

DARIO SHEHU

DSR Assessment 2
INDIVIDUAL REPORT

DIGITAL SKILLS AND RESEARCH
METHODS, TERM 1

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SUMMARY

The main reason of this project is to conduct an appropriate and effective research that will allow us to understand the fundamentals of “VLE” better known as Virtual Learning Environment, through the knowledge and tools of Moodle which is provided by this University. The aim of the report is to improve students digital skills within the workplace and to develop the awareness of the importance of effective analysis information and its translation into knowledge. This module is structured in different stages which will allow you to understand in a valid and effective way, the importance of virtual learning experience and its impact on the students. The qualitative methodology will be used in this report to focus on the meaning of the experience, it will be represented in a constructive way what can be the pros and cons of it. The goal is to make students understand, discover and describe their reason that lead to certain responses regarding VLE and Moodle. The research combines and utilises a variety of qualitative methodologies, like interviews, questionnaires, surveys and focus groups.

What is VLE?

Virtual learning environment is an abstract and virtual system which allows organizations, teachers and students to absorb information in order to improve their skills and knowledge. Typical web-based platform, it is the present and the future of the learning circle.

Research Objectives:

The general objective of this research is to conduct an interview/questionnaire to eight students in a qualitative stage regarding the experience with Moodle. A framework is created to ensure that this research is focused and effective.

QUESTION	ANSWER
1.What do you think about Moodle?	I think Moodle is a very good platform which it allows you to get a lot of information and helps you through the research of materials such as lessons, library, assessments etc..
2.What do you like about Moodle?	I really like the fact that I can review and study again the previous lectures, so it is very helpful as you can also download it and keep it on your files. Mostly because before the assessments you can have time to reflect on what you learned and get a solid preparation.
3.Which section do you prefer the most?	The section that I prefer the most is the library, it helped me during my assessments for the research and finding articles, it is not so easy to use but very efficient as you can find everything you need with the relevant citations and references.

4.Do you find it easy to access?	The access to the portal of Moodle is very easy as you only need to go through the website and login with your username id, which is the email that the university provided you and the relevant password. Done this you can check your phone or computer if you received the message from authenticator app and then so by approving it you will be able to enter and stay connected all day.
5.What would you change to improve the platform? (explain why)	I wouldn't change anything at the moment because it has everything that is necessary for the student to complete his work and to conduct his research efficiently, moreover, as it is well known, it is always possible to use any other website for more information.
6.Will you continue using it in the future? (why)	In the future I see new technologies take advantages of the e-learning with better operation methods than Moodle, so unless it gets updated year by year in a sophisticated way and in a more entertaining way I will not use it.
7.How it has improved your learning?	Moodle has improved dramatically my learning curve thanks to its practical and concrete tools, it has helped me a lot in gathering data, analysis, lecture reading and research.
8.Would you suggest this platform to others? (why)	I would recommend this platform to people who want to learn quickly and want to get a better understanding about virtual learning. I would also suggest it especially for those who undertake a professional and business training courses.

This table above is showing us the most important and relevant answers of the students after the private questionnaire that I made to them online

during this period of pandemic, the subject in question is Moodle and the impact of the Virtual Learning.

Research Methodology:

Qualitative

Purpose:

The purpose of the qualitative method in this report is to conduct a one-to-one interview with each of the candidates/students by asking questions and understanding their motivation and emotions behind the relative answers. This method is not only about “what” people think in regards of Moodle but also “why” they think in that manner.

There are different types of qualitative research methods like an in-depth interview, focus groups, ethnographic research, content analysis, case study research that are usually used. A focus group will be used in this contest as it is also one of the commonly used qualitative research methods, in fact it usually includes a limited number of respondents (in this case 8) from within your target market.

People:

The focus group will take place online behind a screen for this occasion, through the Microsoft Teams application used for this course lectures. It will be limited to the students of the first year in CerTHE skills for the workplace class. It will be divided into two groups :

- Alpha Focus Group (4 participants)
- Beta Focus Group (4 participants)

In the first group (Alpha) we will have two males and two females inside, they were chosen by me for the reason that they already had experience with platform similar to Moodle, meanwhile in the second group (Beta) we will have two males and two females that have never used E-learning as a method of study before this course.

ALPHA	BETA
Total of 4 people • 2 males and 2 females • From 25 to 36 years old • All of them lives in London • Experience in Virtual learning before this course • Same country (England)	Total of 4 people • 2 males and 2 females • From 20 to 25 years old • Living outside London • No experience before this course • 4 different countries (Germany, Spain, Italy, Bulgaria)

Justification of the research:

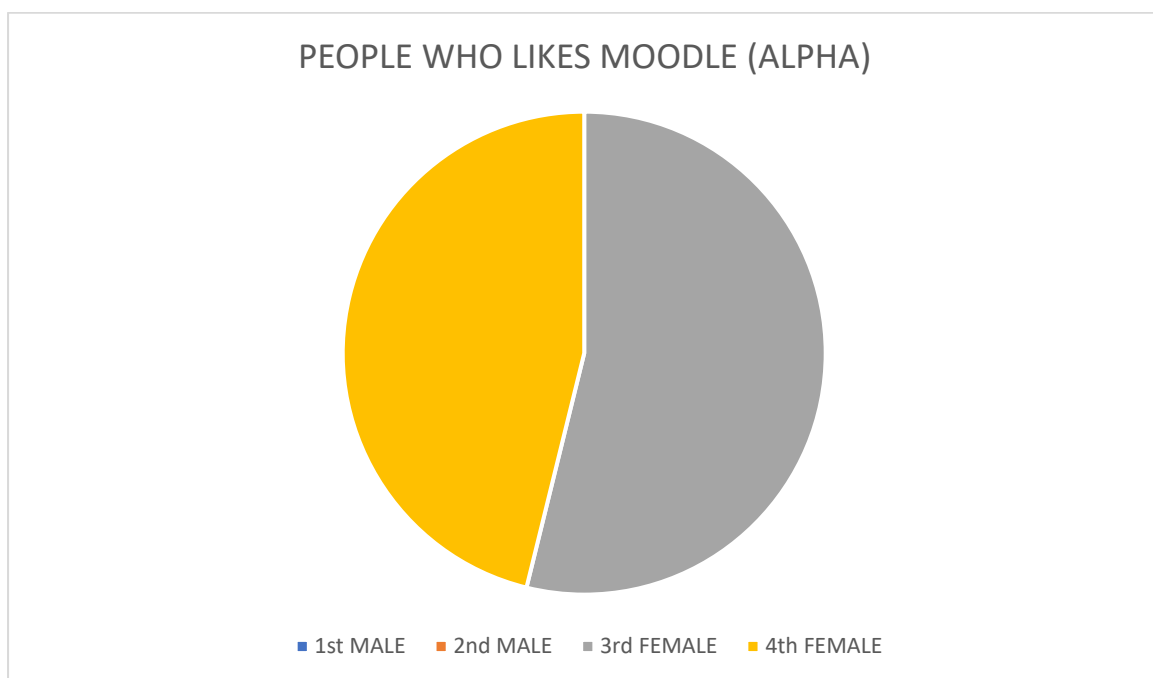
I have collected data in base of the answers of each student via Microsoft teams. Before the presentation of the questionnaire I wanted to take just a few minutes of small talk with them so to break the ice and to be able to get through the interview smoothly. Activities relative Moodle and VLE are areas that we explored within the questions, also just after the little brief I attended to explain the purpose of it so just to make a point of view. The discussion with everyone lasted around 30 minutes, without break, as we were very focused and the guys felt comfortable for sharing their experiences and opening themselves, thanks to this I was in-depth analysis of the topic in question.

In this questionnaire there were 8 quality questions, starting from the first general ones such as, for example “What do you think about Moodle?”, up to the last which are the most reflective ones. Majority of the people involved in this activity were happy with the platform and with the way it helped them conducting their homework, projects and exams. Obviously there have been some negative responses but constructive and honest. This focus group will be semi-structured, meaning the predetermined questions provide a backbone for the conversation but are open ended to stimulate further opinions.

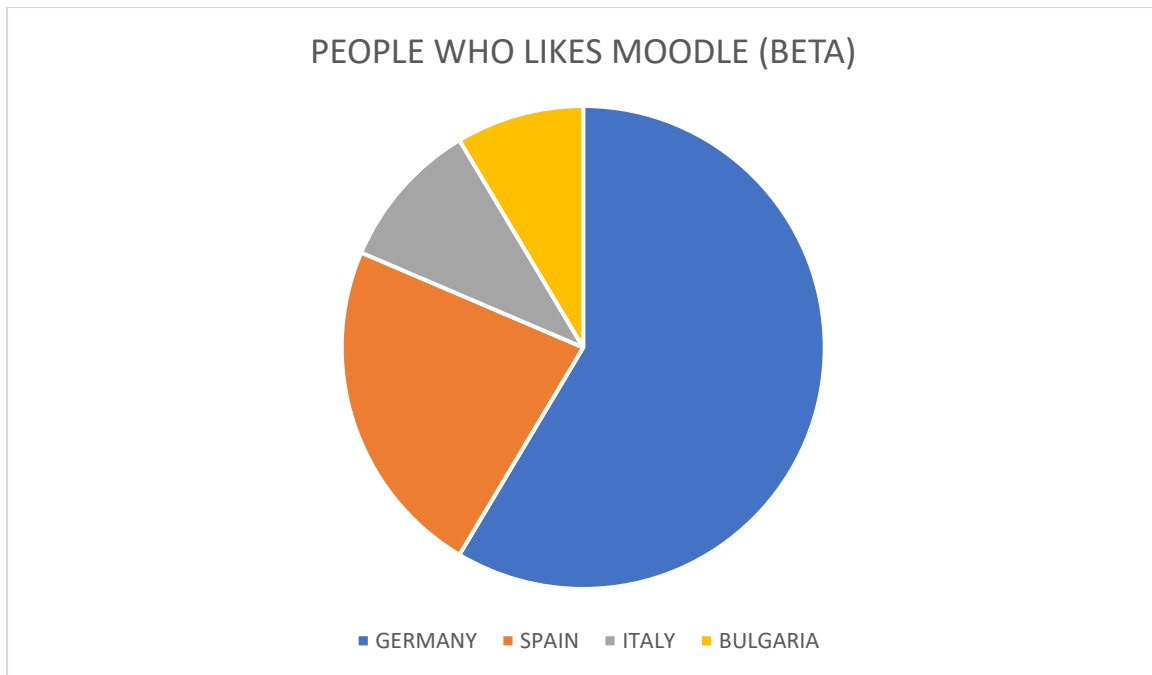
Research Findings:

Qualitative

After engaging in the focal point institution we were left with very prolonged transcripts from the discussions. Hence we used statistics reduction, sorting the transcribed data into three predominant classes which aligned with the qualitative objectives. I have created more than one visual diagrams to present our findings in an coherent manner and supplied the patterns inside our facts. Since the qualitative facts we acquired is descriptive, we had been capable of analyse the sentiment of our participants.



In this graph it is shown that in the first group only the two ladies liked Moodle, meanwhile the two remaining students weren't happy with it.



In this graph is shown in different shapes how everyone in the second group liked the experience of Moodle.

Conclusion

Based on the qualitative analysis, it is evident that most of the people have left the interviews with a positive feedback regarding the learning curve with Moodle and knowledge of the Virtual learning. This research has been made with the intent to understand different point of views of the candidates and to educate them on how to approach within the platform.

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