

The impact of virtual learning environment on the learning experience of the students at UWTSD London campus

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Introduction

Background of the study

As per the view of Vaganova *et al.*, (2017, p. 3), the ***Internet and personal computers*** have revolutionized the entire globe. Nowadays people can share their thoughts and ideas just in a second at a minimum cost. Therefore, the advancement of technology has made everything possible and remarkable. Similarly, the advancement of technology is transforming the student's learning style. Indeed, they can learn and check the lectures virtually that they have missed. Therefore, the virtual learning environments help the students to improve their educational quality, achievement and educational access.

Research Problem

The issues that have been created due to the virtual learning environment are it requires machinery, no direct face-to-face interaction, brainstorming, team-building and other such activities. Therefore, this research is being conducted to understand the issues faced by teachers and students. Also, the impact of VLE on the learning experience of the students at UWTSD London campus is being analyzed in this study.

Rationale

A virtual learning environment is used to conduct online classes. Although the professors also provide relevant lectures or important information through a link that can be beneficial for the students. It is not meant to replace the traditional classes rather it creates flipped classrooms. This is helpful for the students as they can grab the information until they absorb the same.

Research objectives

- To explore the concepts of Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) and Learning experience of students
- To investigate the impact of VLE on the learning experience of the students at UWTSD, London campus
- To evaluate strategies for improving the learning experience through VLE, within the university

Literature review

As per the opinion of Bogusevski *et al.*, (2020, p. 15), ***VLE*** may be used to enhance interaction between the students and professors, help in exchanging views, the students can discuss and provide feedback about their learning to students. It enables students to get useful materials, exchange views and feedbacks. It is something that the students would feel to be in the

classroom without physical contact. According to the opinion of Hassan *et al.*, (2019, p. 1950), VLE is helpful for everyone as this could save traveling time and many other advantages are associated with a virtual learning environment. As per the view of Yang *et al.*, (2018, p. 10), the virtual learning environment enables learning activities using games and enhances collaboration. Therefore, making the use of internet VLE software supports both teaching and management education.

The concept of VLE is much more comprehensive in comparison to CAI (computer-aided instructions). This is because it is useful to enhance interaction, discussion and communication between students and teachers. The interaction can also be possible among the group of students regarding some topic. According to the opinion of Chua and Chua, (2017, p. 120), VLE is a learning platform using the web and it is a fact that the concept of conventional education can be integrated with the virtual method. Therefore, VLE is a computer-based software tool used to complement the learning facilities like Managed Learning Environment, Learning Platforms, Learning Content Management System and lots more. As per the thesis, the names are given to some of the studies or VLE concept is being used. The studies are web-based learning, distance learning, online learning and e-learning. The students or an individual may experience some permanent changes after receiving VLE in their thinking, behavior, attitude, mentality and other areas.

Research Methodology

- ***Research method and the methodology***

It is important for an individual to understand research and research methodology. The method can be the tool used to conduct the research. The primary and secondary research methods are the two major methods of research; within primary research, qualitative and quantitative are two research techniques that are used. Since this research aims to analyse and evaluate the experience of the students on the virtual learning platforms, so the perspectives of the students as well as an exploration of the existing researches have been done, to present a wholesome view of the scenario.

- ***Qualitative, quantitative and combined approach***

Qualitative data can be based on the number of respondents and the questionnaire used to get the data. Quantitative data can be based on numerals and can be measured. The quantitative and

secondary approach is being used to understand the importance and impact of VLE on students in this research. It can provide data that can be used to analyze the ways it enhances or degrades the performance of the students.

- ***Primary and secondary data***

Primary data is vital as the views of an individual can be collected directly. Secondary data help the researcher to improve and add details on the existing data of research. This may be helpful as it improves the result, saves money and time. Thus, this research comprises of both the data.

- ***Data collection process***

The data collection can take place in various steps and it is important. The data which is being collected is analyzed and depends on various factors such as the sample size. For the purpose of this research, 50 students

- ***Population, sample and sample size***

The population that has been considered in this process involves students. Also, the number of students and its sample size is 50. 3 relevant research articles have been explored, for the thematic analysis on the topic.

- ***Ethics in data collection***

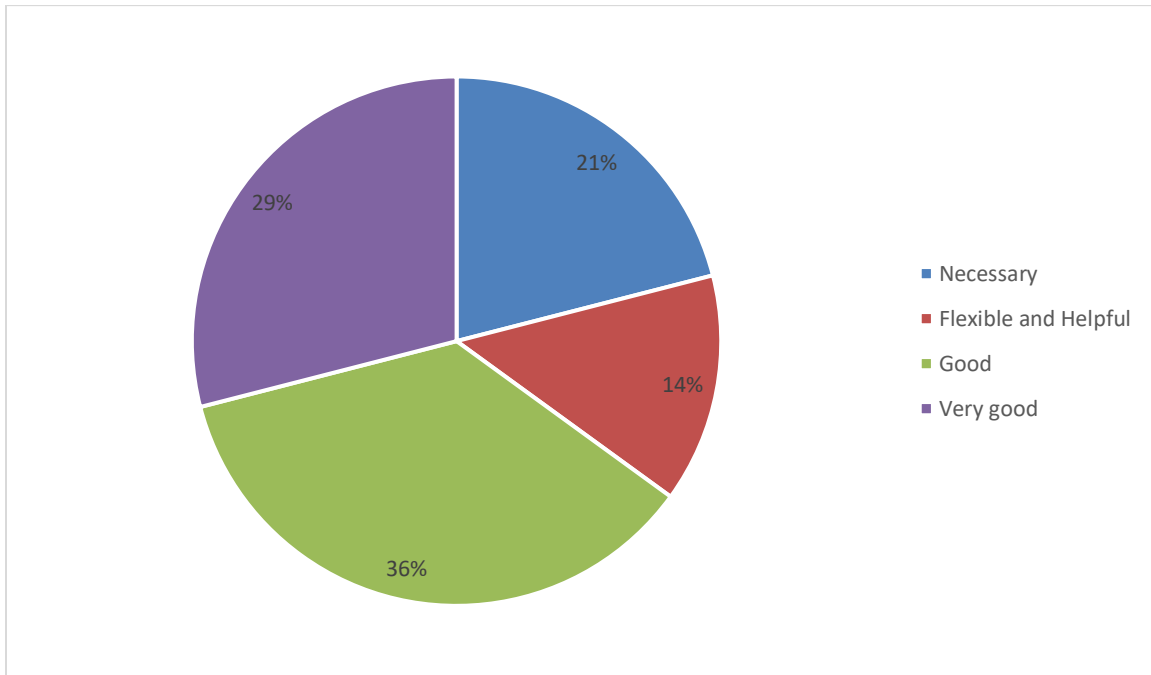
As per the opinion of Igaz et al., (2019, p. 95), it is necessary to reduce and avoid the things that may cause emotional or physical harm to respondents. It is also necessary to make the participants aware of the same.

Results or findings, analysis, and discussion

Primary data analysis

1.How do you see the virtual learning environment in the present?

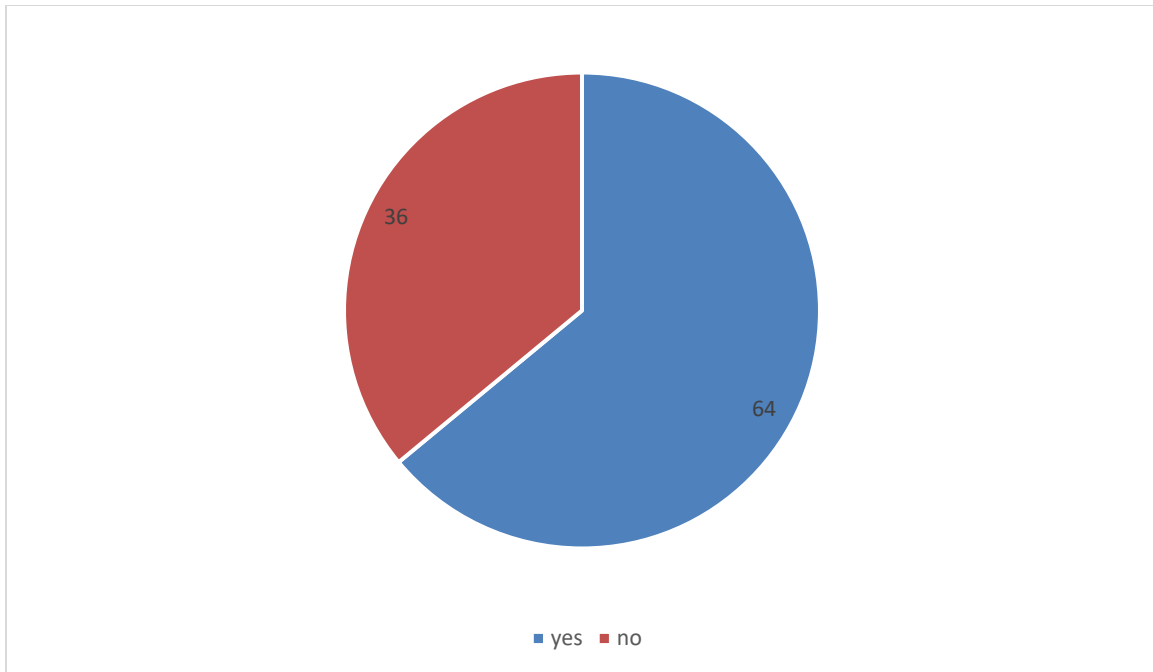
Response	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondents
Necessary	3	21
Flexible and Helpful	2	14
Good	5	36
Very good	4	29



From the above table and graph, it is understood that the maximum number of students say that the virtual learning environment is a good method of learning and is a self-paced method of learning. However, some of the students say that it is a very good platform of learning through which new skills can be learned also the approach is innovative. A certain group of students believe that the virtual learning environment is necessary. Furthermore, the rest of the students says that this method is flexible and helpful as they can attend the classes from home. As opined by Hamutoglu et al., (2020, p. 460), VLE offers benefits to students to enhance their skills without the need to travel. Also, it is helpful for them to view the lecture missed by them. The professors usually upload the lectures in a particular portal for students. This blended approach of learning keeps the students engaged and they find the subject interesting.

2. Does the virtual learning environment affect the students?

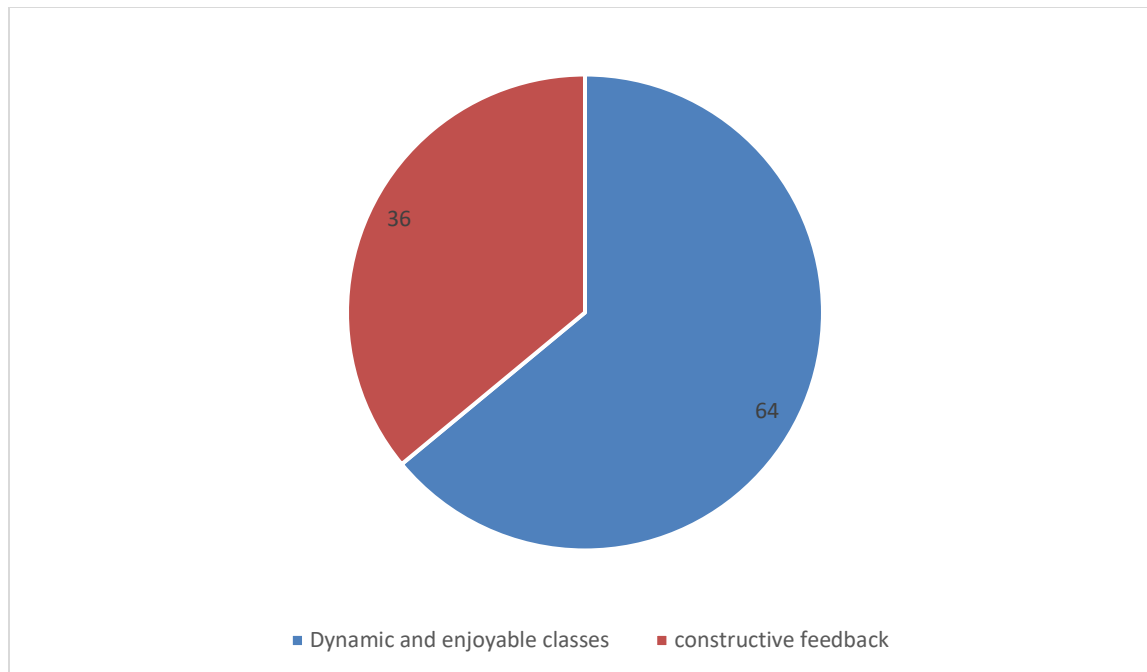
Answers	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondents
Yes	9	64%
No	5	36%



Majority of the respondents (yes) agrees that the VLE affects them because the varying degrees with the fact that VLE help in enhancing their learning experience. However, the minority of students which responded that VLE does not affect them is the evidence that VLE does not enhance their learning experience indeed they feel that this method is affecting their standard form of study. As per the thesis of Tsay *et al.*, (2018, p. 15), the VLE tool is fruitful and supports the experience gain by the students through learning. It helps in improving communication between tutors and students. This facility can be used by the students to develop their existing knowledge and also helpful for them as they can improve their ideas through discussion and debate. Furthermore, VLE tools are used for summative and summative assessment. It also consists of tools that allow the mass sharing of content among the groups as well as with tutors. The other facility offered by this tool includes student tracking. The professors can track the students' detail whether they have view the material or not.

3. How do you motivate learners in online classes?

Choice of answer	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondents
Dynamic and enjoyable classes	9	64%
Constructive feedback	5	36%



It can be inferred from the above table that majority (64%) of the student's agree that the motivation in VLE is dynamic and enjoyable classes the fact that self-paced learning and studying according to their own learning styles, enhances the performance in examinations. In this context, less than half (36%) of the students believe that the motivation in VLE is based on constructive feedback meaning that this form of study is good for them and helps them to enhance their skills and score good marks in the examination.

Secondary data analysis

Theme 1: Interrelationship between self-paced learning, catering to the learning style needs of different learners and enhanced student experience within educational institutes.

As per the view of Khlaisang and Songkram, (2019, p. 60), the style of learning is based on one's own approach and ways. Each and every student have their own form of preferred learning styles in comparison to their peers. Therefore, it is vital for the teachers to understand the forms of learning and its importance in the life of students. This can help the teachers to provide the materials based on the preferred style of learning. It is important for them to engage the students in a better way and provide skills that can improve their learning. This form of learning style is

effective as the students may improve their memory through video and animation. Therefore, self-paced learning is vital for improving the life of an individual. It is also being examined that in most of the colleges in the UK has integrated VLE. This technological advancement is improving the learning style of students and thereby enhancing their knowledge. This method of learning improves the concentration level of an individual but so far no evidence is being found.

Theme 2: Critical analysis of the influence of Virtual Learning Environment on the learning experience, outcomes and performance of students in institutes like UWTSD, London campus.

As per the view of Omar and Geer, (2018, p. 1916), the influence of Virtual Learning Environment on the learning experience, outcomes and performance of students in institutes like UWTSD, London campus are flexibility, accessibility and engagement of the students. With the advent of technology, the study system has been improved. The process of education provided to students is much more flexible and it saves their time. Therefore, VLE allows them to get access to learning materials permanently. Thus, they can easily align their course with the activities and the provided materials. As opined by Hewett et al., (2017, p. 100), this helps the students to dedicate more time to studies. Thereby, it can help in improving their performance. Indeed, they can attend the lectures with more attention without anyone to distract them. Additionally, they can allocate their time as per their choice. VLE offers an option that the students can view the text and video until they understand the topic. Thus, the quality of education availed by the students would be outstanding.

Summary of the findings

The overview from the report is that VLE tools are an effective method of learning for students. This is important for the students who have not been able to attend the class due to some issues. Thus, they can view the lecture from their home. This method of teaching is important as professors can conduct online classes sometimes. Therefore, it saves the time of both, the students and teachers. This method is completely innovative and helpful for enhancing the knowledge of the students. The professional can upload some important learning materials that can be accessible to all. Therefore, the students may not have to print the document. Instead, they can carry the material with them downloaded.

Conclusion and recommendation

It can be concluded from the above report that VLE enables the professor to manage the study

materials and deliver them on this platform. The concept of VLE was understood that states that it integrates virtual and face-to-face teaching style. Thus, it can be termed as blended learning. The aim of this initiative is to understand theory, knowledge and principles. Therefore, this mixed form of learning is important as the teachers can provide the materials either in animated form, audio, simulation, or video form. It is also being examined that VLE offers a tracking facility that can track the student's status i.e. the material is either viewed by them or not. Based on this fact the teacher can ask them the reason for not checking the uploaded material. It is being recommended to students that they must understand the importance of VLE. Although some of the students do not agree with the fact that VLE helps in improving their performance. Indeed, it allows them to develop their learning in a self-paced environment. It offers them the opportunity to enhance their skills and improve their score.

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