

VIRTUAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT



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Introduction

Internet is now everywhere giving the world unlimited opportunities to wonders. With this understanding we need make most of it, using it to help us with studies and accelerating our learning.

Virtual Learning Environment is now a reality and help us to better archive our goals

Knowing the different types of students is easy to find some resistance on the changing of methods and because of this the University Wales Trinity Saint David created one modern way to help their students and facilitate to find all the information needed in one place Moodle.

My work will be about, this new and helpful way of learning.



Rationale and objective

This Work will explain about the importance of Virtual Learning Environment on student's life on present days and how is changing the way people use to learn. This work was based in everything I have being learning in the second term of my course in the university, ideas after reading some literature already published and a class study that we had. In the studies I designer a survey and the answers gave a better structure for the conclusion of my learn.

Unfortunately, according with the situation we are under (covid-19) made things more complicated to deal, making the possibilities limited. Leaving the numbers for the survey below average but not giving less importance for the facts.

Knowing all the students are different and everyone have their own way of learn, I will try to be explaining why is so important to understand the new methods and facilitated for the ones who do not really sees the importance to change.

Sure, about of all the amazing knowledge and great perspective of effective learning, here I will leave my reasons.

"Digital Learning can greatly improve the way educational services are delivered. More schools should embrace this innovation." Mr Beek

Literature Review

What is Virtual Learning Environment and is it really useful?

There are many ways of learning , presential classes , library resources , journals... whatever in all the cases the student have to take time to go to certain place to be able to get the information necessary, loosing precious moments witch could be more useful with studies.

This is where the Virtual Learning Environment comes handy. The student can make better use of their time as they do not need to be present. Is an easy way of having the library in your pocket whenever you need. It was never so easy to get knowledge.

VLEs such a Moodle are characterized by constructivist approaches, their main intended use being a place to collaborate and extend discussions. (Dougiamas M. 2014)

Lately it is being very common to use virtual learning in many places but is always complicate to differ between LMS and VLE. The best explanation I found about this was.

There an important distinction Between Education and Training (Barnes,2014) In this article is quite simple to separate, Education VLE and Training LMS.

There is always one student who will always defend the old methods of study and it still be needing a bit more time to get use. One thing if for sure, books are an amazing way of learning and will be for long to go and you do not need to charge them or simply break.

If we try to find a negative side, maybe is, the Libraries will get less people and less group studying. Or in case of a Black out is impossible to continue with studies as VLE depends on electricity, connection with internet and an electric electronic.

Independent of the case of study we are always going to find the positive and negative side. As the group of people who is always be against the main idea.

Methodology

In this next part of work, I will use a combination of Quantitative and Qualitative data to show all the differences in the answers gathered in my survey, use primary and secondary data.

Quantitative data is the precise information, is measured in numbers and give you the conclusive and direct amount of what you are working or looking for.

To gain my Quantitative data I used the option-based questions as they give me numbers to work and express exactly the needs of students. As closed ended questions give me this numbers as well.

Qualitative data is more investigative and most of the time used to developing hypotheses. Different from quantitative, this is an unstructured and probably needed a further research.

In my qualitative data was necessary to use open ended questions so I could observe the structure to interpret all the needs and difficulties.

Data is the pure part of information. And we can divide her in two parts,
Primary data and Secondary data.

I can say that the **Primary data** is the one I collect myself, using my own survey to gather information (data) about the importance of Virtual Learning Environment.

As **Secondary data** is the information, we can find using other person research to explain or add more for other different purpose.

Data Collection is the simple act of bring together information to test and/or evaluate interest on a certain matter. This can be used on Population, Sample and Sample size.

On my case I structured a simply but effective survey to stablish the importance of VLE on student life.

The **population** in my case it was, The University Wales Trinity Saint David.

Sample it could be used on their 2,500 students on London campus but with the unfortunate case of Covid-19 it would not be possible. Being left my sample size.

Sample size used was a number of twenty students from my own class BMSW4003.

Ethics

To gather information in this survey all the ethics was used to make sure of no violation of circumstances to not lead in any further inconvenience. making sure people who answered the survey was being respected and even above all taken in consideration.

Following is the survey I have created to:

QUESTIONNAIRE

The impact of Virtual Learning Environment on the students of UWTSD London.

This survey is conducted as part of a research project for Digital Skills and Research Method (BMSW4003term2)

Priscila Benicchio Nichida – 1906406

1.As student of UWTSD are you fully aware about Virtual Learning Environment (Moodle)

() Yes () No

2.Have you had a look on everything that VLE (Moodle) can offer you, all the possibilities of uses?

() Yes () No

3.How often do you use VLE (per week)?

(A) Twice a week (B) Five times or more per week (C) only when it is needed (D) Never

4-” The Virtual Learning Environment is making student`s life easier”

To what extent, do you agree with this statement?

a. Strongly agrees

b. Agree

c. Neither agree nor disagree d. Disagree

e. Strongly disagrees

5- How does VLR (moodle) helps you on your studies?

6- Apart from your studies did VLR helped you on your day-to-day life? How? (Explain in a few words)

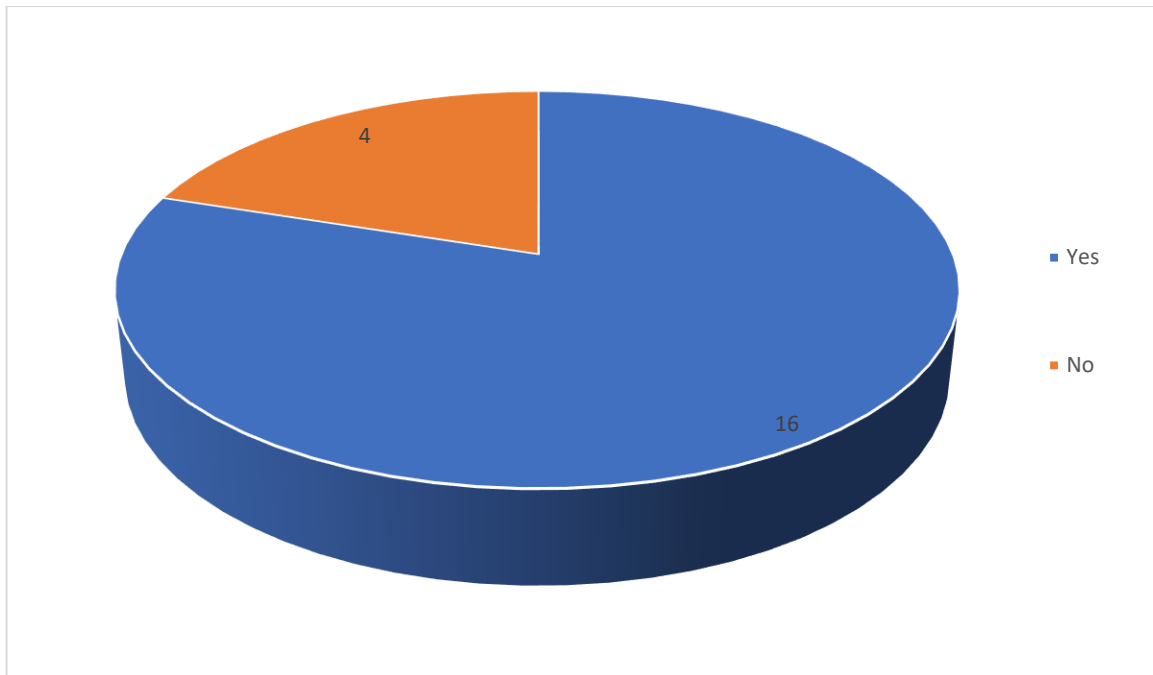
7- In your opinion, how easy it is to manage VLE (moodle)?

() Very easy () Easy () Neither () Complicate () Very complicated

8- If you could change something on our VLE (moodle) what would it be? (Please explain in a few words)

I would like to thank you for taking a time to answer this survey helping us to improve our service.

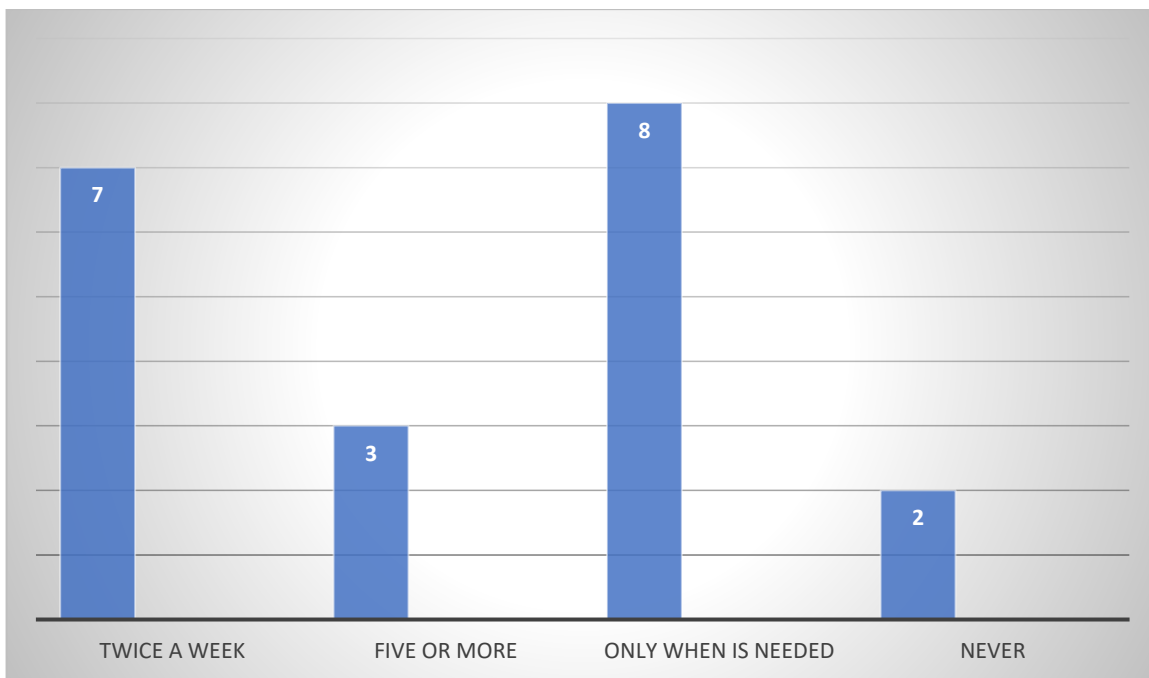
As student of UWSTD are you fully aware about Virtual Learning Environment (MODDLE)



This question was formed to see the understanding of students to know what Virtual Learning Environment is.

The majority of students are aware of moodle, but this does not mean that they understand VLE.

How often do you use VLE (per week).

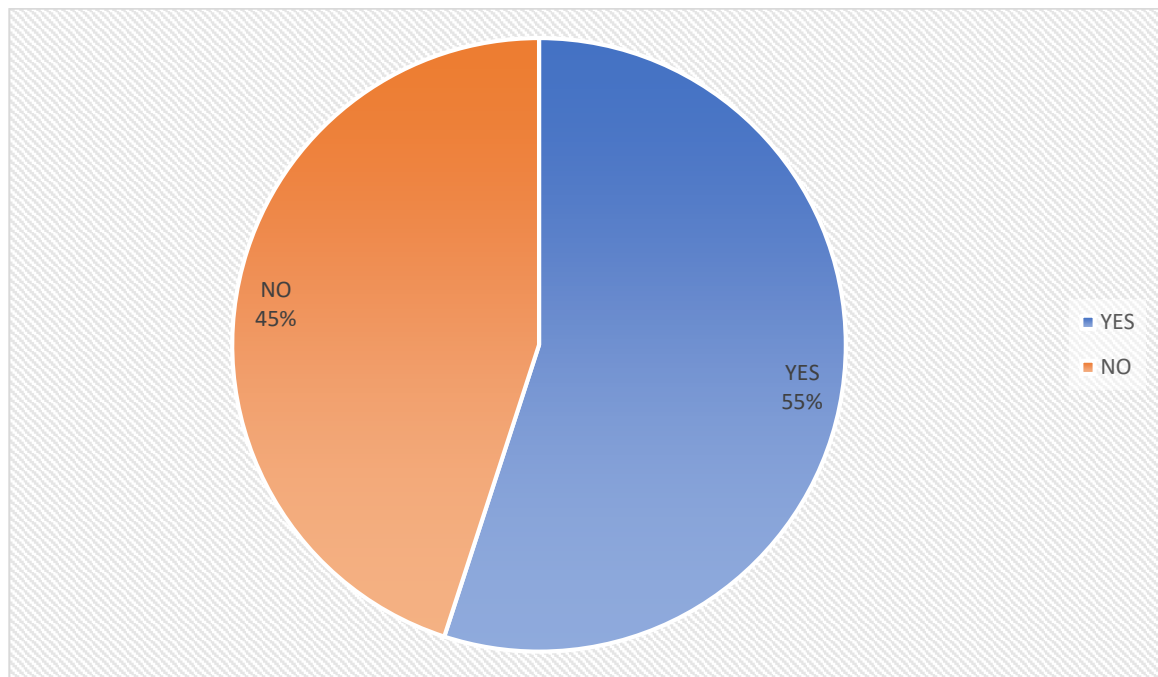


Incredibly in this situation we can observe most of students only use moodle only when is needed leaving all the other facilities that could help and improve their learning.

Is incredible to see in this graphic that some of students chose “never” which is quite difficult as the teachers always give some material to be revised and searched on moodle.

Or we can say the students are confused with the term VLE and not associating with Moodle.

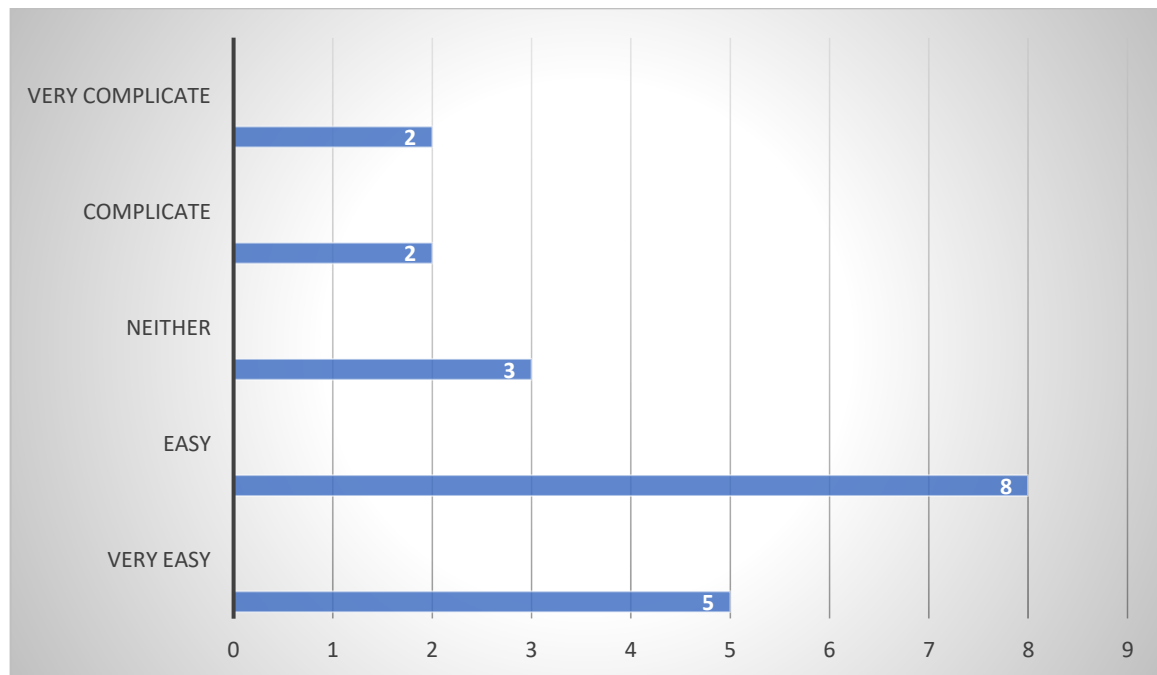
Have you had a look on everything VLE can offer you, all the possibilities of uses?



Unfortunately, because of the lack of interest 45% of these students knows the basic of moodle, only using the basic part to recap the information passed in class or to see information about the assignment.

Not a massive difference but 55% of students are aware of the possibilities of use and everything they can explore with the power of Virtual Learning Environment.

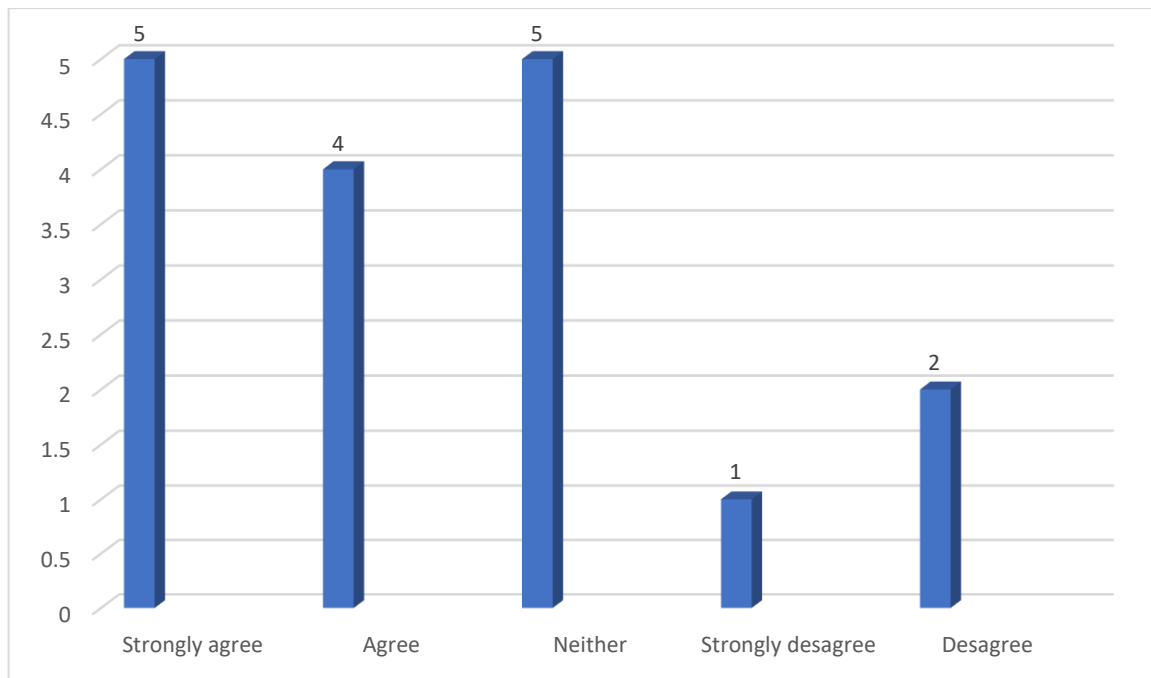
In your opinion, how easy it is to manage VLE (moodle)?



Incredible in this question we can see a contrast of the other questions, the bigger number shows over all students find easy to manage Moodle. Which intrigue us to see that who can they find easy and even like that not to be able to use all the facilities VLE can offer them. The most probably option is , the students do not know how really they can use Moodle or do not know that VLE is the same as Moodle.

"The Virtual Learning Environment is making student`s life easier."

Do you agree to the statement?



Is incredible to find this result, were we can still see some students who disagree with this incredibly method of study. We need to take in consideration that it was not asked about the age in this survey limiting us somehow to see if was related to age the discordance to the method.

Overall is safe to say based on this survey that the greater majority agrees that Virtual Learning Environment is helping students with their studies as in their life.

Conclusion

Virtual Learning Environments benefits not only the students but also can help the teachers in many ways. We can clearly see the benefits even more now during the pandemic situation we are living and in a certain way forcing us to learn to deal better with the electronic mode of study, communicate and doing grocery shopping.

Our live is changing and we need to change with it, taking advantage of everything they can offer and facilitate for us.

Teacher can find a better way to deliver their content in one place, simple and direct. Be able to connect with students in all parts of globe. Check group work and presentations.

As Students can find all the help they need and even more. Ask for help, share some difficulties and leaning surf between libraries and articles without moving a single muscle to exercise.

But is something which we are still introducing and learning every day more and more. As we can see in the end of my work. Students needs more time to get in use of the full potential of this great world of learning and discovers.

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