, Skype, and other social media. Most educational bodies use a mix learning approach, which combines in-class activity with the help of a learning management system as an addition to the traditional classroom-based approach (Thomas, 2012). There are plenty of benefits of using VLE , which can be demonstrated in positive exercises from various studies. This form of learning is seen more prevalent than ever throughout history because of the worldwide fallout of Covid-19.

Literature Review

As per Dommett, (2019) VLEs are classed as a superior framework for customary educational program conveyance from one perspective and as facilitators of wide arriving at academic change on the other. Instructors can utilize talk to speak with their understudies straightforwardly or communicate something specific, and on the off chance that they need to connect with their students, they can utilize Skype or videoconferencing to mastermind a gathering. Balint and Allbeck, (2017) expressed that these applications are instances of how outer apparatuses can be connected to a VLE as a vault. It can empower more noteworthy admittance to the educational program, through explicit mechanical advancement yet additionally basically as PC intervened correspondence can make it simpler for modest or calm understudies to participate. As per Jain, (2002) This investigation inspects the information got from understudies' sign in to a VLE to identify frequencies and needs of understudies' selection of exercises in a VLE, as there is a lot of that we actually don't think about the factors, for example, how understudies do or don't utilize highlights like the conversation board, and what they look like for assets and related substance, that is, their genuine movement when utilizing a VLE and the amount it affects understudies'

exhibition estimated by marks. Another part of this examination is to distinguish the connection between the noticed factors obviously see, asset see, gathering view the conversation, discussion see discussion, task see, project transfer, task transfer and the variable understudies' last imprint.

Aims and Objectives of this Research

The objectives of this report are stated below:

- To analyse the effectiveness of virtual learning environment for academic learning.
- To analyse the internal ability of both students and teachers to implement a virtual learning environment.
- To analyse the impact of Virtual Learning Environment on the learning experience of the student.

Methodology

Research philosophy

Philosophy of the research depicts the way of conducting research which traces the path of collection data, interpreting data and conducting research. Interpretivism is a thought that portrays that perceptible realities should be consolidated into the investigation (Crème and Lea, 2003).

In this study, the researcher intends to use positivism philosophy of research under epistemology as the researcher intends to analyse existing information to examine the hypothesis.

Research approach

Research approach alludes the systemic process to finish the required research tasks. The analyst approach is separated into two subclasses, for example, inductive methodology and deductive methodology. The deductive methodology is the examination cycle where the scientist from the start survey distributed writing, discoveries, and speculations to build up another theory concerning the relationship of the exploration point and afterwards research the theory to test the relationship of the examination theme (Bryman and Bell, 2015).

In this study, the researcher will intend to use the deductive approach of research as the researcher intends to analyse the existing resources and develop hypothesis rather than developing a new theory based on this topic.

Research method

Method of the research alludes the requirement of types of data in research. The research method is basically of two types including quantitative and qualitative method. The quantitative strategy is the technique to consolidate just the realities expressible in numeric figures where the subjective technique licenses to join muddled human conduct into study not expressible in numeric scales. In the quantitative technique, specialist requires gathering information in the numeric structure (Collis, 2010).

In this study, the researcher will intend to use the quantitative method of research as the researcher intends to analyse the existing resources in numeric form.

Source of data and method of data collection

In this study, both primary and secondary source of data is used which are analysed in the data analysis section. Essential information is never utilized in any examination and gathered distinctly with the end goal of the exploration (Cooper and Schindler 2006). Conversely, optional information is the utilized and second gave information that is gathered from existing writing, diary, papers and so on. Primary data are collected through questionnaire form and secondary data are collected from different websites and journals.

Results and Analysis

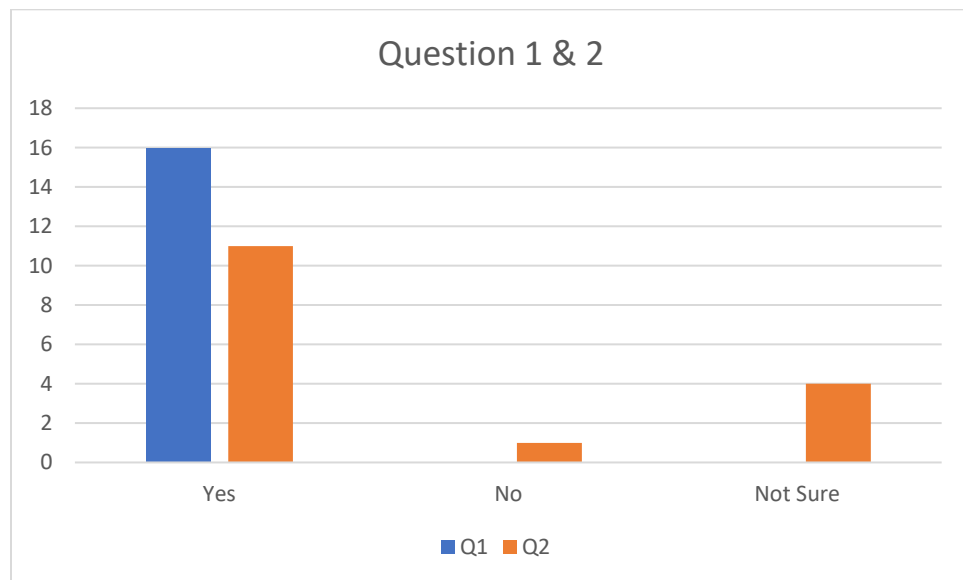
Q-1: Is it hard to use virtual learning platform?

As the study is conducted online, all the selected respondents cannot respond within the given time. The analysis of the first question shows that almost 100% of students heard the uses of VLE tools and they think that it is easy to use.

Q-2: Do you prefer to use VLE until you complete this course?

In the fourth question, the preference for using VLE is asked to know. The analysis of data shows that 11 out of 16 students want to use VLE until completing this course as they have good literacy about using VLE. In contrast, 1 out of 16 students does not want to use VLE until completing this course and the rest of the students have no opinion about this question.

Questions	Yes	No	Not Sure
Q1	16	0	0
Q2	11	1	4



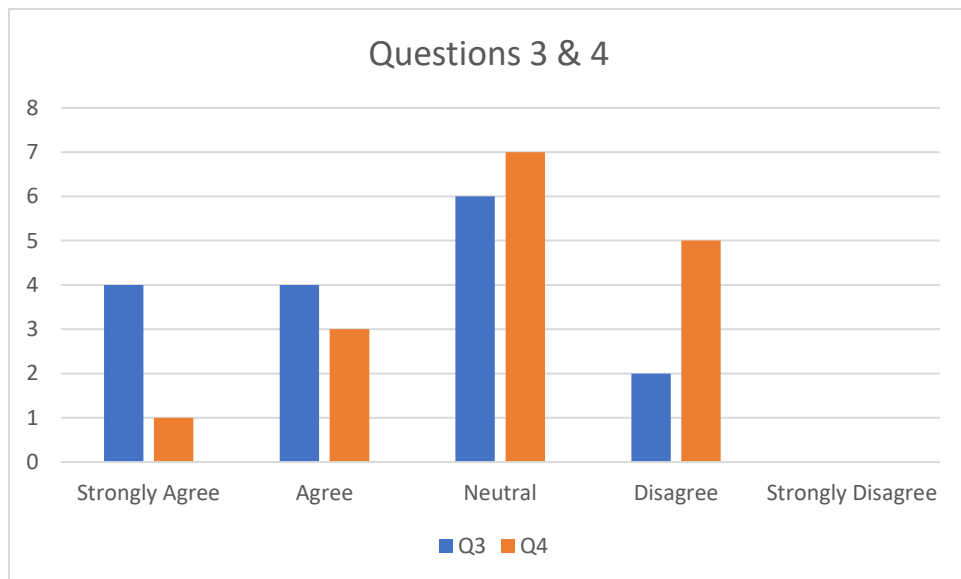
Q-3: Virtual Learning platform is the best learning platform for higher studies?

VLE is widely used for educational activities in a present pandemic situation. Both the satisfaction level and opinion of students are assessed in this question. 50% of students think that VLE is the best learning platform for higher studies and 6 out of 16 respondents have no opinion about this state and only 2 out of 16 students disagree with this statement.

Q-4: Effectiveness of the VLE is more than classroom teaching?

In the present pandemic situation, it is thought that VLE is a more effective teaching technique than classroom teaching. The analysis shows that only 4 out of 16 students agree with VLE is more than classroom teaching which is 25% through most of the respondents 7 out of 16 have no opinion and 5 out of 16 have a native attitude about the statement.

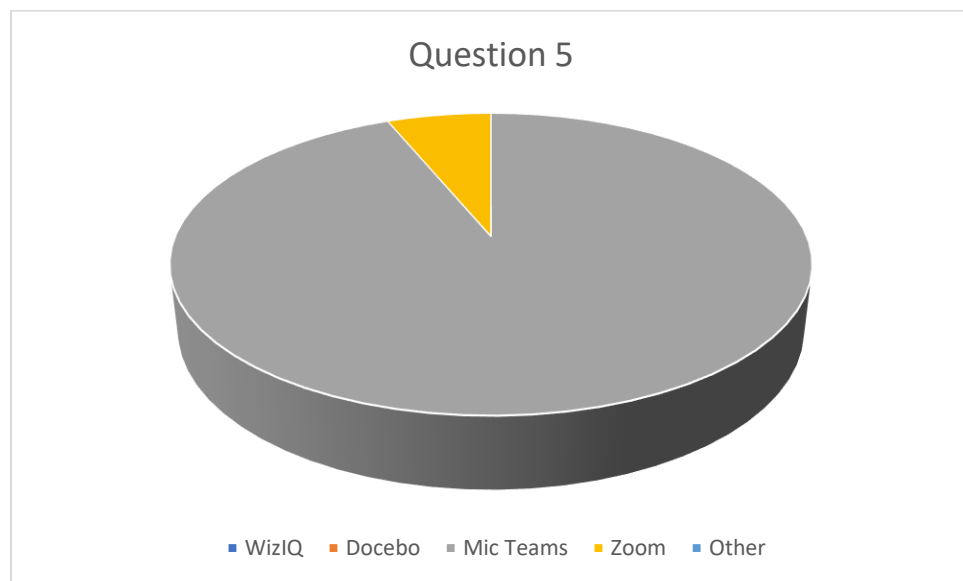
Questions	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Q3	4	4	6	2	0
Q4	1	3	7	5	0



Q-5: Which platform you prefer to use for VLE?

The different online platform is available to implement VLE in education and most of these are free of cost. The analysis of the respondent's response shows that most of the students 15 out of 16 prefer to use Mic Teams platform to implement VLE in academic education and only 1 respondent prefers to use Zoom.

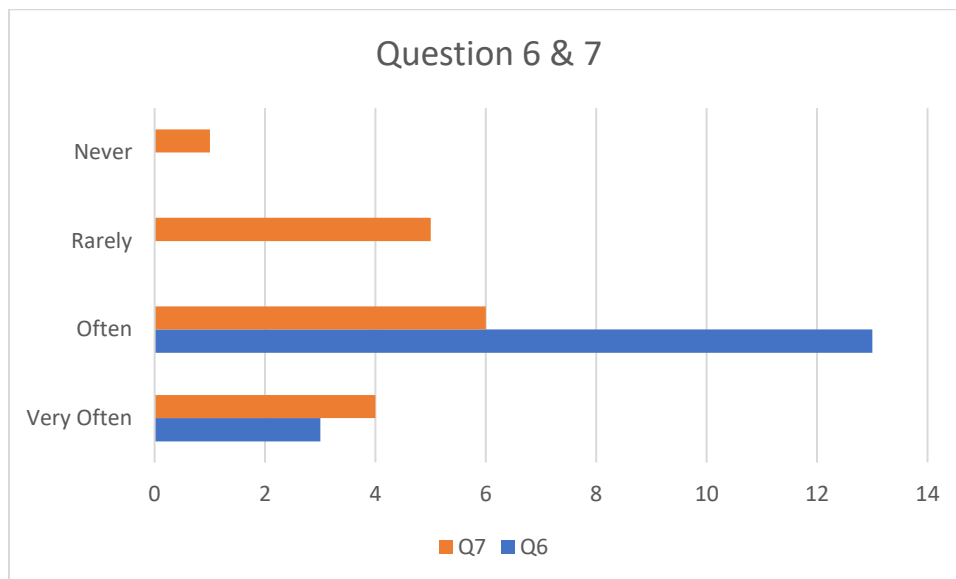
Questions	WizIQ	Docebo	Mic Teams	Zoom	Other
Q5	0	0	15	1	0



Q-6&7: How often you use the platform of virtual learning with your lecturer and your colleagues?

Research data are collected through using online close-ended questionnaire form as present pandemic situation creates a restriction in field research. Data analysis shows that almost 80% students use VLE tools very frequently and frequently and only 20% have some difficulty to use VLE as they use it rarely, but they also have sufficient knowledge about uses of VLE platform.

Questions	Very Often	Often	Rarely	Never
Q6	3	13	0	0
Q7	4	6	5	1



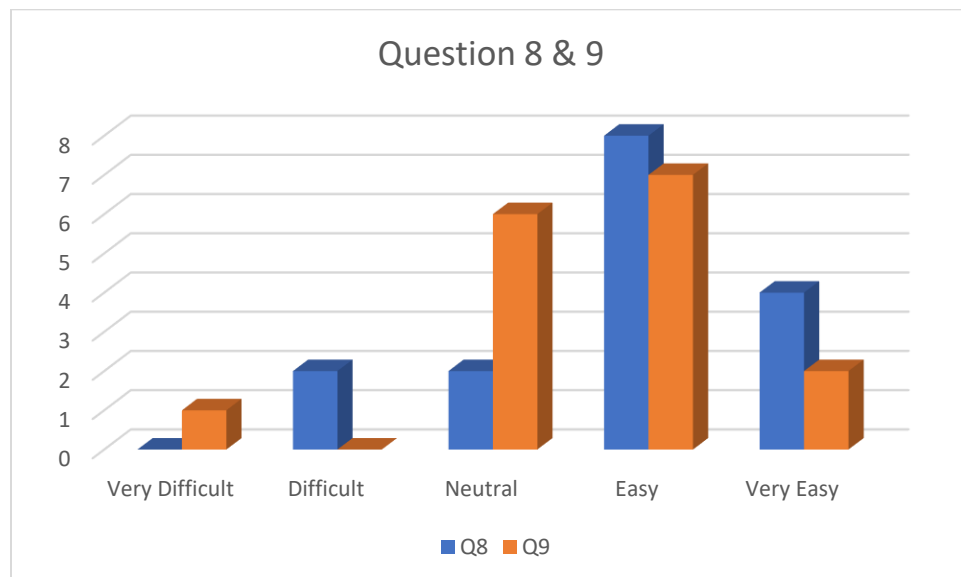
Q-8: How confident are you in terms of using VLE for your studies?

The easiness of both teachers and students needs to be assessed before implementing VLE. The analysis of the respondent's response shows that most of the students 12 out of 16 find VLE easy and confident to use in academic education and only 2 respondents find difficulty to use VLE and other 2 students have no opinion.

Q-9: How difficult do you find in terms of the services provided by the lecturers and the admin via VLE?

The easiness of service provided by both teachers and admin via VLE needs to be assessed before implementing VLE. The analysis of the respondent's response shows that most of the students 9 out of 16 find VLE easy and confident to use in terms of service provided by both teachers and admin via VLE and only 1 respondent find difficulty to use VLE and other 6 students have no opinion.

Questions	Very Difficult	Difficult	Neutral	Easy	Very Easy
Q8	0	2	2	8	4
Q9	1	0	6	7	2



Q-10: What is your overall experience or opinion about VLE in education?

Before using and implementing VLE in academic level, overall experience or opinion of the users need to be assessed. The analysis of response shows that only 4 out of 16 have a positive experience about using VLE and most of the students 8 out of 16 have negative experience about using VLE and rest of the respondents have no opinion about the statement.

Questions	Positive	Neutral	Negative
Q10	4	4	8



Secondary Data Analysis

A particularly kept up VLE ought to enable understudies of all learning styles to get the best guidance, such that they may not in an only talk based climate which will, in general, be centred around hear-able students just. Virtual learning conditions signify virtual platforms that instructors and understudies can use to present and share assets and exercises and connect with each other. These stages can be utilized to show a totally online course or as a supporting element for up close and personal courses (Thomas, 2012). Their principle objective is to ease, stimulate and give learning encounters that go past the classroom. The resources on a VLE don't consider the necessities of the understudies both to the extent their plan and their substance the VLE is enough conveyed futile as it doesn't add to the understudies' learning experience. The couple of investigations of their utilization centre around the advantages of a VLE to a learning establishment or the instructive lacks they help to survive (KALAYCI, 2015).

Conclusion and Recommendations

In conclusion, it can be said that VLE has great importance in the present pandemic situation. Above analysis and the whole study shows that VLE has both merits and demerits in higher education. Before using and implementing VLE in the academic setting of the University of Wales, overall experience or opinion of the users need to be assessed.

Recommendations

- An empirical analysis of data shows that 11 out of 16 students want to use VLE until completing this course as they have good literacy about using VLE. This result depicts the curiosity of students to use VLE.
- Empirical analysis shows that only 4 out of 16 students agree with VLE is more effective than classroom teaching. As the number is very poor, the authority should take proper step to convince students by advertising the importance of VLE in education and arranging training session about VLE.
- An empirical analysis of response shows that only 4 out of 16 have a positive experience about using VLE in this study. If the authority wants to implement VLE, it is must find out the individual problem to use VLE and try to fix a major problem effectively.

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Appendix

Questions

Responses

16

Online Survey - Virtual Learning Environment

I have been assigned a task for my module (DSR - Digital Skills and Research Methods) which requires me to produce an online survey regarding Virtual Learning Environment and receive feedback from my colleagues who use any virtual platform for their studies. Kindly provide your feedback by completing this survey based on your experience of VLE.

1. Is it hard to use a virtual learning platform?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not Sure

2. Do you prefer to use VLE until you complete this course?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not Sure

3. Virtual Learning platform is the best learning platform for higher studies?

- ☐ Strongly Agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly Disagree

4. Effectiveness of the VLE is more than classroom teaching?

- ☐ Strongly Agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly Disagree

5. Which platform you prefer to use for VLE?

- ☐ WizIQ
- ☐ Docebo
- ☐ Microsoft Teams
- ☐ Zoom
- ☐ Other

6. How often do you use your selected software in Q5?

- ☐ Very Often
- ☐ Often
- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ Never

7. How often do you use your virtual learning platform to communicate with your colleagues and lectures?

☐ Very Often

☐ Often☐ Rarely☐ Never

8. How confident are you in terms of using VLE for your studies?

1 2 3 4 5

Very Difficult ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ Very Easy

9. How difficult do you find in terms of the services provided by the lecturers and the admin via VLE? ●



Linear scale ▼

1 ▼ to 5 ▼

1 Very Difficult

5 Very Easy



Required



10. What is your overall experience or opinion about VLE in education?

Long answer text