

The impact of Virtual Learning Environment (VLE, as an example Moodle of our university) on the learning experience of the students at UWTSD London campus.

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Abstract

The Virtual learning became progressive in 2020 due to the Coronavirus (Covid19) pandemic. It is mostly popular for sharing materials and education virtually. The report includes my survey that I shared with my classmates which are questions about their mindset during the Virtual learning environment.

Introduction

The topic is the impact of Virtual Learning Environment (VLE, as an example Moodle of our university) on the learning experience of the students at UWTSD London campus.

There will be an explanation of why I chose this topic and what I want to achieve with it. You will read about the different ways to make a research. You, as a reader will also find information about qualitative and quantitative, both combined and their definition. There is also an explanation of what primary and secondary data are and which one I used for my report. I will present and analyse my questions with the help of diagrams. The questions are 9 and they are answered by my colleagues (19).

Rationale

The reason why I picked this topic to make my report in, is because I think we should have a look on the different impacts and the different people who are being part of virtual learning environment.

Research Objectives

My aim is to show the positives and negatives of the environment and the way people feel about it. I want to present how hard or easy it is to learn online.

Literature Review

The Use of Learning Media with MOODLE Approach to Improve the Quality of Education: A Literature Study is one of the articles I found. It is about figuring out if using the Moodle method as a learning medium could increase the quality of education. The backdrop to the study was the fact that the exponential advancement

of technology had been a very effective and advantageous way of enhancing the standard of education, so that it would be humorous if it could not be applied optimally. Moodle (modular object-oriented interactive learning environment) is a publicly open computing interface that is built as a tool in the field of education that can promote participation and collaboration. By using Moodle, an instructor will render learning resources, quizzes, electronic journals, etc. Students should still have convenient access to it so that it can be more accessible and reliable. (Atlantis Press,2017)

Research Methodology

Research methods are methods in the gathering of data or facts for study in order to find new knowledge or to develop a deeper understanding of the topic. There are also various types of research methods that use different data collection techniques.

There is the qualitative research which means that qualitative analysis collects data on past events, feelings or attitudes, and the meanings that people assign to them. It allows educators to get a better understanding of abstract ideas, social dynamics, or cultural trends. This sort of analysis is helpful in founding how or why things have happened, explaining events, and explaining actions. The quantitative method collects numerical data that can be ranked, calculated, or classified by mathematical analysis. It helps to discover habits or connections, and to draw conclusions. This form of study is helpful for figuring out how often, how often and how much. This type of research has usually fixed answers like yes/no or rates 1-10 etc. The combined one is a mix of them both. It combines the qualitative and quantitative research method. It offers a systematic approach mixing and interpreting scientific data with deeper interpreted insights. Research Methods: What are research methods? (The University of Newcastle Australia,2020)

I used the combined approach. It puts different types of questions together like Likert questions and open ended.

Formplus (2021) described the primary data which is type of data that is gained from the data source without going to any existing sources. It is often gathered specifically for a research study and can be circulated publicly for other academic purposes. Primary data is also accurate and authentic as far as it has been gathered for the purpose of solving a research topic for example mine about the virtual learning environment. As an example of the primary data, we collect the data from a product research directly from a customer. The secondary data is data that is gained by someone else but then mentioned through someone else. This is

for example when another customer is talking about what the customer before said. The data becomes secondary. In this report I will use primary because all the answers are directly gathered from the students.

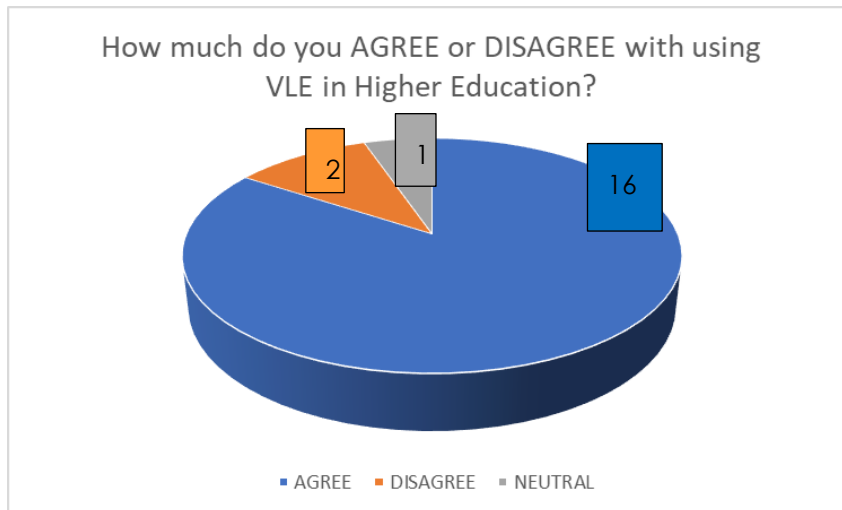
Data collection is a method of collecting and evaluating information on variables of interest in a structured way that helps one to answer specified testing questions, test theories and analyse findings. I have collected my data for my questionnaire from the student in my class. Data Collection (Responsible Conduct in Data Management)

"A good maximum sample size is usually 10% as long as it does not exceed 1000. A good maximum sample size is usually around 10% of the population, as long as this does not exceed 1000. For example, in a population of 5000, 10% would be 500. In a population of 200,000, 10% would be 20,000. This exceeds 1000, so in this case the maximum would be 1000." How to choose a sample size (for the statistically challenged) (tools4dev) I used it in my questionnaire. The size of the students in the university I study in is roughly 11,000. 10 % would be 1,100, but I have selected only one group, which is my class. I have 19 participants in my questionnaire.

In every research you as the person making the questions, you have to be careful. Your questions should not manipulate and be a threat for someone's job. They should not include religion or if you are male or female. People might don't like it. It also must not be about skin colour etc. because it can sound racist to others.

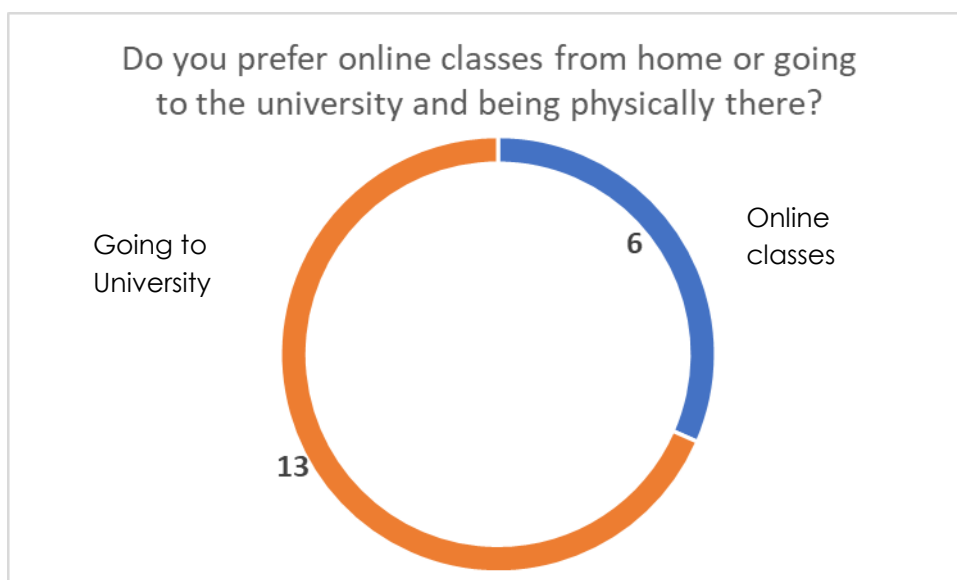
Results, analysis, and discussion

Question Nr. 1



Most of the student agree with the virtual learning, because especially now during the pandemic when there are so many cases. It is much safer when you do not have contact with different people from different groups. And all also have to adopt ourselves to the situation.

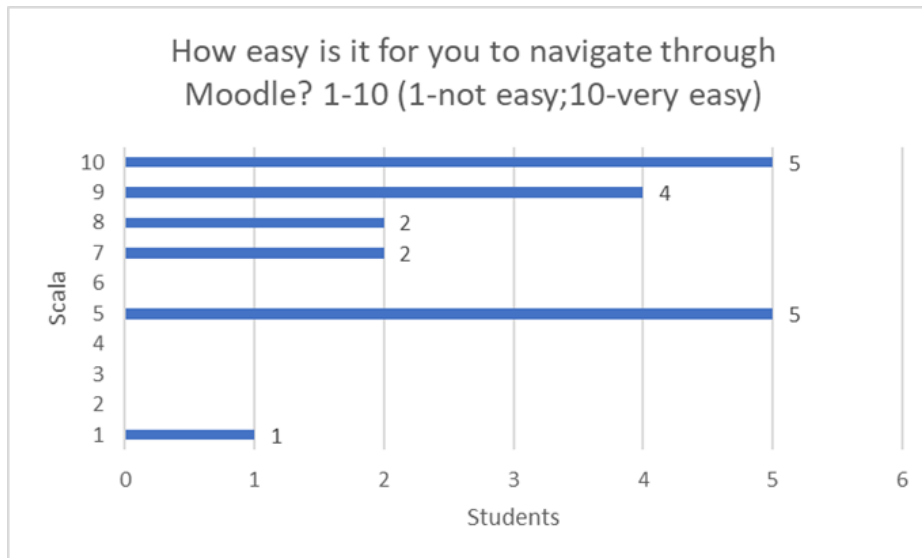
Question Nr. 2



More that the half of the participants prefer going to the university and being physically there. When you are there you do not get distracted that easily. There is also the eye contact. There are no people struggling with their internet or navigating

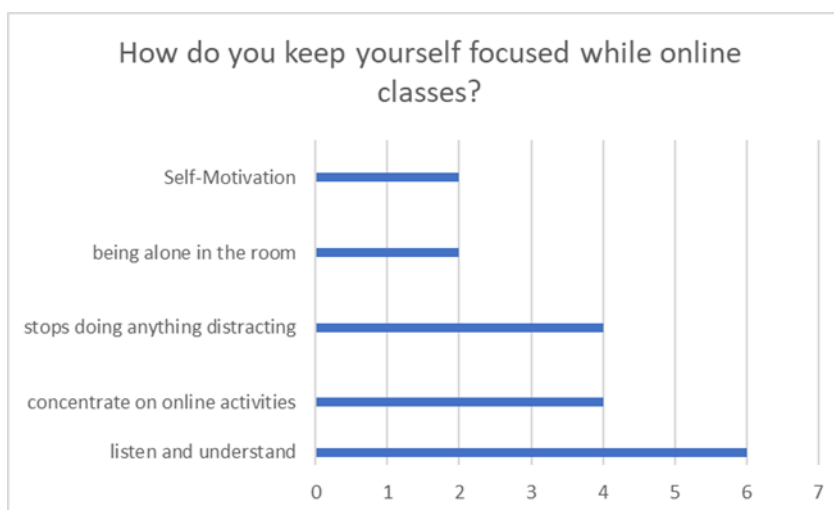
through different platforms. For others online classes are much better, because you can do the other things while the classes, you have more time because you do not spend time and money on travelling.

Question Nr.3



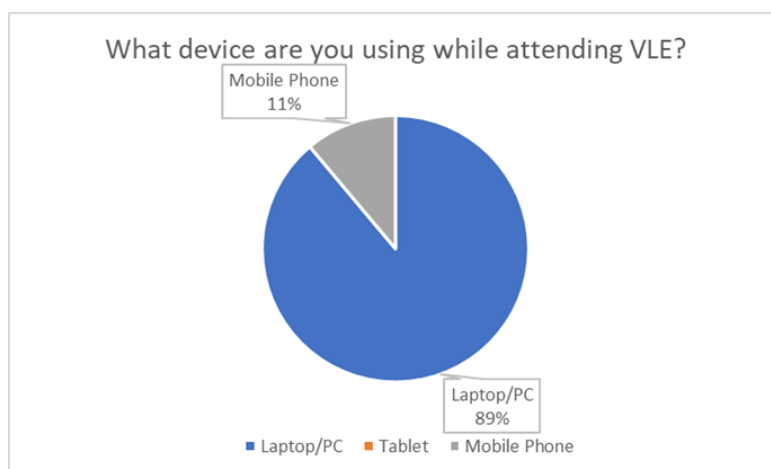
It is mostly easy. It can be hard for the older people, but also not for everyone. Moodle is easy to use. Each new course is set up with the default course front page. You can only change and add content as a lecturer. The courses front page is what you can come up with every time you log in to the Moodle course. "A recent independent survey reported that "50% of total students dropping out from an online learning medium do so because of complicated user experience and navigation"" (Sathian, 2020). To be successful in the virtual learning environment you need to have a bit of computer literacy.

Question Nr.4



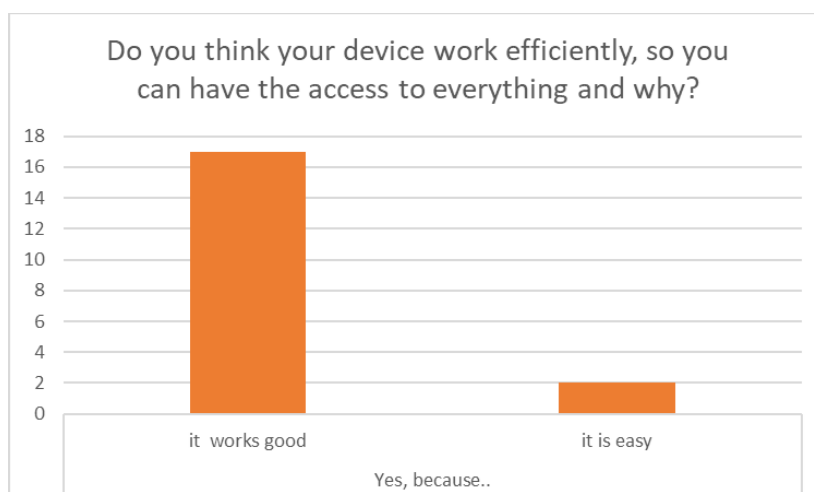
It is hard not to get distracted while you are in online class, sitting on the sofa, on the bed, in the car etc. You should be on a desk and very important alone in your room. You cannot let your little child alone in the other room of course but you have to be ready to miss something. Other distractive things are also your mobile phone. You should mute it or turn it off. Otherwise, you might get distracted by a call or notifications. Students are trying to focus, listen and understand. It is necessary for all students to create a balanced school-life balance so that their tasks are not forgotten, but students in general need to create a system to make sure they keep going and meet their professional goals. *Managing Distractions as an Online Student* (Affordable Colleges Online)

Question Nr.5



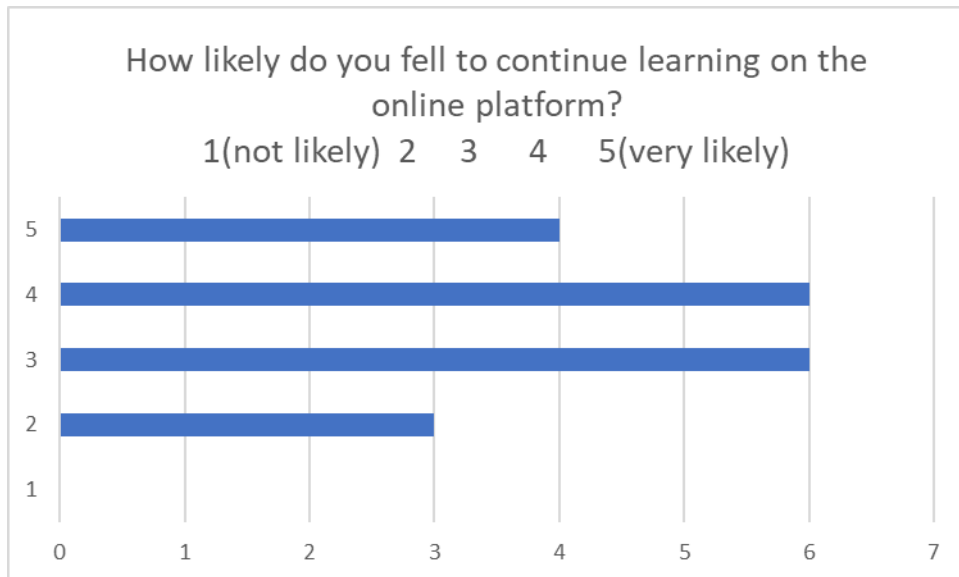
As you can see on the pie diagram no one uses tablet. 89% are using their laptop or pc and the rest (11%) is using their phone. On tablets as also on mobile phones there may be issues. As Tip-Top Brain (2020) mentioned in their blog some of the Virtual Learning Environment options might not work as well as on laptop. A laptop has more functionality and a larger screen in contrary to smartphones. The only disadvantages are that a laptop is heavier and has a shorter battery life.

Question Nr.6



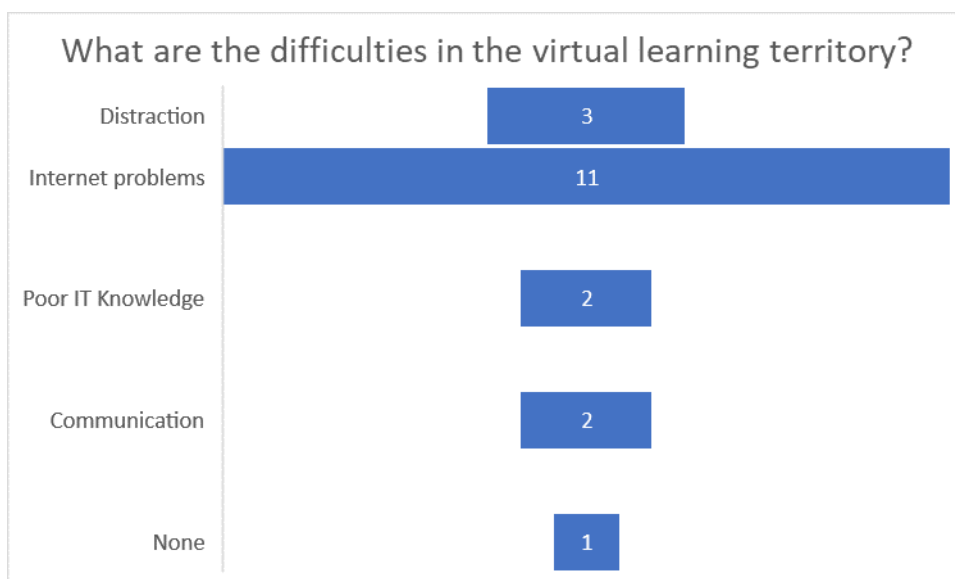
On this question everyone agreed with the fact that their device is working efficiently. It works this way best for them. According to the answers from my classmates it is easy to navigate through the different platforms from their phone and laptop/PC.

Question Nr.7



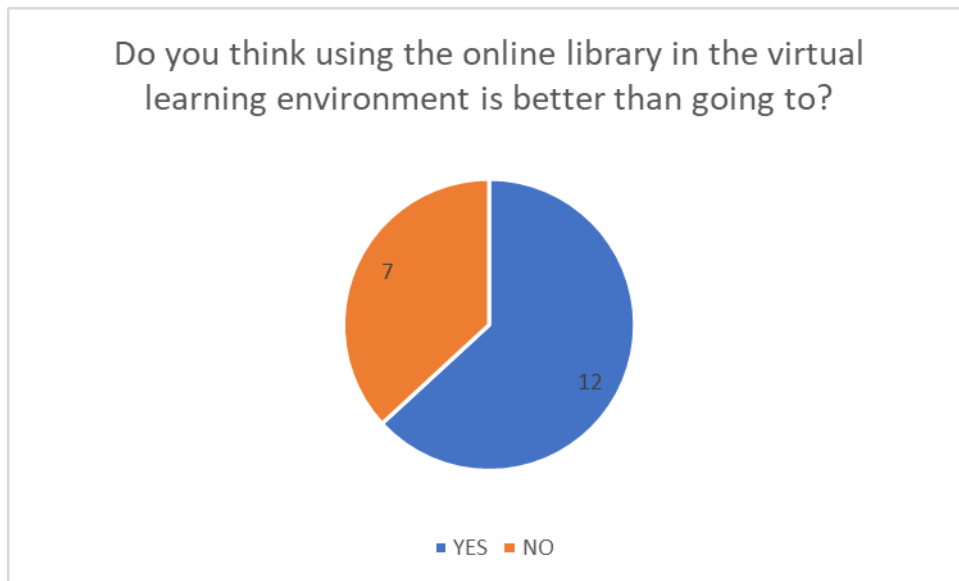
The most of the student prefer to continue being par of the VLE and keep doing online classes. For others the answers is 3 or 4 which means they are fine with it. Some of the student may feel very likely about it because it is the only way in this situation.

Question Nr.8



Distraction, poor IT knowledge and communication are not the biggest difficulties. The biggest one are the internet problems. Your internet can depend on where you are, your provider or how many people you are sharing it with.

Question Nr.9



For more than 50% of the students it easier to use the online library. the rest prefers to go to the library. You can access it easier and you do not have to bring it back or have to pay it, because you missed the date. For a lot of people libraries are still important. They describe them as topanswers (2019) said a house for extraordinary written collections of extraordinary authors from around the world.

Conclusion and Recommendation

As a conclusion Moodle is a publicly open computing interface that is built as a tool in the field of education that can promote participation and collaboration. By using Moodle, an instructor will render learning resources, quizzes, electronic journals, etc. Students should still have convenient access to it so that it can be more accessible and reliable. Research methods are methods for collecting evidence or information for research in order to learn new insights or to gain a deeper understanding of the subject. It helps to explore customs or associations and to draw conclusions. It incorporates the approach of qualitative and quantitative analysis. It brings together various types of questions.

The only recommendations from my side are for the universities to prepare more Computer Literacy classes at the beginning of every year for the student with lack of knowledge.

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Appendices

Class activity one

In-Class exercise: Questionnaire Design

Student Name: Mihaela Ganchev Student ID: 2013873

Module Name: Digital Skills and Research Methods (H&Sc) Term 2 Group: Group 3

Aim: This exercise is aimed to help you in your questionnaire design. Please note, you need to use this questionnaire to conduct a survey which is also one of the important parts of your research report.

Please write down your questions that you are going to use in your primary data collection. Try to have different types of questions such as close-ended question, open ended question, multiple choice question, Likert-scale question.

Question 1: How much do you agree or disagree with using virtual learning in higher education?

Question 2: Do you prefer online classes from home or going to the university and being physically there?

Question 3: How easy is it for you to navigate through on Moodle?
(1-10(1-not easy;10-very easy))

Question 4: How do you keep yourself focused while online classes?

Question 5: What device are you using while attending virtual learning environment?

- a. Laptop/PC
- b. Tablet
- c. Mobile Phone

Question 6: Do you think this device works efficiently, so you can have the access to everything and why?

Question 7: How likely do you feel to continue learning on the online platform?

1(not likely) 2 3 4 5(very likely)

Question 8: What are the difficulties in the virtual learning territory?

Question 9: Do you think using the online library in the virtual learning environment is better than going to?

Question 10:

Further questions, please list your questions below.

Class activity 2

Questionnaire Results

This Questionnaire belongs to Mihaela Ganchev

Number of questions : 9

Partidpants : 19

1. How much do you AGREE or DISAGREE with using VLE in Higher Education?	AGREE	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL							
	16	2	1							
2. Do you prefer online classes from home or going to the university and being physically there?	ONLINE	UNIVERSITY								
	6	13								
3. How easy is it for you to navigate through Moodle ? 1-10 (1-not easy;10-very easy)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	1				5		2	2	4	5
4. How do you keep yourself focused while online classes ?	listen and understand	concentrate on online activities	stops doing anything distracting	being alone in the room	Self-Motivation					
	6	5	4	2	2					
5. What device are you using while attending virtual learning environment?	Laptop/PC	Tablet	Mobile Phone							
	16		3							
6. Do you think this device works efficiently, so you can have the access to everything and why ?	Yes, because..	it works good	17	No , because...	NONE					
		it is easy	2							
7. How likely do you feel to continue learning on the online platform ?	1	2	3	4	5					
1(not likely) 2 3 4 5(very likely)		3	6	6	4					
8. What are the difficulties in the virtual learning territory?	Distraction	Internet problems	Poor IT Knowledge	Communication	None					
	3	11	2	2	1					
9. Do you think using the online library in the virtual learning environment is better than going to?	YES	NO								
	12	7								