

University of Wales Trinity Saint David

Digital Skills and Research Methods

BMSW 4003

Assessment 1 – Task 2

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Impact of Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)
on student learning experience
at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David
London Campus

ABSTRACT

VLE stands for Virtual learning environment that can be applied in several fields including education system for delivering quality facilities and tools of communication and learning. This paper has noted the main outcomes of VLE on the education and learning system of the students. This paper has based on the primary data and collected the related secondary sources to answer of the questions from the students of University of Wales Trinity Saint David London Campus. The collected data represents that the VLEs have significant impact on the learning process of the students. It has also revealed that the students feel that the important of VLE can't be ignored because this day is totally digitalized and modernized. In the questionnaire format, the students also provided some recommendations to develop the VLE tools and techniques for improving the learning experience of the students. The students also demanded the quality library, laboratories and internet connection in the learning environment to make an effective learning environment.

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1.0 Introduction

According to Mosquera (2017), Virtual learning environment uses in several fields including education system for delivering quality facilities and tools of communication and learning. This research paper firstly presents the research rationale, aims and objectives of the research. Then, this research paper collects and describes the related views on the topic of the research. After that, the research paper presents the research methodologies including design, source, ethical issues and analysis of the research data. After that, the research paper does the main part of the research that headline as findings and analysis. Finally, the research paper summarizes the outcomes and mentions some suggestions to improve VLE learning methods for the students.

1.2 Research Rationale

The digital world is spreading all over the sections including education. The primary, secondary, and higher education system all are depending on the computer networks and technology. Virtual learning environment is one of the ways of creating more fruitful learning platforms for the students. Ryan and Poole (2019) stated that the effective learning system significantly affected the learning system. Mogus et, al (2017) stated that virtual learning platforms, technology resources are considered as the main weapons for make the learning system effective. The students can use the web-based data for doing the efficient educational activities. Demian and Morrice (2018) noted that VLE system is not only benefitted for students but also for the teachers and administrations to teach and manage the learning activities properly. The virtual learning environment tools are also effective to overcome the threats and challenges of changing world especially in the education system. In case of England, the central authority is more aware of this VLE issues for providing a quality learning system to the students and increase the quality of the students according to the changing world (Demian and Morrice, 2018). For this reason, the research on the impact of VLE on the students learning experience is an important research in this present circumstance.

2.0 Research Aims and Objectives;

- 1) To analyze how the use of VLE has a positive impact on student learning
- 2) To investigate how the use of a VLE in teaching and learning helps develop independent learning
- 3) To assess how the use of a VLE increases students' motivation to learn
- 4) To find out what challenges students face in using VLE
- 5) To provide recommendation how recommend University of Wales Trinity Saint David London Campus can improve its VLE

2.0 Literature Review

2.1 Concept of Virtual learning environment and student learning experience

Wan (2018) stated that virtual learning environment is the use of software packages by which the tutors can make the learning factors virtually and make the learning according to Web-based environment. Parasuram (2018) stated that Virtual learning environment tools play a significant role in the development of the education and learning system of every stage students. The teachers as well as students are using different types of tools and applications to deliver the courses and contents. The teachers also make virtual meeting with the students. The virtual class is also made by the use of proper VLE tools. Gunasekaran (2019) noted that the students can be used the social media for interacting and chatting with the teachers about their educational problems and use video tools for videoconferencing with the teachers. VLE and the student learning experience are interrelated issues, and both are highly correlated with one another.

2.2 Technology in educational settings and learning

This world is based on technology specially the education system has also developed and designed by the technology. Firstly, in the year of 1970, the CALL approach has significantly affected the learning experience of the students (Posadzki, 2018). However, technology has both positive and negative impacts on the student experiences. Firstly, the computer technology is used by the students to ensure computer-based learning that is the main changing in the global world. The classroom teaching and offline teaching was the main tool of learning in the previous day. At present, the digital learning system has covered the large number of institutions for providing quality education to the students (Paddock, 2019). The use of technology has also created large opportunities for the students and teachers to communicate with each other in the virtual platforms and solve their educational problems in the online platforms. However, technology in the education system also wastes the time of the students because students are spending their time in the social media and other games.

2.3 Studies on students' opinions and attitudes towards the use VLE

Paddock (2019) noted that the education system is transferring to the global field and virtual learning environment tools are using in the language teaching and learning process. Only traditional learning is not effective in this modern era because the modern world is highly digitalized. The modern learning system has included the text, audio and video make multimedia that creates a computer-assisted learning system (Demian and Morrice, 2018). The video tools and techniques of online learning are also very important for the virtual learning. Additionally, the computer-assisted language learning (CALL) is also referred as important part of the language learning process. The VLE also helps to develop the student's good mind set up, attitude and creativity.

2.4 Factors affecting Virtual LE

Parasuram (2018) suggested that VLE affects the entire system of learning. But there are some issues that have direct impact on the virtual learning environment. The noise has negative impact on the VLE because it hampers the sound system of the VLE by which students and teachers cannot hear their speech correctly (Parasuram, 2018). The internet connection and the device quality also affect the quality of the VLE. The lighting quality is also affected the virtual learning system.

3.0 Methodology

3.1 Research design

The research activity depends on the different designs including qualitative, quantitative or both (Kothari, 2018). In case of qualitative design of research, the researcher collects and describes the non-mathematical data. In case of quantitative design of research, the researcher collects and describes the mathematical data. This research is normally depending on the qualitative and descriptive design to elaborate the overall findings of the importance of VLE in the education system and for the students at University of Wales Trinity Saint David London Campus.

3.2 Data source

Kothari (2018) stated that the data sources normally depend on primary and secondary sources. The primary data collects from firsthand sources and the secondary data collects from secondhand sources. The primary data sources normally include survey, questionnaire, interview, case study and observation system. The secondary data sources normally include journals, website, and reports. This research depended on both primary and secondary sources to outing the better outcomes of the research aims and objectives.

3.3 Quick surveys

This research has done a survey and made the survey question on the basis of Likert-type scale. In the survey 25 students at University of Wales Trinity Saint David London Campus were attended. The researcher collected the views and comment of the students on the virtual learning environment. Additionally, the students were asked about their technology, situation of computer lab, and education system of this University.

3.4 Ethical considerations

The ethical factors need to maintain in the research activity because of high validity (Kothari, 2018). The researcher has cleared the main objectives of the research towards the participants and did not disclose the any confidential news of the University. The permission has also taken by the researcher to do the research based on this University data. The adequate guidelines have also followed in this research.

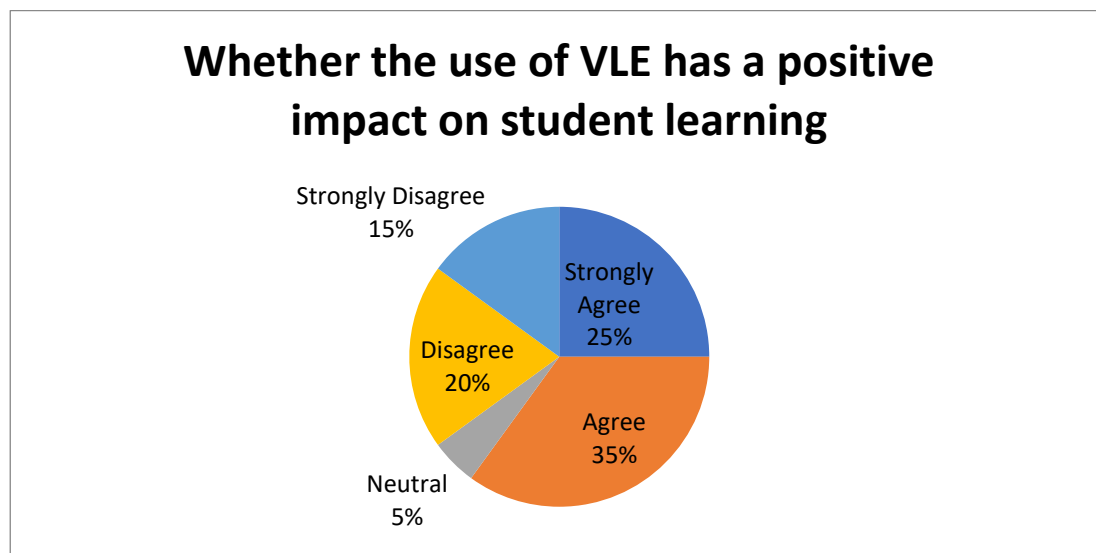
3.5 Data analysis

In case of primary data, the Excel sheets including bar and pie charts were used in the research. In case of secondary data, the thematic analysis was done to describe the aims and objectives of the research in an accurate format.

4.0 Finding and analysis

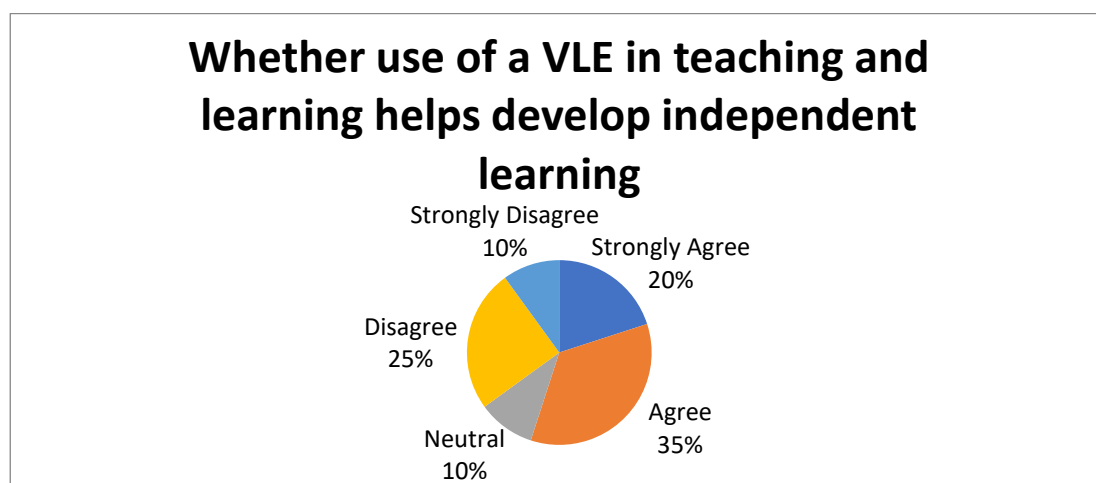
4.1 Primary Data Analysis

To what extent do you agree that the use of VLE has a positive impact on student learning?



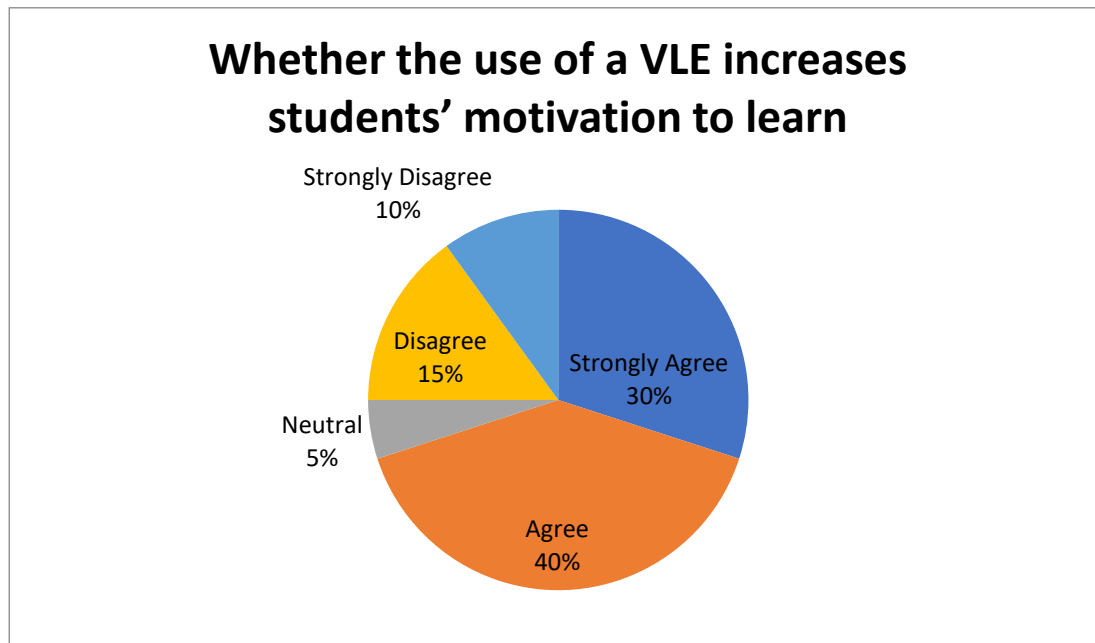
From the survey, firstly the students were asked about the use of VLE has positive impact on the student learning. The most part of the students were strongly agreed (25%) and agreed (35%). The 5% students were neutral on this question whereas 20% students were disagreed, and 15% students were strongly disagreed about the positive impact of virtual learning environment.

To what extent do you agree that the use of a VLE in teaching and learning helps develop independent learning?



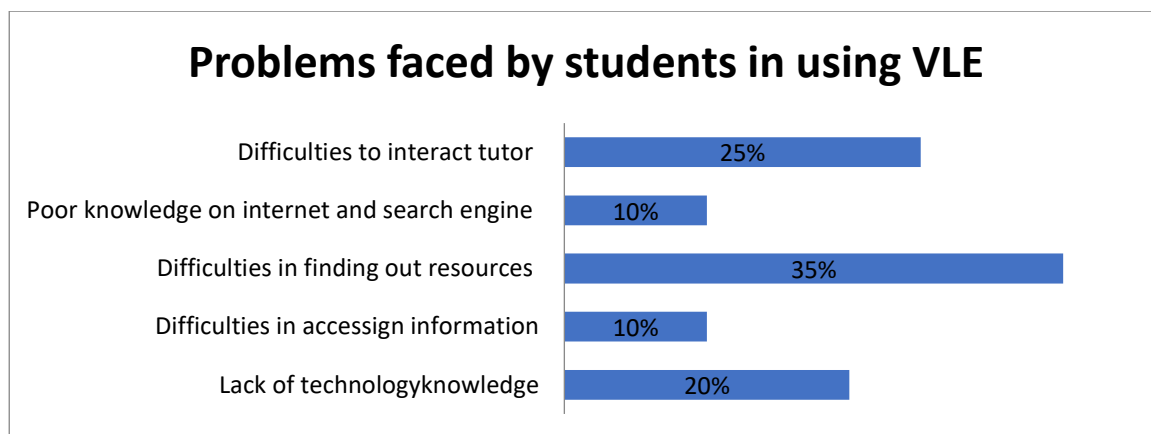
From the survey, firstly the students were asked about the use of VLE in teaching and learning helps to develop independent learning. The most part of the students were strongly agreed (20%) and agreed (35%). The 10% students were neutral on this question. The 25% students were disagreed, and 10% students were strongly disagreed.

To what extent do you agree that the use of a VLE increases students' motivation to learn?



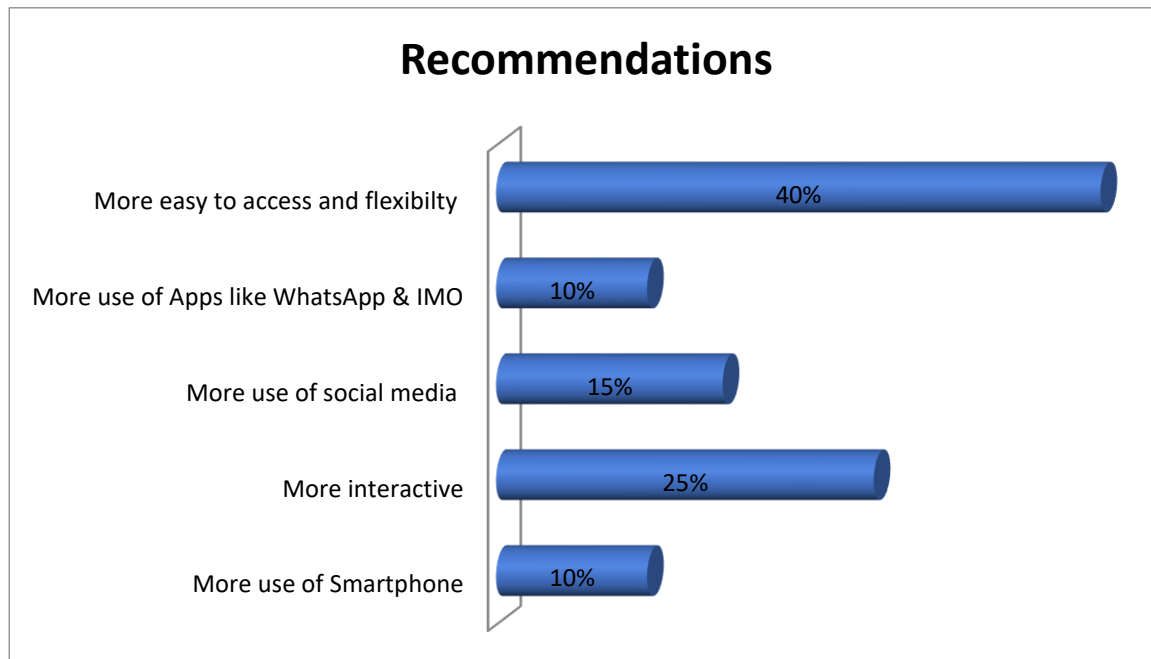
From the survey, firstly the students were asked about the use of VLE increases the student's motivation to learn. The most part of the students were strongly agreed (30%) and agreed (40%). The 5% students were neutral on this question. The 15% students were disagreed, and 10% students were strongly disagreed.

What types of problem do you face in using VLE?



The students also revealed several problems that they are facing in using VLE. Firstly, the 20% students were thought that lack of technology knowledge, 10% students found the difficulties in accessing information, 35% students found the difficulties in finding the resources, 10% noted the poor knowledge on the internet & search engine and 25% difficulties to interact tutor.

How would you like to recommend University of Wales Trinity Saint David London Campus to improve its VLE?



The participants also suggested their view on the improvement of VLE. Firstly, 40% students think that the University should make easy to access and flexibility for the students, 10% think the University should use apps like WhatsApp and Imo to interact with the students, 15% recommended that the University should use the social media, the 25% students recommended that the University should ensure interactive way of education and final 10% students recommended that the University teachers should use the Smartphone for communicating with the students.

4.2 Secondary Data Analysis

Gunasekaran (2019) stated on his study that the effective learning system helps to moderate and generate new ideas and create the students more innovative and creative. Parasuram (2018) also revealed that Virtual learning helps the students to learn the critical issues with audio and visual format by which the learning system is out of confusion. In the virtual learning platforms, technology resources are considered as the main weapons for make the learning system effective. Joon (2019) suggested that the students can be used the social media for interacting and chatting with the teachers about their educational problems and use video tools for videoconferencing with the teachers. Ryan and Poole (2019) noted that the use of technology has also created large opportunities for the students and teachers to communicate with each other in the virtual platforms and solve their educational problems in the online platforms. The modern learning system has included the text, audio and video make multimedia that creates a computer-assisted learning system. Mosquera (2017) noted that noise internet connection and the device quality and lighting quality are the main tools that affect the VLE system. From the secondary data, it has clarified that all universities have to concentrate on the VLE system for developing the quality of learning.

5.0 Conclusion and Recommendation

In summary, virtual learning environment has used the education system for delivering quality communication and learning system to the students. On the basis of present day circumstance, this research topic was highly related. This research was based on the primary and secondary research. From the research, the students of University of Wales Trinity Saint David London have revealed that VLE has significant positive impact but they have affected the several problems at the time of using VLE. It has found that the lack of technology knowledge, difficulties in accessing information, the difficulties in finding the resources, the poor knowledge on the internet & search engine and difficulties to interact tutor are the main problems of using VLE. For this reason, the University of Wales Trinity Saint David London should make easy to access and flexibility for the students, use apps like WhatsApp and Imo to interact with the students. Additionally, this University should use the social media and ensure interactive way of education and Smartphone for improving the quality of Virtual learning environment.

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