

Digital Skills and Research Methods

(BMSW4003 LON)

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***The Impact of Virtual learning
Environment on Education Institutions
in the U.K***

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Introduction

The intention of this statement is to analyse the importance of virtual learning environment in our life as a students or teachers.

Virtual learning environment is an online platform for students and teachers and it is provided digital support who increase the learning experience. Virtual learning is also known as “digital learning “ or “e-learning “.This concept it is beneficial for everyone because it is offer a flexible schedule, can reduce the cost of your degree and in the meantime can help you easily to develop your career alongside promote your education. (Drexel.edu)

In 1924, Ohio State University professor Sidney Pressey was invented the first device in electronic learning “Automatic Teacher”. This mechanism is helping the students to be tested by themselves but unfortunately wasn't successful. In 1954, Harvard professor BF Skinner has created the “Teaching Machine” to be used in schools. In 1960 was created Plato Learning System and was the first computer-based training program designed for students who attending the University of Illinois. (talentlms.com)

Background

It is hardly to explain exactly how long VLE's have been in use. The UK's Open University are starting to use computers in education from 1970 but it was in 2000 that the commercial computer based VLE “Blackboard” was patented. From 2010 over 3700 educational institutions in more than 60 countries are starting to used Blackboard programs. The most legendary VLE, Moodle was started to be used in 2001.This program was created in order to help the teachers during online lessons and by 2011, Moodle becomes more popular in 212 countries with 49,365 active sites in more the 75 languages. In United Kingdom between 2008-2009, 92% of colleges and universities had a virtual learning environment but in 2003-2004 was used in proportion of 58%. (Barker, 2013)

This E-learning process has started in United Kingdom to be used in higher proportion from march 2020 by the colleges and universities because of the Covid-19, this virus has spread everywhere and our lives are in dangers. During this pandemic Virtual learning has playing an important role in our life's because we can still continue to work, learning from our homes without interrupting the normal activities.

Teachers and students use virtual learning as a classroom for learning how to plan and manage lessons and other activities. E-learning are offering a multitude of benefits: easily access to digital learning materials, holding live lessons, group discussions and one-on-one with teacher, submitting homework and assignments and providing feedback in short time from the lecturers. Digital learning can be used easily by teachers when they are trying to show and share videos to students from YouTube, Google or Moodle. The Virtual learning environment give entryway to the connections for networking of students to learning from their lectures. (Scand.com)

As we know the coin has two sides, and this can be typical for virtual learning environment, along with significant benefits this concept is followed by a range of disadvantages: lower quality of communication, demands high self-discipline, lack of practice, delayed answers or requiring investment. Some courses and degree are impossible to be done online, for example: chemical experiment in your bedroom or train dentist skills without special equipment. (Scand.com)

Aims and objectives

Digital learning supports the quality of students and Lecturer learning, it suits the needs of the students and teacher. Even if you are the student or the lecturer, anyone has the freedom to access the courses 24/7 from anyplace and at any time that suits your busy schedule. In case if you are travelling out of your city, or in different countries it is easy to complete your schoolwork, all you need is to have your laptop with you and a good internet connection. Once you are logging in to the student portal on your online university website, you are marked present. It is very easily to access your assignments, post homework, join student discussions with

teacher or other colleagues, get assistance from student support services and access to your attendance. (Waldenu.edu)

Virtual learning environment it is beneficial for people who are in full-time job and they need to keep the balance between family and work with the new demands of going back to school. In this case you can save time every week by not having face-to-face classes and you can allow more time for your learning skills or preparing your group presentation, assignments etc. (Waldenu.edu)

For teachers it is also important this concept and they can easily set lessons or training courses for their students and the distance is not an upstage for them, gives priority for the lecturers to work remotely. Also, when you are teaching or studying from your own place, you are avoided from paying for travel expenses or rent. E-Learning are very friendly with the students because they can access the Moodle an unlimited number of times. If we compare virtual learning environment with traditional form of learning, it is very difficult to pass an exam if the student cannot attend the course and he needs to prepare for that topic by himself. Virtual learning environment it helps students to prevent the plagiarism especially when they are uploading the assignments on Earlier Turnitin Assignment Submission Links and in the meantime, they can make other changes in order to avoid similarities with the rest of the colleagues. (Elearningindustry.com)

Research Methods

This procedure was accustomed to assemble the details as it helps to understand the services available in virtual learning environment. First secondary mechanism was used in this method to qualitative data to help to understand E-Learning. The quantitative data will also help to understand the well-being and challenges faced by student, teachers and admin staff. Research literature is at most creation to appear moderate to the benefits of E-learning on educate and study in UK schools, as the market of Virtual learning environment is still expanding. By drawing and additional large-scale proofs for future schooling where the Digital learning is more facilitate, it is possible to recognize well-being and issues for university.

In this demonstration different categories of articles, journals, books and magazines were introduced to accumulate instructive facts. Moodle from the university website and other accessible sources from the internet was used to assembling the best details. Online operating system was used to create a survey with 15 questions associated with to the university Moodle, which afterwards was distributed to colleagues and educator to procure their replays. The survey was sent via student or lecturer email, this was to guarantee that it reaches the target cells.

However, the questionnaire was provided to aid this research. Qualitative research methods relate and estimate the proportion of circumstances on a basis of numbers and calculation. Primary research was to achieve and collect qualitative and quantitative data regarding to our university Moodle, which is University of Wales Trinity Saint David.

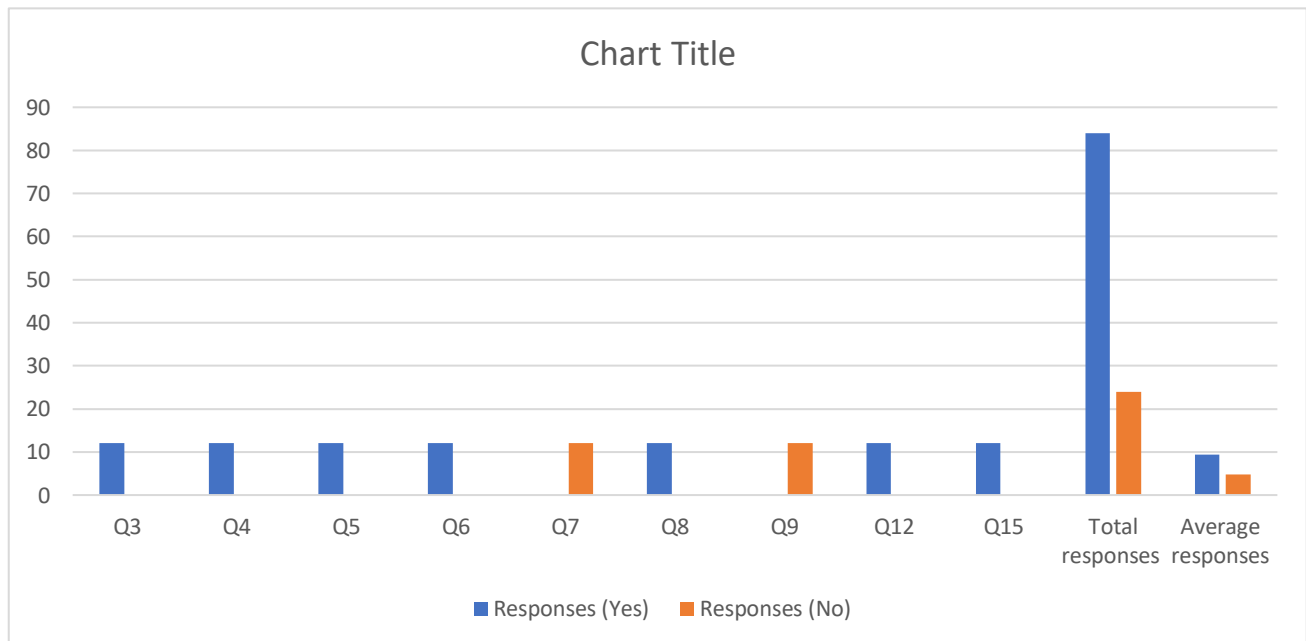
Discussion

This part is investigating the results and offer interpretation to the boards, graphs and charts provided from the numerical analysis. In the meantime, it allocates a connection between the findings and the specific objectives of the project. This section also presents the importance of the new perception that arise from the new findings in light with the research problem. This section debates the results of the study underline them in tables and presentation charts. In this part ,also are presented the numerical aspects of each research interrogation used in the survey respondents comments.

This survey was analysed in my online classroom, via email to the students ,lecturers and the responses has been received in a shortly time but only 12 persons has been accepted to answer to my questionnaire. The data report analysis of Virtual learning environment will be discussed by the questions:3,4,5,6,7,8,9,12 &15 and the feedback was positive(those questions has been answered by Yes) , all the respondents are familiar with Virtual learning environment ,they are happy to share this experience with other friends and they wanted to continue with E-learning in place of face-to-faces classes because they didn't have any technical problems during online lessons and the knowledge's in digitals skills has been improved.

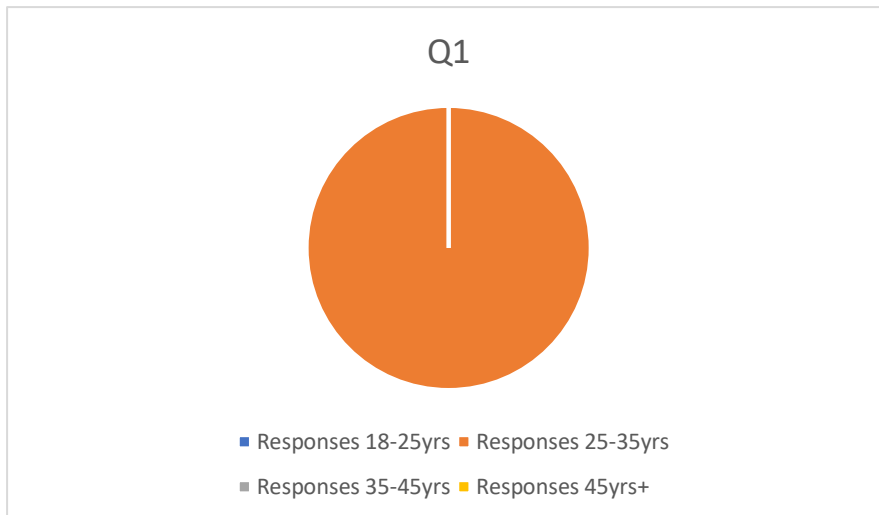
Results for Questions no:3,4,5,6,7,8,9,12&15

Questions	Responses (Yes)	Responses (No)
Q3	12	0
Q4	12	0
Q5	12	0
Q6	12	0
Q7	0	12
Q8	12	0
Q9	0	12
Q12	12	0
Q15	12	0
Total responses	84	24
Average responses	9.333333333	4.8



Results for Question 1

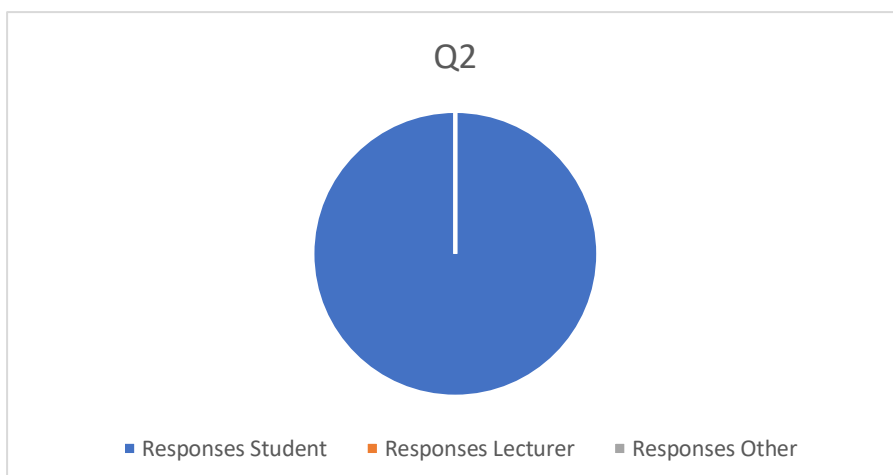
Question	Responses 18-25yrs	Responses 25-35yrs	Responses 35-45yrs	Responses 45yrs+
Q1	0	12	0	0



The results from question 1 it showed the estimated age from respondents and all has the age between 25-35 years, this information can be verified in the table or chart.

Results for Question 2

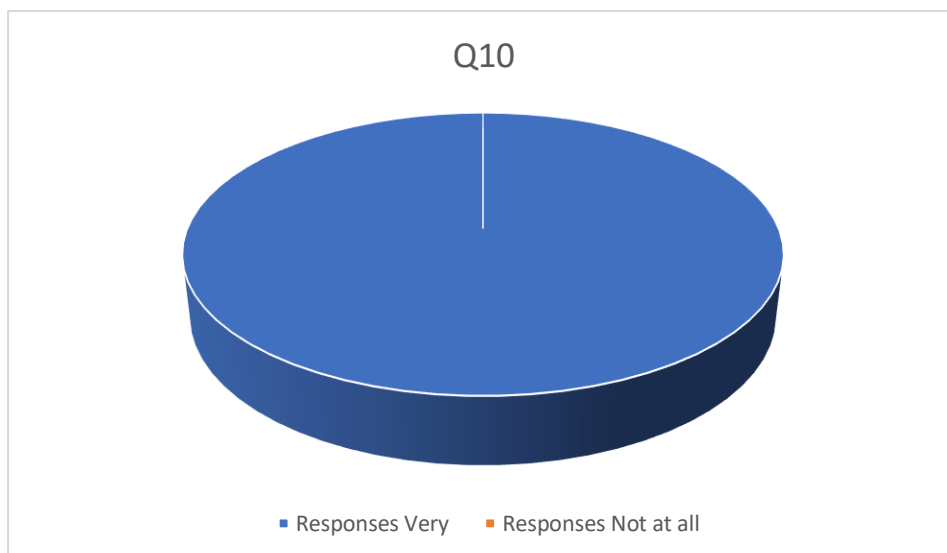
Question	Responses Student	Responses Lecturer	Responses Other
Q2	12	0	&0



In question no.2 the responses are offering information regarding the occupation of each individual who has completed the survey and all of them are in full-time education.

Results for Question 10

Question	Responses Very	Responses Not at all
Q10	12	0

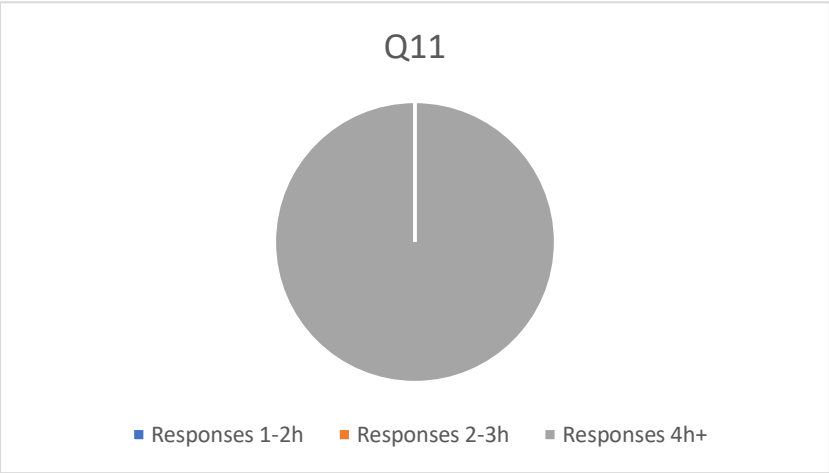


In question no.10 all the respondents are very happy to use Virtual learning environment and this are demonstrated from the values displayed in the table, this concept it is useful for students because it is easily to have access when they have meetings class, online exams or to uploaded assignments.

Results for Question 11

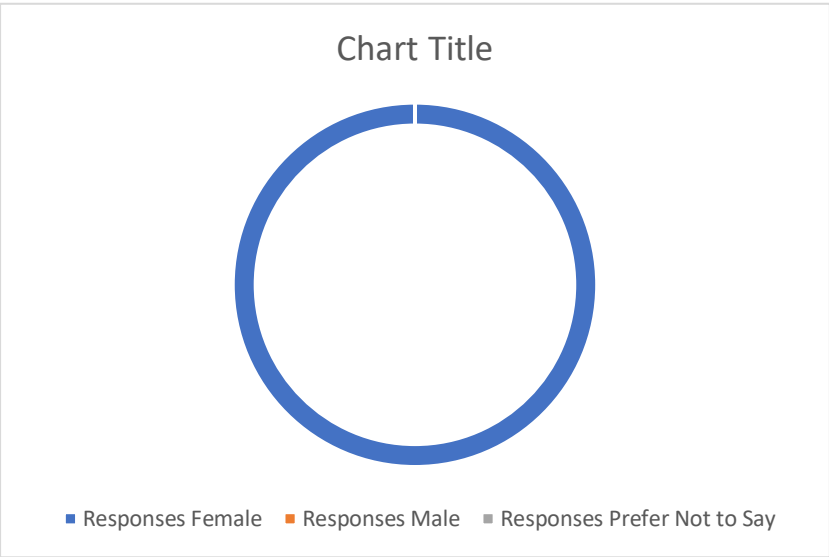
Question	Responses 1-2h	Responses 2-3h	Responses 4h+
Q11	0	0	12

Question no.11 it is offer information regarding how much time each student are using in e-learning courses. All my respondents are reported over 4hours.



Results for Question 13

Question	Responses Female	Responses Male	Responses Prefer Not to Say
Q13	12	0	0



Question no.13 is finding the gender of my respondents. All of them who has answered to my questionnaire are female students and this result are visible in table or charter.

Results for Question 14

Question	Responses Very good	Responses Good	Responses Poor
Q14	0	12	0



All the respondents are thinking about Virtual learning environment it is efficient in our days and they choose the responses "Good".

Conclusion

In this research report I try to explain how important and beneficial are Virtual Learning Environment for students and lecturers from UK. My experience in using E- learning has given me motivation and my knowledge's in digitals skills has been totally improved: I'm a good searching in Moodle system, coursework, I'm flexible to submit my assignments on Turnitin and I'm happy with Microsoft Teams when I need to be connected with my classroom and teachers. This concept has improved my communication and learning skills, now I'm good enough to manage the Microsoft Office 365.

My finding research was to collected and discussion, and those has been done with my colleagues support because they has been responded to my survey questionnaires and I found how important or unnecessary can be interpreted by students when are interacting with E-learning. This concept has a big impact in our lives because it is flexible to be used by everyone and the place where you are doesn't affect your studies or work. In report I learnt that digital learning has some benefits, for example is reducing the cost of studying abroad and is helping the environment from the carbon footprint. In my opinion virtual classroom is more comfortable than the normal classroom.

References

- 1.The Benefits Of Online Education In A Virtual Classroom, [Online], Available at: <https://dremel.edu/soe/resources/student-teaching/advice/benefits-of-online-and-virtual-learning/>, (Accessed at: 22 August 2020).
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- 4.7 Benefits of a Virtual Classroom (2020), [Online], Available at: <https://www.waldenu.edu/programs/resource/seven-benefits-of-a-virtual-classroom>, (Accessed at: 23 August 2020).
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Appendix

 Untitled form



Questions Responses **12**

12 responses



Accepting responses 

Summary Question Individual

< 1 of 12 >



Responses cannot be edited

A Survey associated to UWTSD Virtual Learning Environment

As a part of my report ,it is required to create on online survey related to university online platform and collect feedback from the students and teachers , therefore please be king to provide your feedback for the following questions.

*Required

Email address *

Your email address

1.How old are you?

☐ 18-25

☐ 25-35

☐ 35-45

☐ 45+

12 responses



Accepting responses ☒

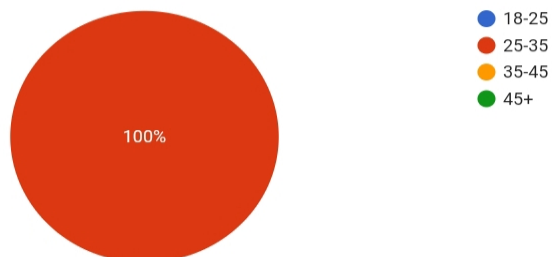
Summary

Question

Individual

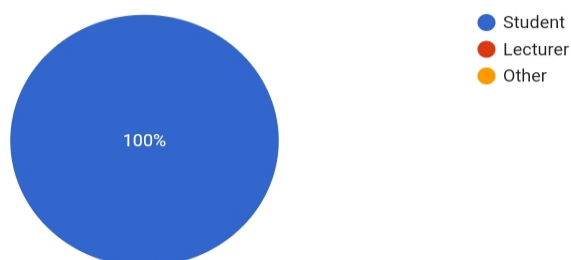
1.How old are you?

1 response



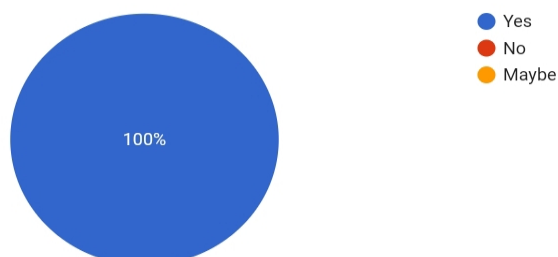
2.What is your occupation?

1 response



3.Do you know what is Virtual Learning Environment ?

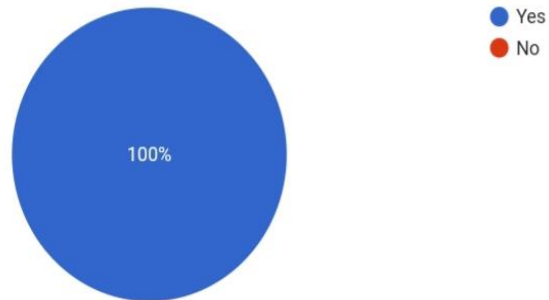
1 response



Questions Responses 12

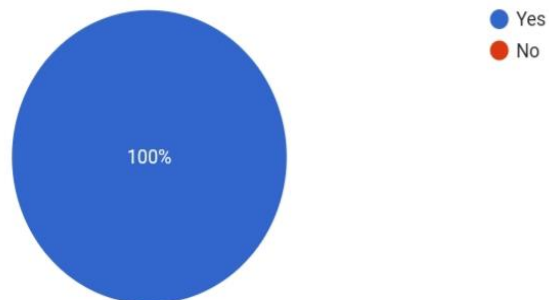
4.Do you prefer online lessons or face to faces classes?

1 response



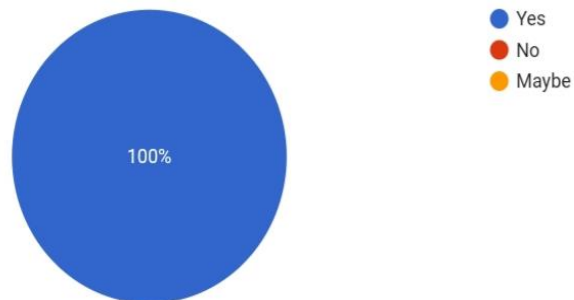
5.Would you prefer the university to continue with VLE?

1 response



6.Would you recommend the VLE to other people?

1 response

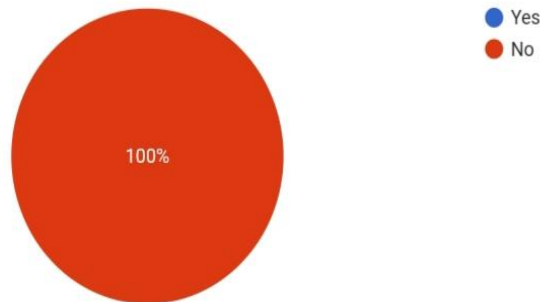


Questions Responses 12

7. Have you ever used this type of services before university?

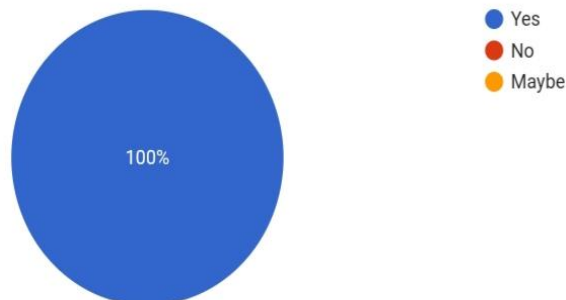


1 response



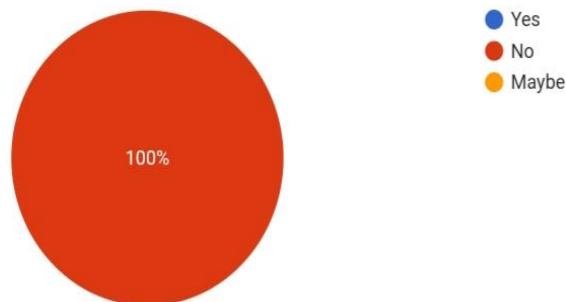
8. Has VLE improved your skills and knowledges?

1 response



9. Did you find any technical problems during online lessons?

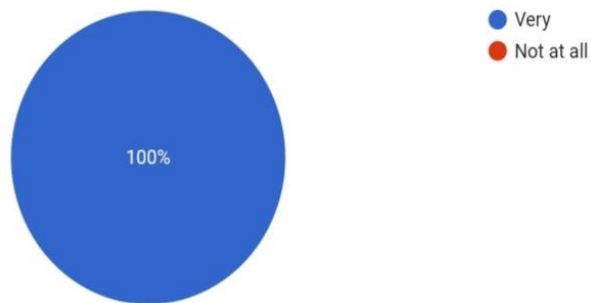
1 response



Questions Responses **12**

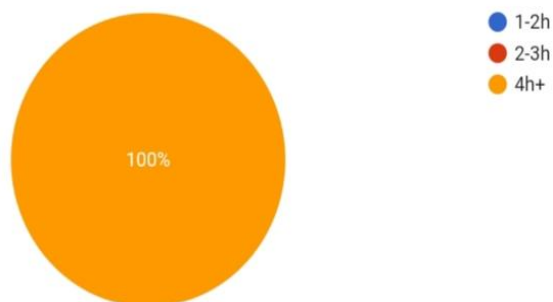
10.How familiar are you with the concept of VLE?

1 response



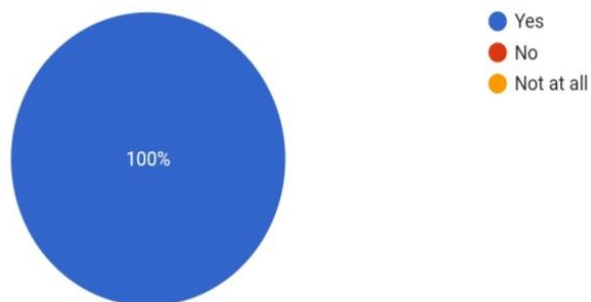
11.How much time you spend on this e-learning courses?

1 response



12.Are the moddle easy to be accessed?

1 response



13.What is your gender?

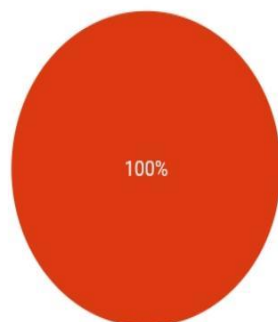
1 response



- Female
- Male
- Prefer not to say

14.How efficient do you think are VLE?

1 response



- Very good
- Good
- Poor

15.Are you interesting to use VLE in future?

1 response



- Yes
- No
- Maybe