



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

Student Name:	Cosmina Talida Bengus
Student Number:	2008112
Module No:	BMSW4003
Module Title:	Digital Skills and Research Methods
Lecturer:	Yajesh Kumar

Table of Contents

1. Introduction
 - Overview of virtual learning environment
2. Background
 - Literature review – Virtual Learning Environment
 - Challenges
 - Benefits
 - Disadvantages
 - Opportunities
3. Aims and Objectives
 - Aims of this research
 - Objectives
 - Research Methods
4. Results
 - For the questions with “yes” or “no” (Q1, Q2)
 - For the multiple-choice questions (Q3-Q8)
 - For the open-end questions (Q9, Q10)
5. Discussion
6. Conclusion
7. References
8. Appendix

Introduction

This report is based on the impact of Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). I will perform a primary research, asking students through a questionnaire from University of Wales Trinity Saint David of London, regarding their online-lessons satisfaction using Moodle, because with this pandemic situation we could not meet each other, and I also made a survey to get the answers from there. The results will be shown by using Bar-Graphs and Pie-charts. Furthermore, I will analyze the graphs, showing different aspects and factors from secondary sources. As a result, I will give a summary of the findings through this research. This will help to understand better the impact of Virtual Learning Experience and student satisfaction using Moodle.

I will also talk about challenges, benefits, risks, and opportunities which we can meet and obtain them while learning online. Because there are also risks which we do not know, or we did not observe them. At the end I will make a conclusion about primary research and secondary research, and I will attach screenshots of my survey and my classroom activities.

Background

- *Literature Review – Virtual Learning Environment*

Virtual Learning Environment or VLE, is a platform for teaching and learning.

- “Over the last ten years there has been an increased emphasis on conceptualizing, developing and implementing e-Learning initiatives across the New Zealand education sector. Andrews and Haythornthwaite (2007), in their introduction to e-Learning research. State that e-Learning is an emergent process which is viewed by some as a delivery mechanism and by other as a new pedagogical challenge.”
- “VLE’s are mostly web based systems that offer users a range of learning tools such as course notes, academic testing facilities and grading tools while retaining a course structure. VLE’s have transformed offsite learning, allowing users to access course notes and work from a remote environment.

The Course Administrator can create new course content objects. In the process of creating these objects the course administrator will be shown a selection of radio buttons, where they can categorize the object that has been created. The course administrator will then be given the chance to manually add keywords as meta data to the object. All this information is used during the filtering process. Goslin (2009)”

- Teaching and learning expectations: According to Rogers et al (2007), teaching and learning expectations are “influenced deeply by culture” (p. 204). One of the key issues emerging for the instructional designers was the need to be more aware and sensitive about what assumptions they could or could not make about teaching and learning, particularly when working in cross-cultural learning settings. They identified a range of skills that instructional designers might consider making “wise decisions “particularly when creating cross-cultural learning programmes.
- Benefits of e-Learning: “Scott (2006) found in her study of Canadian First Nation students using technology that many students liked the creative ways in which technology enabled them to search for, compile and present information. Scott (2006) suggested that these creative ways also assisted students to engage in more recursive and reflective styles of learning, like the cyclical, interconnected way that characterizes American Indian philosophy. NZCER (2004) identified that indigenous communities were increasingly able to control how their knowledge would be disseminated and accessed, recognizing the need to identify ways in which they could strengthen their culture and traditions while also seeing the use of technology as a way of advancing their position in the wider, global society.”

- *Challenges*

There are a lot of challenges on Virtual Learning Environment. The first challenge is learning how to use Moodle, and for some students it is not easy, because some of them finished the high school maybe 10-20 years ago. However, everyone will know how to use it and where to find the modules, the library, and the topics, because our lecturer explained to us in the first week of studying.

The second one is submitting our work on Turnitin. Me and my colleagues were so confused when we first had to submit our power point presentation, because we could not find where to send it. This situation made me to be patient, and to search carefully and to do not be in a rush. This was a good challenge for me because I tested my patience and I learned that in life you need to do everything calmly. In the end our lecturer showed and explained to us what we need to do step by step.

- *Benefits*

Of course, that studying online has a lot of benefits. For example, we can improve our communication and IT skills.

- Immediate feedback on learning – For example, after I sent my homework, my lecturer will send me a feedback of it, and he will also tell me what I need to improve. I think this is a good way to learn and to see your mistakes.
- The library – I can read online at any time and I can find on the library everything I need. There are books for business, biology, management, and everything else. For example, I need to read about “how to manage your time”, I can easily type, and they will give me some options of books on this topic. The next step is to download the book and then I can read it from my desktop, and I can take the information I need.
- Cost savings – There is no need for expensive travel, so online lessons can reduce us to pay for travel, because everything is free, we just need a good internet connection to do our online lessons.

• *Disadvantages*

- Solo Learning – For example, if you need a clarification on a topic, you can not get the answers instantly as it would be if your lecturer were present how is when you study at the University. We can still ask for a clarification in a virtual learning situation, but we can get the answer later, because it depends on the teacher's time, whether he is free at that moment or has another lesson.
- Technology issues – Technology issues are always annoying because you can be in the middle of the lesson and the internet connection is poor, and you need to wait for a few minutes or to restart the internet, sometimes to solve this problem can take longer than you think, and we can lose the lesson or the teacher to mark us absent. For example, this term was good for me, I had a good internet connection, but some of my colleagues had problems with it and they missed some important things of the lesson. That is why is better to make sure that our connection or our desktop is good for online lessons.
- Isolation – This is a bad thing for us because we could not meet each other, we could not get to know each other better because of this situation. Sometimes, there are no other students to discuss the course if you missed the lesson, because most of them does not have time to reply to your message or they are working.

• *Opportunities*

The best opportunity of online learning is that you can get a good job on social media or working online for a bank and other companies, because studying online we get to know better how to use the technology from these days. For example, I did not know how to use Office 365 or Moodle, but in 10 weeks of studying online I learned a lot of things about them. The students will also get the chance to find new hobbies.

We also get the opportunity to have everything we need on Moodle. For example, if you could not attend the lesson, you can go to Moodle and there you will find the topics from that lesson, examples, and some practice exercises to see if you understood what you have learned.

Aims and Objectives

Aims of this research

- To show both sides (positives and negatives) of what VLE's mean for students and teachers.
- To understand where the concept comes from in history.
- To understand what the obligations are to use VLE.

Objectives

- Conduct a survey that will show the reader where we find ourselves at this moment by collecting data from the students.
- To analyze the data and use it to make VLE better for everyone who is studying.

Research Methods

My research for this report had to be split into 2 parts: the primary research that contains in a survey about the University Moodle and the secondary research that had to be a collection of data about Virtual Learning Environment (VLE).

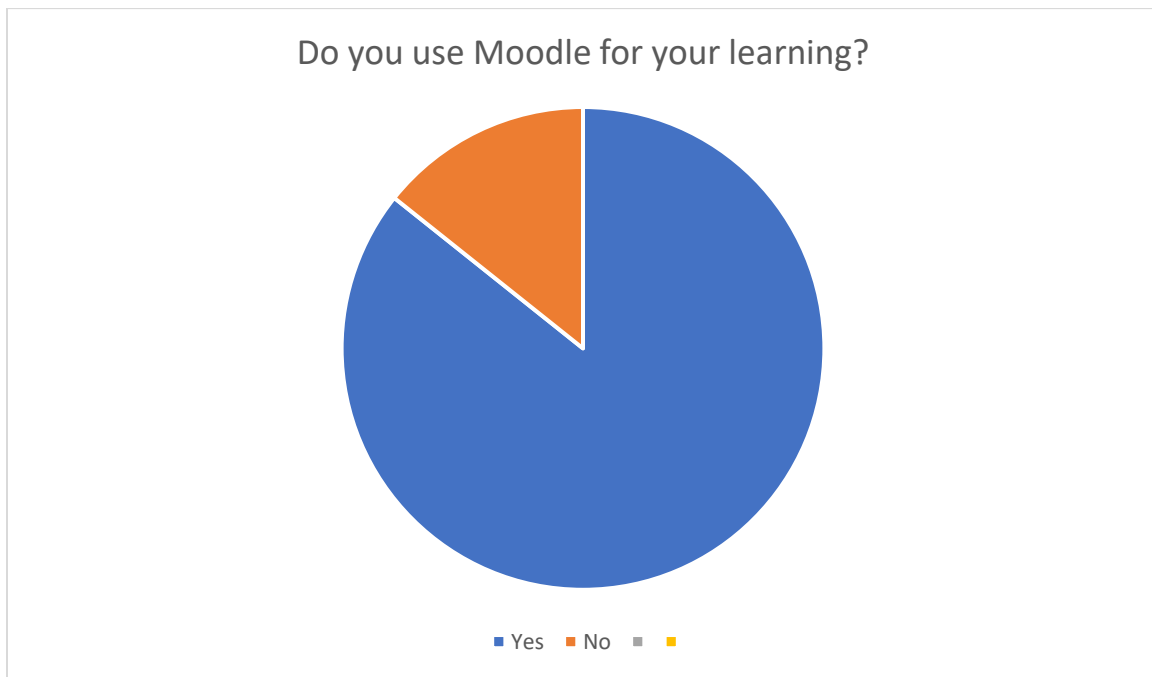
During the secondary research, I had to search data about the quality of online education, how it was before and how it is in these nowadays, benefits of online learning, the things that are good and bad, also the things that still need to be improved in order to make it the perfect replacement for face to face education. For this, I turned to several books, articles, journals and even Internet webpages specialized about this subject to provide a good report. Also, I accessed Moodle to have the best details and to improve the collected data.

Before all this I have mentioned above, I had to conduct a survey about our University Moodle in order to collect quantitative and qualitative data from our colleagues. For this I had to use an external software tool of a website (FreeOnlineSurveys.com). The survey was made up of 10 questions, from which 1

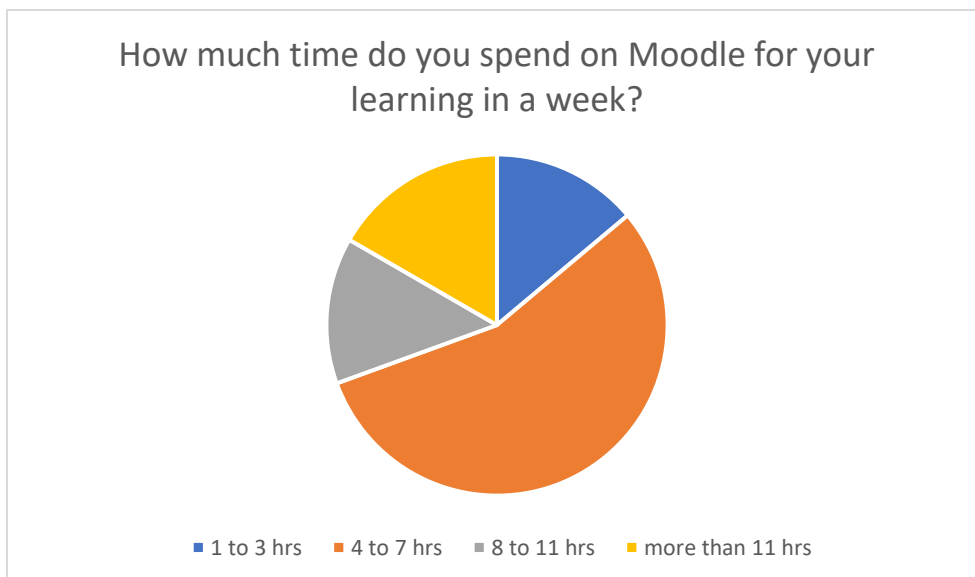
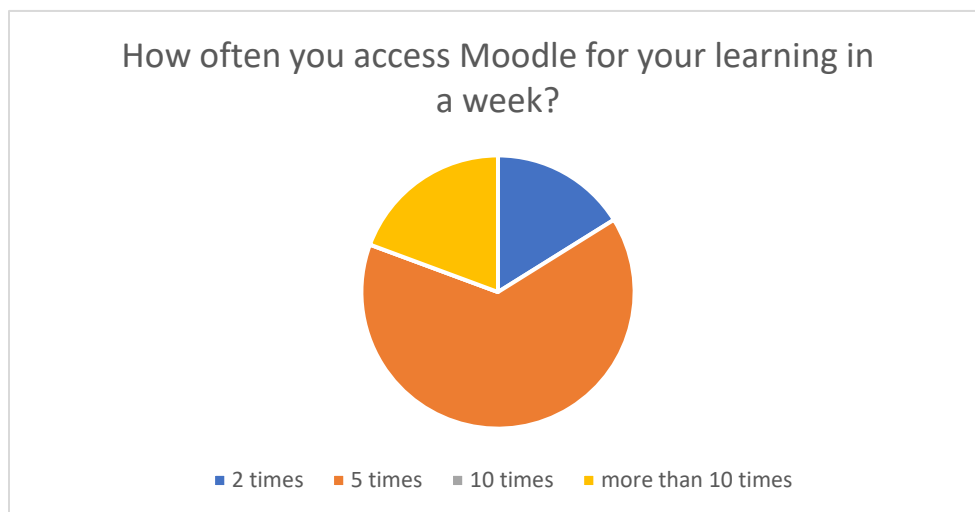
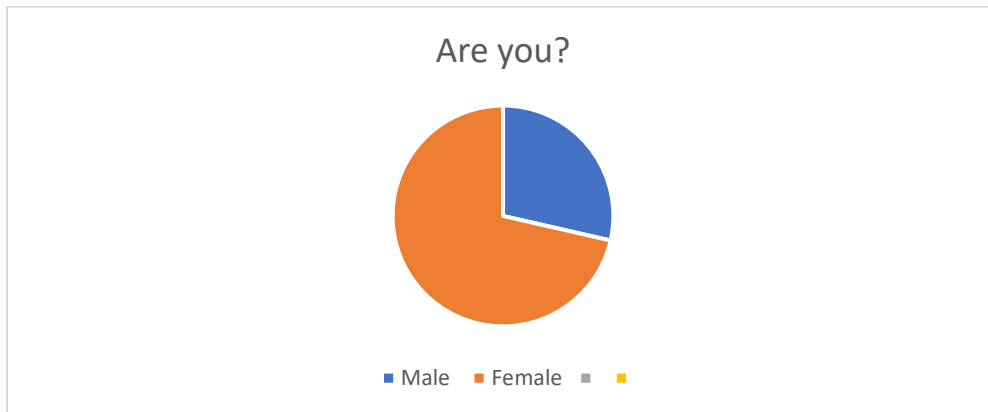
was with “yes” or “no”, 7 were multiple choice and 2 were open-end based on students’ opinion about Moodle and 2 things they like about it. Data was collected in different tables that I am going to show you below in the “Results” category.

Results

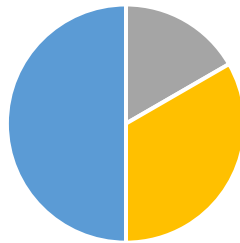
For the only yes/no question. (Q1)



For the multiple-choice questions. (Q2 – Q8)

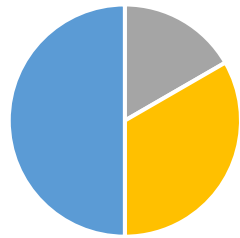


How much are you satisfied with your learning experience on Moodle?



■ Highly dissatisfied ■ Slightly dissatisfied ■ do not know
■ Slightly satisfied ■ Highly satisfied

How can you describe the experience of using Moodle?

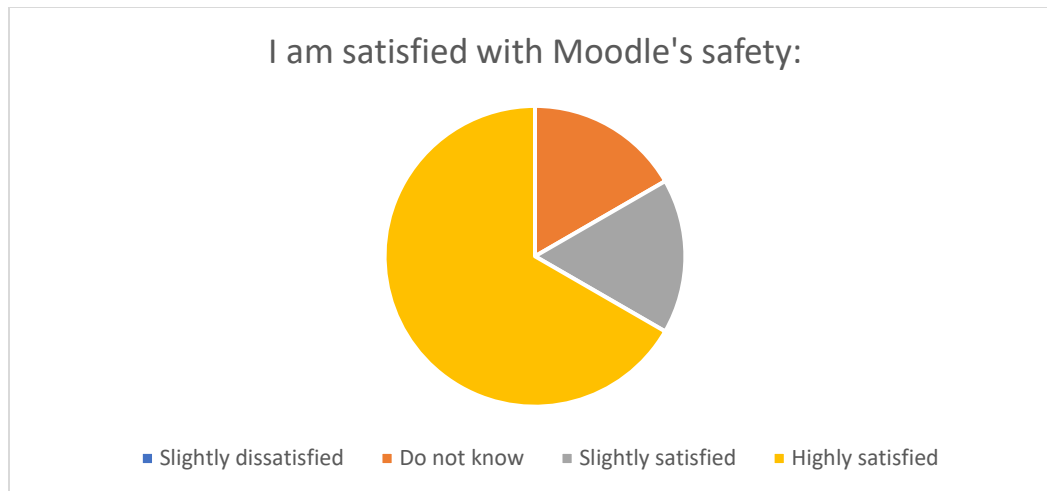


■ Highly Dissatisfied ■ Slightly Dissatisfied ■ do not know
■ Slightly satisfied ■ Highly satisfied

How satisfied are you about the library on this platform?



■ Slightly dissatisfied ■ Do not know ■ Slightly satisfied ■ Highly satisfied ■



For the open-end questions. (Q9 – Q10)

Q9. Tell me two things you like about this platform.
1. Safety and Information.
2. Easy to use and safety.
3. Library. I like that that you have everything there, the e-mail, your modules, and the topics.
4. I like this platform because I have all the courses and on it, easy to use and it is having videos and audios from where you can learn and keep up with the courses.
5. Safety and helpful.
6. Easy to use and the library.

Q10. Do you think Moodle helps you better understand the modules? Explain
1. Yes
2. Yes, it helps me to understand modules better because I can go back any time over the topics.
3. In a way, because you have more documents, and you can review what you did on every week for a better understanding.
4. I think Moodle helps me to understand modules because I can access it anytime to look over them.
5. Yes, it helps me because I can understand better.
6. Yes, because if I miss a lesson, I will have everything on Moodle to look over it.

Discussion

As you can see above, some of my peers answered to my questions and now I am going to talk a little bit about those with multiple choice and open-end questions. From my survey I can see that 67% of them access Moodle for 5 times in a week. I think that is not too bad and they really care about their learning and their future. Also, 67% of them spend 4 to 7 hours on Moodle in a week and 50% are Highly Satisfied with their learning experience on Moodle. On Moodle we also have the library, where we can find any book we would like to read about any subject for University. 50% of them are Slightly satisfied and 50% are Highly Satisfied about our library on this platform. As you know, the safety is very important to us and 67% are Highly satisfied with Moodle's safety.

About open-end questions. For Q9 most of them answered with "safety and information", "easy to use". I absolutely think that this is the safest platform and easy to use for all of us. For Q10 all of them said that Moodle helped them to understand better the modules and they can access it anytime to look over the topics.

Conclusion

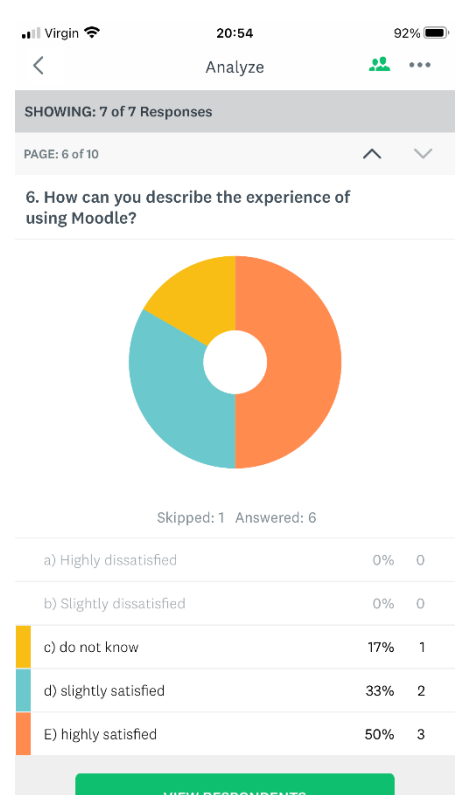
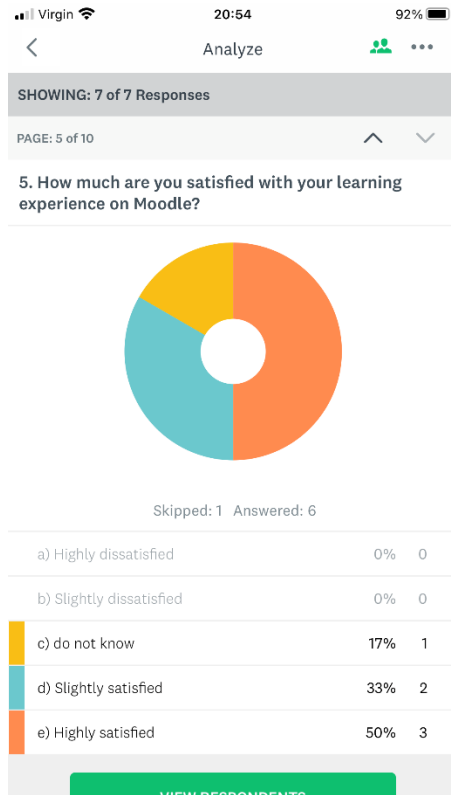
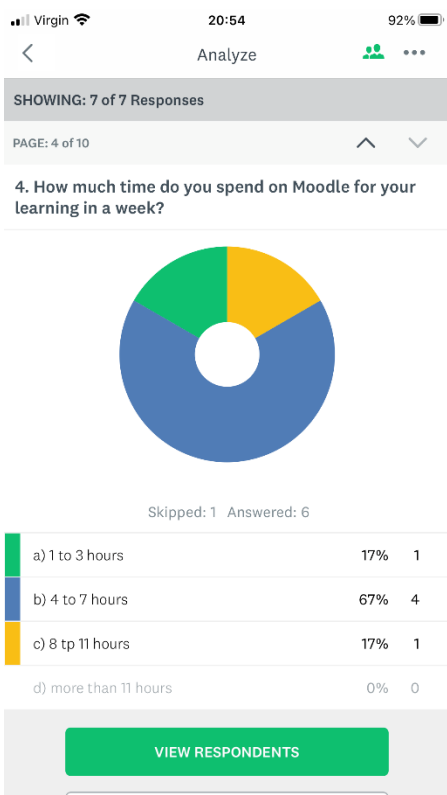
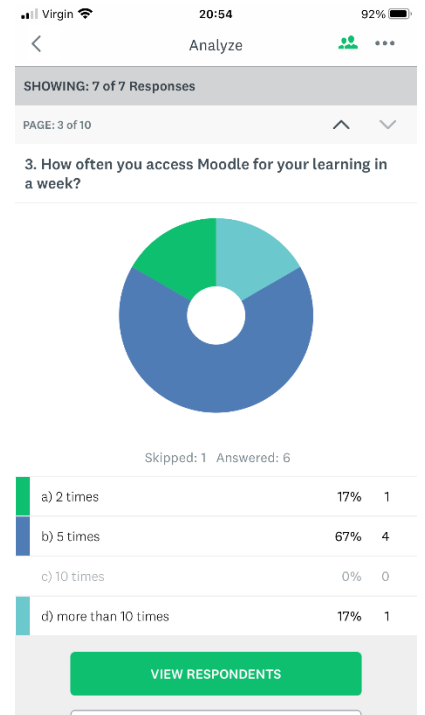
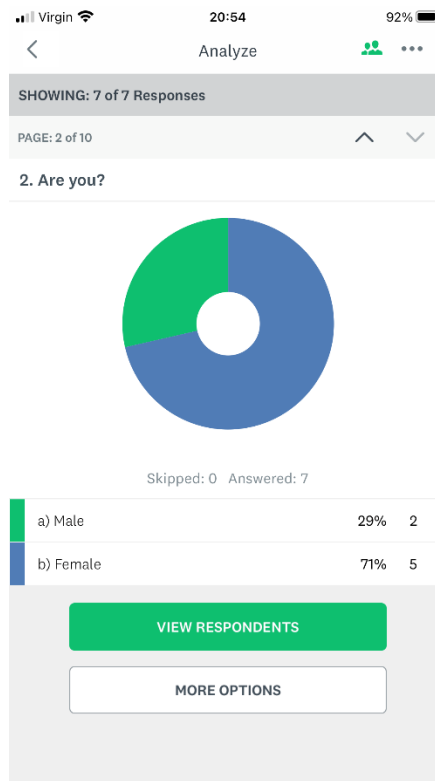
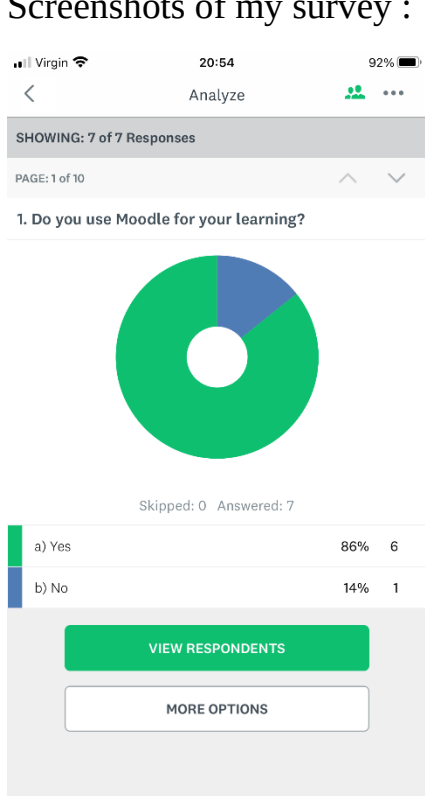
To conclude, in this report I spoke about Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), literature review, risks, opportunities, disadvantages, aims and objectives, results of my survey, and I also spoke about the results. From this research: primary research and secondary research I obtained research skills, reading skills because I had to collect details about VLE, I learned more about meta data and what are the requirements of using Moodle.

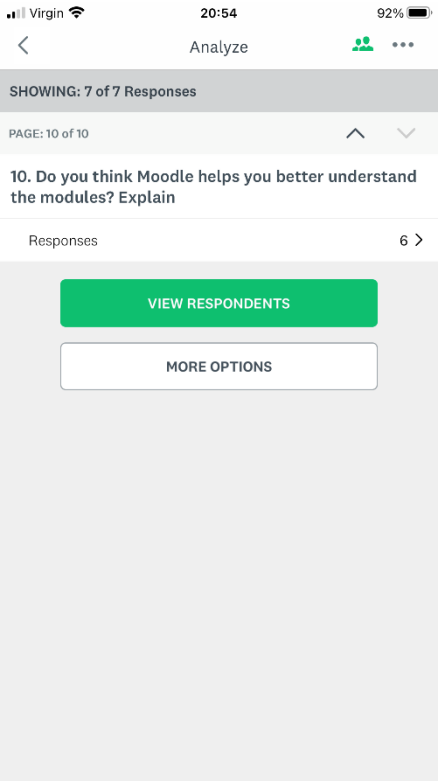
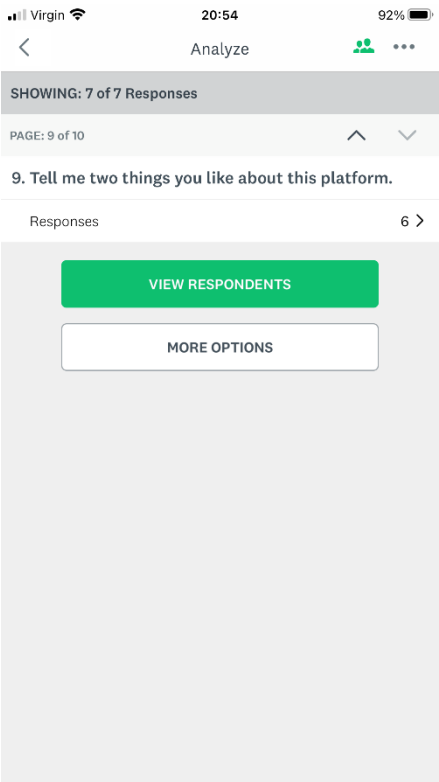
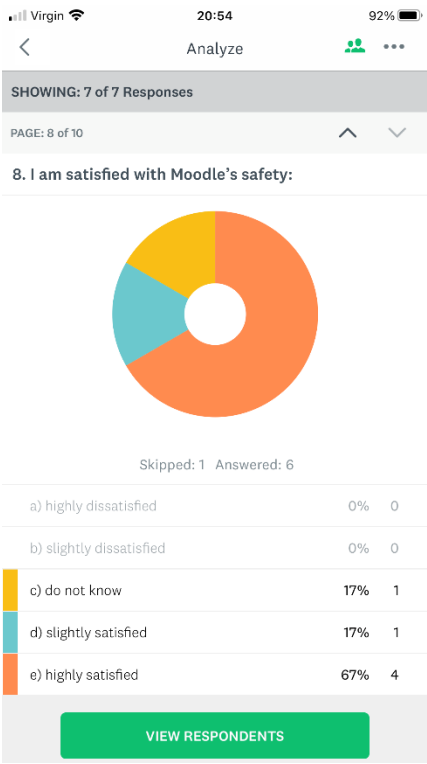
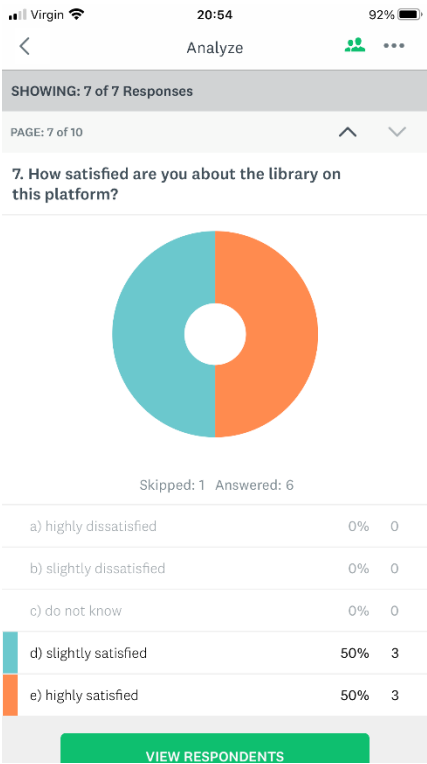
References

1. Andrews, R., & Haythornthwaite, C. (2007). Introduction to e-learning research. In R. Andrews & C. Haythornthwaite (Eds.), *Handbook of E-Learning Research*. (pp 1-52).
2. Goslin, K., Hofmann, M., and Gray, C., 2009, "Development of a Moodle course content filter using meta data".
3. New Zealand Council for Educational Research. (2004). *Critical success factors and effective pedagogy for e-Learning in tertiary education*.
4. Rogers, P. Graham, C., & Mayes, C. (2007). Cultural competence and instructional design: Exploration research into the delivery of online instruction cross-culturally. In *Education Technology and Research Development*, 55 (3): 197-217.
5. Scott, T. (2006). Watch out for the W/HOLE! Student multimedia projects and culturally based education. In *Canadian Journal of Native Education*, 29 (1): 43-57
6. <https://funtech.co.uk/latest/benefits-virtual-learning-environments-classrooms>
7. <https://ciftraining.ie/2018/01/advantages-disadvantages-virtual-learning/>
8. <https://www.npld.eu/members/prifysgol-cymru-y-drindod-dewi-sant-university-of-wales-trinity-saint-david/>

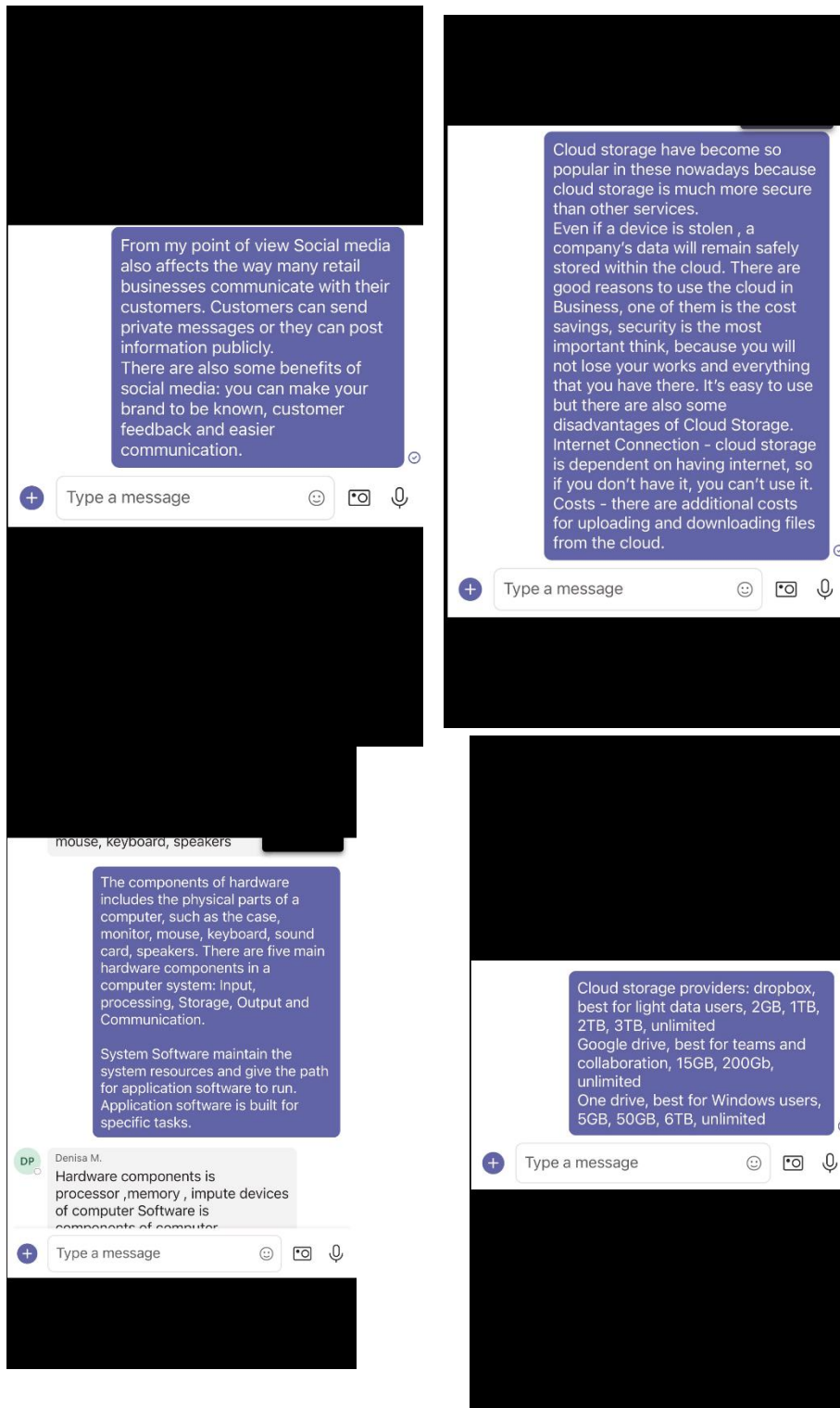
Appendix

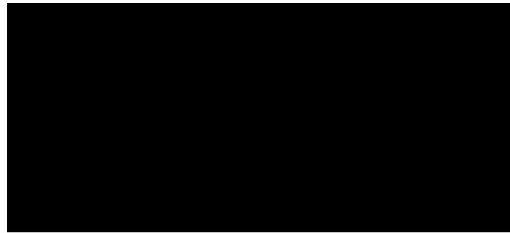
Screenshots of my survey :





Screenshots of my activity in class:





From my point of view, in the next few years the technology will be very advanced and everything will be doing by the computer, like teaching, jobs, and everything else. Many years ago the computers were very large and slow and now computers become smaller and faster, enabling people to use them virtually anywhere and after 10-20 years the robots will do everything. 🌐

BM

BUBU-MARIUS-CALIN

I know that computer technology



Type a message

