

Impact of Virtual Learning Environment

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Executive Summary

The study will discuss the impact of the Virtual Learning Environment on the students of the University of Wales. In a pandemic situation, students find it hard to come up with the academic skills that are going on an online basis. There has been communication amongst the teaching professionals and the students. The impact of virtual learning is of quite an importance as per the current scenario.

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Introduction

Research Aim

The aim of the study is to discuss the impact of the Virtual Learning Environment on the students of the University of Wales Trinity Saint David London Campus.

Research Objectives

The research objective of the study focuses:

- To identify the impact of VLE on students
- To understand the learning experiences of students in Virtual Learning
- To determine ways to use VLE for a better purpose

Research Rationale

What is the issue?

The primary concern that is to be discussed in the study is the impact of the virtual learning environment for UK students. It is an issue because in the pandemic situation students find it hard to come up with the academic skills that is going on an online basis.

Why is it an issue?

It is a necessary concern because of the ongoing situation of the pandemic which still has not been eliminated. Students are attending virtual classes which sometimes create communication or network problems.

Why is it still an issue?

London is still facing a pandemic. Though Covid cases have reduced to extent students still are not completely safe to attend offline classes. Covid has not been eliminated. Virtual learning is still a necessary concern in London.

Research Questions

The research question consists-

- What is the impact of the virtual learning environment on the students of the London campus of the University of Wales?
To what extent it is believed that the job opportunities for future trends are affected by virtual learning?

Literature Review

Impact of VLE

Virtual Learning Environment (VLEs) has been trending in UK universities nowadays. Students are becoming more comfortable with this mode of learning due to the increase in the use of the internet and electronic gadgets. Now VLEs have some positive as well as negative impacts on students learning too. A positive impact on student learning is that it allows students to attend class independently. The students can attend class from anywhere or from any part of the world. According to Aheto-Domiet *al.*, (2020), VLEs maximize student reflection and also allows progressive and independent thinking. On the other hand, the negative impact of VLEs such as this mode of learning creates a communication gap between students and the teacher. Since there is no physical interaction between the two, it becomes difficult for the students to clear all their doubts. The students of the UK cannot explain their difficulties while learning clearly as a result it hampers their learning process. Despite all these negative impacts VLEs have been increasing rapidly among the students. For example, according to Al-Azawei and Al-Masoudy (2020), it has been seen that the use of virtual learning has increased by 68% among the students of the UK compared to the previous year.

Current scenario due to a pandemic situation that affects VLE

The current pandemic situation has a great impact on the Virtual learning environment (VLEs). In this pandemic situation, virtual learning has proved to be a blessing for students in the UK. Due to an increase in the disease in many parts of the UK, it has become very difficult for students to go out and attend classes. As stated by Alonso and Casalino(2019), virtual learning solved that problem by allowing these students to study from home. The students of the UK do not have to go out and as a result, their lives are at risk. The students can enjoy good physical health and can also continue their studies from home. On the other hand, the pandemic situation has had an impact on the mental health of students in the UK. According to Alves *et al.*, (2017), the continuous increase in daily cases leads to an increase in anxiety and depression among the students. In this negative environment, it becomes very difficult for the students to continue their studies. The universities of the UK are also helpless as they are bound to continue virtual classes for the better future of students. As per the sources it has been found that even in this pandemic situation many students in the UK have been raising funds to support their communities to go

through this difficult situation and to create a positive environment. In the pandemic, schools all across the globe have had to deal with the increase of virtual classroom issues. According to Chui *et al.*, (2020), this unexpected arrival has not only exacerbated existing digital difficulties but has also introduced a slew of new ones for school administrators, instructors, parents, and students. A handful of the most critical issues confronting schools are listed here, along with some practical and technological solutions to solve them. Teachers have incorporated some of these methods to assist students in having the most excellent possible learning experience while overcoming the limitations of the virtual classroom.

Challenges faced due to VLE

Communication Gap:

Students still prefer classroom classes over online classes due to many problems they face when taking online courses, such as lack of motivation, understanding of the material, decreased communication levels between the students and their instructors, and their feeling of isolation caused by online classes.

E-Books over Textbooks:

According to de Boer *et al.*, (2017), readers are more prone to skim texts while reading eBooks, according to studies, which can lead to worse retention. Readers who use textbooks, on the other hand, frequently correlate the information with the page layout and position inside the book, which aids them in interpreting readings. In the Book format, this is considerably more difficult.

Location Flexibility:

Flexible learning allows students to determine when and how they will study by customizing their course to their own needs. Because of the flexibility of online learning, students may take their time grasping subjects and ensuring complete knowledge before moving on.

Job Offers in the future:

Studies demonstrate that when students study remotely, they understand topics faster and retain more information. Students build abilities that will help them achieve in their future schooling when they learn to excel in an online learning environment.

Knowledge Gained:

All online schools must be certified and accredited if E-Learning is deemed successful and genuine as traditional learning. According to Hizam *et al.*, (2021), there are still many unaccredited online learning platforms out there, and none of the materials are quality reviewed

by anybody other than the teachers themselves. As a result, inadequate quality assurance and a scarcity of licensed online learning providers continue to undermine online education's reputation.

Theories supporting VLE

Cognitive Learning Theory

According to cognitive learning theory, internal and external influences impact an individual's mental processes to augment learning. When cognitive processes are not functioning correctly, delays and difficulty in learning occur. Attention, observation, retrieval from long-term memory, and classification are examples of these activities. As opined by Jayawardena *et al.*, (2021), this idea has benefited from the work of several researchers.

Connectives Learning Theory

If one has not noticed, connectives are strongly reliant on technology. This method commonly employs online classes, webinars, and specialty forums. As stated by Kim(2021), including technology that supports and facilitates learning is the first step in creating a connectivesclassroom. Freedom is a secondary component of connectives. As it is mentioned inliberationist and constructivism blogs, giving students agency in their work may increase their sense of ownership. It also encourages students to collaborate and communicate more efficiently.

Literature Gap

Research Gap refers to the missing pieces of the study that are devoid of the findings. This might include population, sample size, and data sources that are not yet discovered. Literature gaps may occur due to devoid of sources in research method, data collection, data analysis as well as other variables. It also refers to lack of information and the lack of budget that is accessed to pay websites and strict deadlines.

Research Methodology

Research Approach

The planning and procedure include the steps of wider presumptions to elaborated methods of fact analysis, and elucidation is called the research approach. For the above study, deductive as

well as an inductive approach has been taken into consideration. According to Larmuseau *et al.*, (2018), the inductive approach has helped the organizational administration to deliver a variety of regular tasks that operate both administration and organization. The deductive part has many technical issues with the increase in the number of learners.

Research Philosophy

For the above study, philosophy is defined as the theory of guiding principle behavior and study of reality and existence. The philosophy of interpretivism focuses on qualitative analysis over quantitative.

Research Design

For the above study, experimental research design of a virtual learning environment it is important how the students and researchers are allocated among the groups for refined research. This is performed widely to fine-tune the study on social science that would matter later in the future outcome. The data collected can either be accepted or rejected by the researchers.

Data Collection

Data Collection refers to the process of collection of sources for measurement and analysis to find out better research findings. For the following study, both primary and data collection methods are taken into consideration. As stated by Novintan *et al.*, (2020), primary data refers to the sources of surveys, experiments, observations, and articles. On the other hand, the secondary data method adds much to the social help of organizational data.

Data Analysis

Data Analysis helps in the better extraction of data sources and concludes decisions with accurate observations. For the study, both secondary qualitative and primary quantitative are taken into consideration. It will analyze through primary quantitative analysis as well as secondary qualitative analysis.

Sampling Method and Sample Size

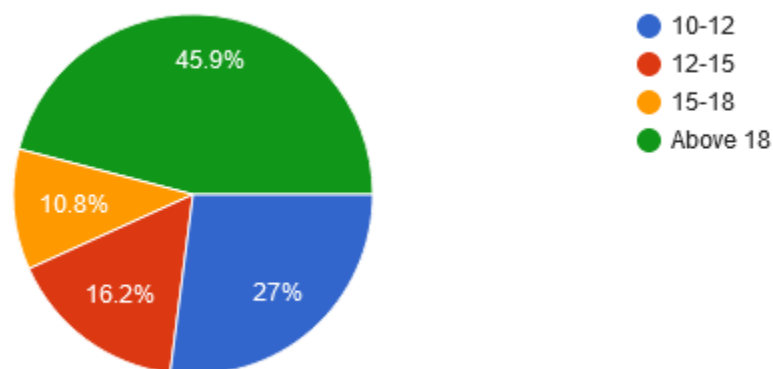
The sampling method used for this study is probability, random sampling. According to Tzoumas *et al.*, (2020), random sampling refers to a method that works based on randomization of the samples and their selection. This indicates every sample of the findings will have the same probability as others, and each will resemble a part of the entire population. The sample size for the survey accounts for 30 respondents.

Data Analysis and Discussion

Primary Quantitative Analysis

Q1. What is your age?

What is your age?



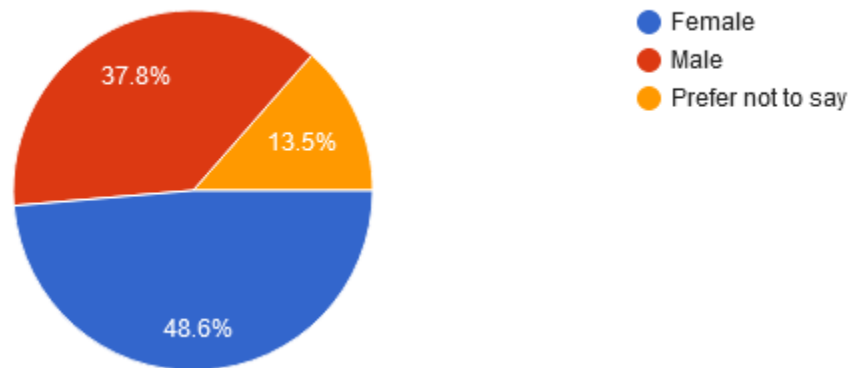
Graph 1: Age

(Source: Self- Centered)

The survey by the students of different age groups shows age ranging from 18 years with 45.9% has become most effective. The age group of 10-12 years kids of 27% follows up the virtual learning environment. The 12-15 years have only 16.2% and the 15-18 years have 10.8%.

Q2. What is your gender?

What is your gender?



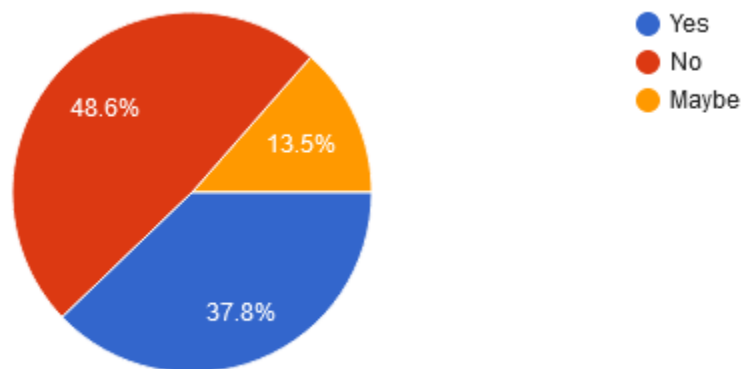
Graph 2: Gender

(Source: Self-centered)

As per the survey virtual learning has become most effective with 48.6% of the female community. The male community has shown only 37.8% and the rest interests are on others with the least of 13.5%.

Q3. Do you think location plays an important role?

Do you think location plays an important role?



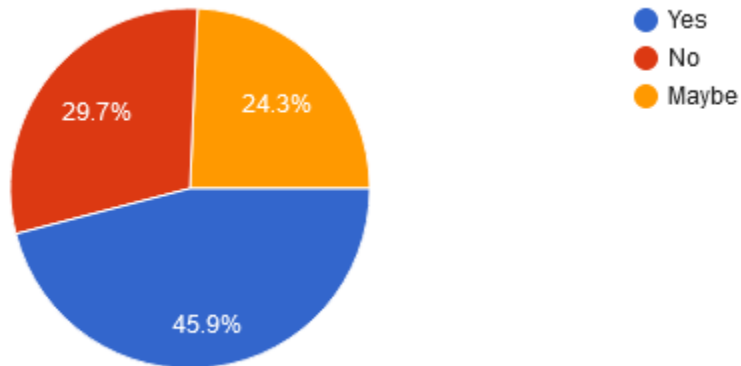
Graph 3: Location

(Source: Self- Centered)

The survey says 48.6% of people strongly disagree that virtual classes can be attended at any location. The next average of 37.8% of students says they agree that they can attend the classes anywhere and the rest 13.5% remains neutral.

Q4. Do you think bullying and harassment mental health is reduced due to VLE?

Do you think bullying and harassing mental health is reduced due to VLE?



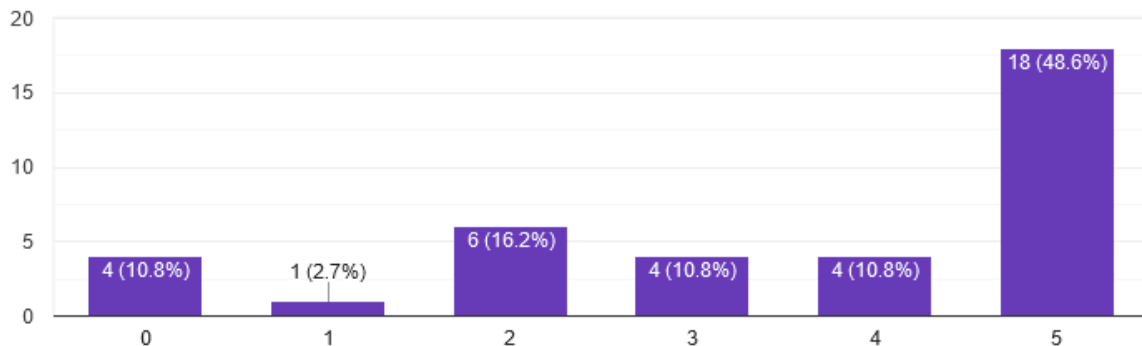
Graph 4: Bullying

(Source: Self-centered)

Bullying has been a traumatic crucial point to look into where 45.9% have strongly agreed that virtual classes have decreased bullying and harassment. The next 29.7% disagrees with the fact and 24.3% stays neutral with the option maybe.

Q5. EBooks are helpful over textbooks?

E Books are helpful over textbooks?



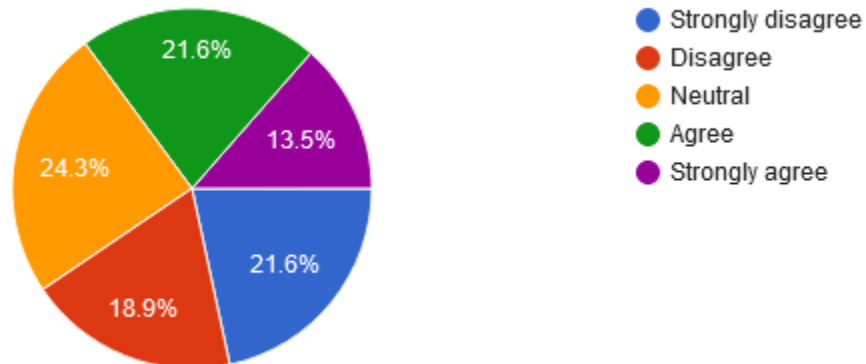
Graph 5: e-Books

(Source: Self- Centered)

This primary quantitative survey has found that a majority of people, about 48.6%, strongly agree with the advantage of eBooks over textbooks. On average, 16.2% of respondents disagree with the benefits of an e-book. About 10.8% of respondents also disagree that e-books are more useful. Lastly, 2.7% of people strongly disagree that eBooks are more helpful than textbooks.

Q6. Is there a communication gap between students and teachers?

Is there communication gap amongst students and teachers?



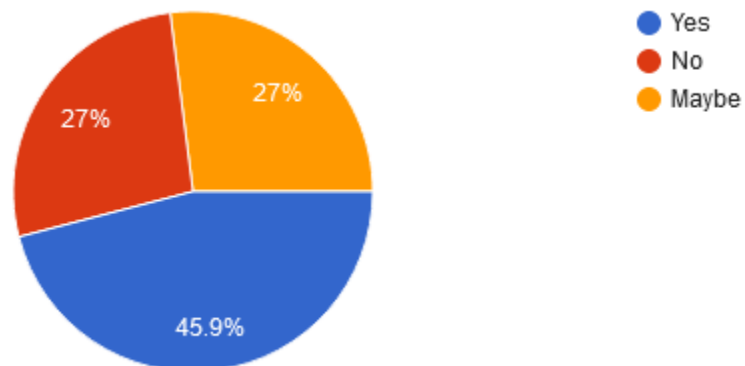
Graph: Communication Gap

(Source: Self-centered)

From the above primary quantitative survey, it has found that about 21.6% of respondents disagree that there is any communication gap between students and teachers. About 18.9% of respondents disagree that there is a communication gap. A majority of people, about 24.3%, are neutral about the matter. About 21.6% of people agree that there is a communication gap. Lastly, about 13.5% strongly agree that there is a communication gap between students and teachers.

Q7. Does VLE create a problem for laboratory classes?

Does VLE creates problem for laboratory classes?



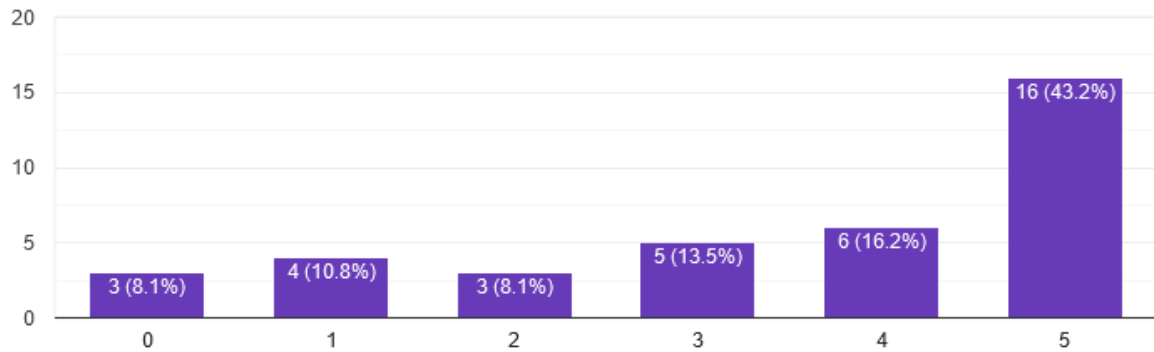
Graph 7: Laboratory Classes

(Source: Self- Centered)

As per the survey, 45.9% of students have strongly agreed that virtual classes affect the laboratory classes and the percentage of students strongly disagreeing and neutral is 27%.

Q. Is there proper knowledge imparted to students via online learning?

Is there proper knowledge imparted to the students via online teaching?



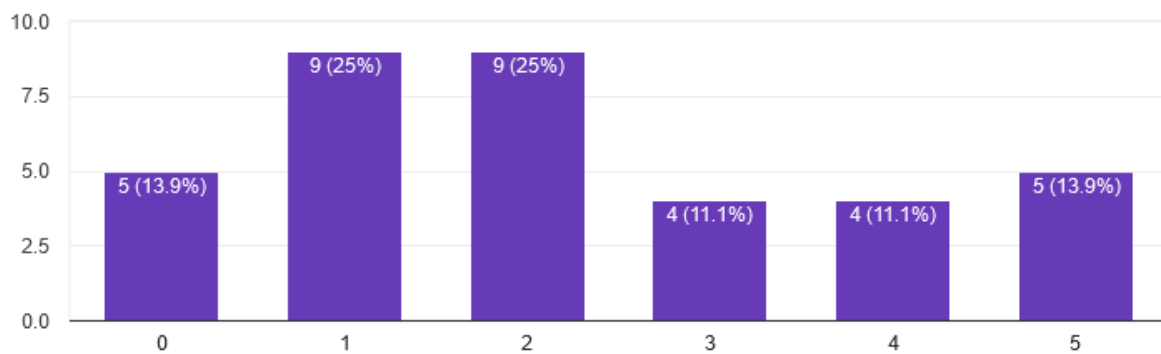
Graph 8: Education

(Source: Self-centered)

As per the survey, 43.2% of students have strongly agreed that virtual classes impart proper education in online classes. Other responses have average replies of 8.1% by 3 students, 10.8% by 4, 8.1% by 3, 13.5% by students, and 16.2% by 6 students respectively

Q9. To what extent is Open Book Examination Beneficial?

To what extent is online open book examination is beneficial?



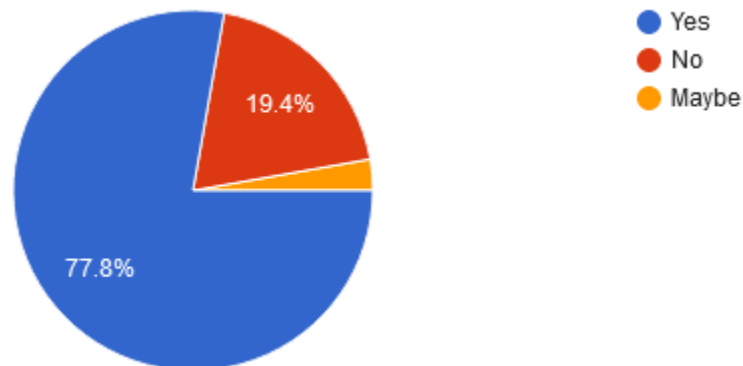
Graph 9: Open Book Examination

(Source: Self-centered)

As per the survey by the students 25% of them believe it is hardly helpful, 11.1% slightly helpful and 13.9% strongly disagrees whereas 13.9% strongly agrees too.

Q10. Do you think VLE will hamper students for job offers in future?

Do you think VLE will hamper students for job offers in future?



Graph 10: Job Offers

(Source: Self- centered)

77.8% students strongly agree that there will be a harsh impact on the job of the students and 19.4% believe no job will be impacted. Rest of the students with the least ratio remains neutral.

Secondary Qualitative Analysis

Theme 1: Communication Gap due to VLE

Undergraduates still favor classroom lectures rather than e learning depending on a variety of issues they encounter when attending classes virtually, including a lack of willpower, a lack of knowledge of the topic, a drop in connection between learners and lecturers, and a sense of alienation brought around by online lectures. According to Vaidyanathan(2018), standard schooling can often be a much more lonely process caused by a lack of dialogue in class; e learning helps to overcome this problem by providing a venue for this interaction to occur. Because of the development of modern communication networks, there is a growing divide in how individuals connect. When introducing telecommunication technology into teaching, this poses issues. As stated by Yang *et al.*, (2018), there seems to be a language barrier between generations, but it has become even more pronounced in recent years as digital technology has changed. Whilst modern technology is also one of the reasons for this disparity, closing it will permit information technology to be used successfully in learning. The generational divide produces a language divide, posing a challenge for online communications technology in education.

Theme 2: Lack of gain of skills for on field students

Learners are still having difficulty finding work places in their residences, managing with financial and medical issues, and homeschooling even respective youngsters or siblings. Students who study subjects that involve practical work knowledge or implementations are concerned about meeting their goals. As opined by Vilorio *et al.*, (2019), individuals may find themselves unable to work collaboratively in a team atmosphere due to unavailability of face-to-face interactions between classmates, learners, and professors in an online context. Disregarding students' leadership skills will surely result in a large number of individuals who specialize in theoretical aspects but are unable to pass that understanding on to somebody else. A vast number of E-Learning professional bodies place greater importance on theoretical study instead of applied professional development. The rationale for this is obvious: theoretical seminars are easier to integrate into a virtual learning atmosphere than practical classes.

Discussion

The study on Virtual Learning Education in the London campus shows the impact on the educational fields of the students. This process of imparting knowledge has successfully resulted in attending the classes where and when the students are comfortable. Few students do not agree to the fact that they can attend classes anytime even at home. The online virtual classes help the student's research on their studies more than the bookish languages and mug up the answers for exams. The visual impact of education has resulted in an interesting and faster way with broader knowledge. E-learning has had a positive response on the present pandemic situation too.

Conclusion

From the above discussion it is concluded that e-learning has emerged as the most sought-after learning procedure in the present scenario due to the prevalent Covid crisis. E-learning is much more than a technological advancement. It is part of the larger rethinking of how one, as a human being, passes on information, talents, and ethics to future students and employees. Whether one lives lectures to online courses, today's virtual learning choices are diverse. There is nearly plenty to choose from, all individuals would do is discover it. Universities should work to improve teaching assistant acceptance and usage education. Technologies such as flipped classrooms, testimonials, and engagement might be used in virtual classrooms, and their impacts might be investigated. During the first time, the COVID-19 epidemic has resulted in widespread

acceptance of online education at all levels. During this epidemic, it has been learned a lot about online schooling.

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