

Digital Skills and Research Methods

Report

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Introduction

Currently the whole world is facing Covid-19 pandemic due to the normal systems of society collapsing. Education is one of those systems which is also getting closed in many states and provinces (Mat and Mustakim, 2021). In this scenario, the virtual learning environment is giving some value to society in terms of education and learning in schools, colleges and universities. The module is such a virtual learning environment created by the University of Wales Trinity, Saint David London campus (Rosyadi et al., 2021). In this report, both primary and secondary research about this virtual learning environment Moodle will be done with a proper questionnaire survey. This research will show how impactful the virtual learning environment is for the students.

Primary data analysis

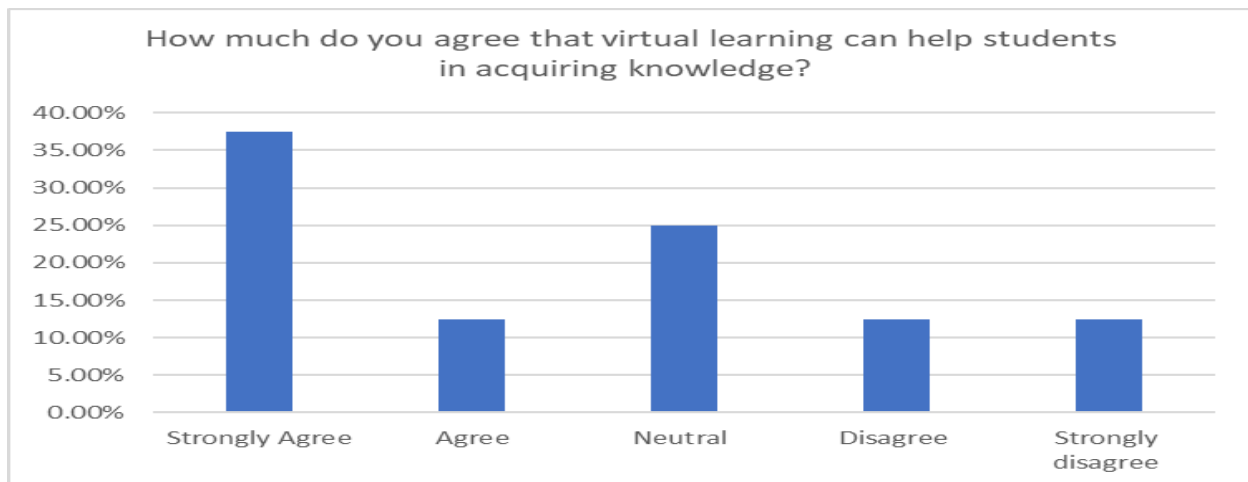
For primary data collection a questionnaire survey will be done where the main impacts of the virtual learning environment will be evaluated. This questionnaire has been developed to collect data from 40 students in both faces to face and online modes. All the responses have been noted and analysed here for data analysis purposes.

Questionnaire survey

Questionnaire

1. How much do you agree that virtual learning can help students in acquiring knowledge?
 - a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Neutral
 - d. Disagree
 - e. Strongly disagree

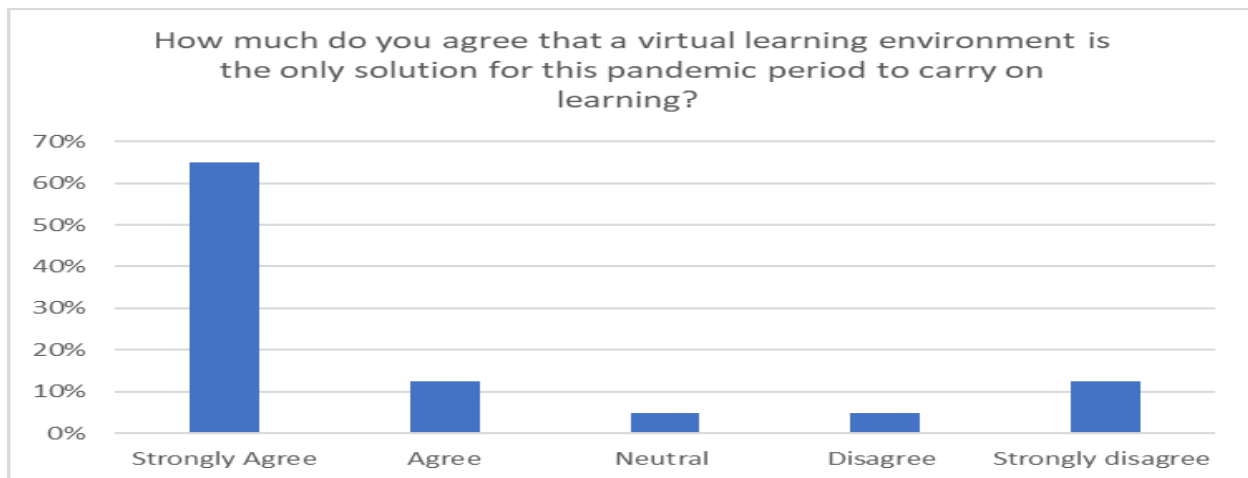
Response	Number of respondents	Percentage
Strongly Agree	15	37.5%
Agree	5	12.5%
Neutral	10	25%
Disagree	5	12.5%
Strongly disagree	5	12.5%



Here in this question the responses are quite mixed and most important there are 10 students who have gone neutral in this question and they think that both online and offline mode can help students to acquire knowledge. On the other hand, 50% of respondents have said that virtual learning can help students to acquire knowledge. 25% of respondents have noted that online learning cannot help to acquire knowledge, offline mode is best for acquiring knowledge. So here almost a mixed feeling has been recorded with a positive intent of grabbing online or virtual learning environments (Odrekivsky et al., 2019).

2. How much do you agree that a virtual learning environment is the only solution for this pandemic period to carry on learning?
 - a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Neutral
 - d. Disagree
 - e. Strongly disagree

Response	Number of respondents	Percentage
Strongly Agree	26	65%
Agree	5	12.5%
Neutral	2	5%
Disagree	2	5%
Strongly disagree	5	12.5%

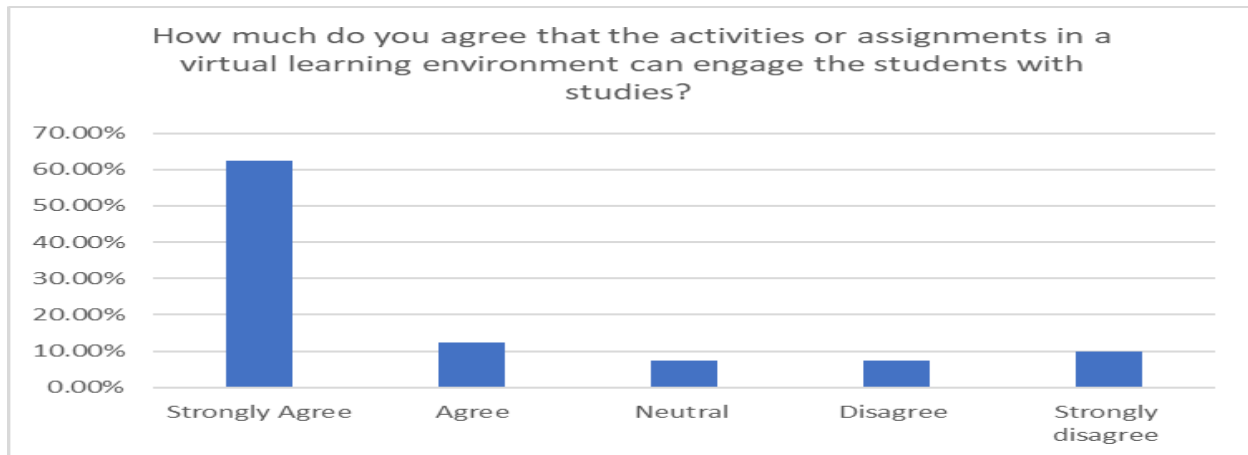


Here almost all positive outcomes have been found with a 77.5% majority which is saying that in this pandemic situation virtual learning is the only solution that can be useful for the students. There are 2 students who have gone neutral. Total 7 students have said that there can be other solutions that can provide education in this situation. The percentage here is 17.5% which is much less than those who have identified that online learning is the only solution. The educators are also thinking of new ways by which education can be given (Becerra-Romero et al., 2019). But for now, a virtual learning environment may be the best possible solution to carry on the education and learning for the students.

3. How much do you agree that the activities or assignments in a virtual learning environment can engage the students with studies?

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree
- c. Neutral
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly disagree

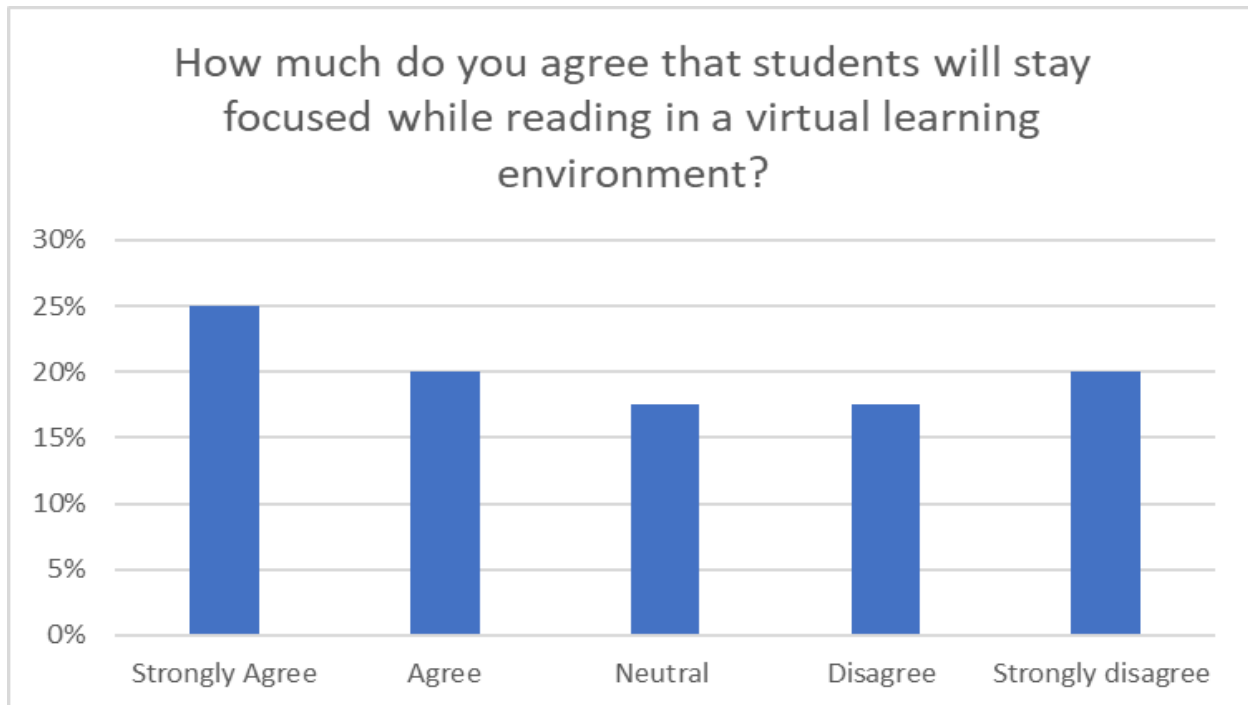
Response	Number of respondents	Percentage
Strongly Agree	25	62.5%
Agree	5	12.5%
Neutral	3	7.5%
Disagree	3	7.5%
Strongly disagree	4	10%



There can be various activities and assignments in the virtual learning environment which may engage students for educational purposes. There are 30 respondent students who have agreed with the fact that those activities and assignments can help to engage students in learning. The percentage is 75% which is a very healthy number in this research. There are 3 students who have gone neutral in this question. Total 7 students or 17.5% of students who have disagreed with the fact that assignments and activities can engage the students in a learning environment.

4. How much do you agree that students will stay focused while reading in a virtual learning environment?
 - a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Neutral
 - d. Disagree
 - e. Strongly disagree

Response	Number of respondents	Percentage
Strongly Agree	10	25%
Agree	8	20%
Neutral	7	17.5%
Disagree	7	17.5%
Strongly disagree	8	20%



There can be various problems or issues with the virtual learning and one major problem is the unavailability of focus of students. Now 18 students or 45% of students have said that a virtual learning environment can help the students to be focused during the learning process. 7 students or 17.5% of students have gone neutral in this matter. 15 students or 27.5% of the total population have said the virtual learning environment cannot help the students to be focused during the learning period. Now the majority is in favour of the motion but it is very interesting to see that the gap between yes and no is not very much and thus a conflict can arise later related to this topic (Gao et al., 2021).

5. How will you rate the moodle?

(At a scale of 1 to 10)

Rating	Respondent	Percentage
1	0	0%
2	0	0%

3	0	0%
4	2	5%
5	6	15%
6	11	27.5%
7	5	12.5%
8	13	32.5%
9	2	2%
10	1	2.5%

This last survey has been done to review the virtual learning environment Moodle in the university. The students have reviewed all the processes and procedures of Moodle and rated this virtual learning environment as per their feelings. Two students have rated Moodle as 4 out of 10. Six students have rated 5 out of 10 for Moodle. 11 students have rated 6 out of 10 to the learning environment. 5 students have rated 7 out of 10 to the Moodle. 13 students have rated 8 out 10 to the Moodle as they found it very good. 2 students have rated 9 out 10 as they found Moodle excellent in terms of quality and performance. Lastly, 1 student has rated 10 out of 10 as he or she cannot find any flaws in Moodle.

Secondary data analysis

Virtual learning is a platform where the students can perform with their digital experiences in order to increase the experiences on learning. The virtual learning environment here is regarded as the prime tool to make the students learn on their own learning experiences (Boulton, Kent and Williams, 2018.). This virtual learning environment basically helps the students to make high jump progress from being passive learners to active learners. The learning on the active process helps the students to think critically and therefore transfer the use of the class or the classroom obtained knowledge into the form of the setting clinically. The secondary data collection tool is used in this

research by analysing the core impact of the virtual learning environment on the students. They are as follows-

Increased inclusivity- The virtual learning environment is very significant nowadays for students. As nowadays the world is being suffered from the deadly virus that is covid 19, many of the offices, universities, schools and colleges have turned the walk-in classroom into the virtual classroom (Herrador-Alcaide, Hernández-Solís and Galván, 2019). Apart from this in the context of the inclusivity enhancement the students who were shy to attend the offline classroom or classes would be very much happier to attain virtual learning as this virtual learning give those students a great and own environment to perform in it.

Improving the accessibility- Virtual learning is very much well impacting the students in the current scenario. As each of the students is holding laptops., computer and mobile phone. The accessibility of the virtual classes is therefore very easy to operate by them. In the pandemic situation, the students are more often to use all these gadgets and they are also learning to improve their accessibility very greatly.

Community and relation-building- As opined by Torres Martín et al (2021), virtual learning is very much significant in the present world for students. This viral learning is making the lives of the students very easier as they can approach all the means and modes to contact and submit their papers or learn something through this. The virtual learning environment helps the students to build a relationship with other students and most importantly help the students to collaborate with their classmates in terms of assignment, projects and many more.

Cost savings- this is the most prominent part of a virtual learning environment. As the university is saving a lot of money by providing the students with online or virtual classes. Along with this, the main benefit of the virtual learning environment is that it is also helping the students to save money as no need for conveyance or accommodation is required to reach the university or the classes (Torres Martín et al., 2021). As therefore, it is helping the student to save a lot in this endemic situation too. In addition to this, saving the traveling cost virtual learning or the online classroom will lessen the footprint of the students which is related to fuel and gas. Apart from all these, the virtual classroom or virtual learning environment is less costly than the offline classroom environment.

Expanded the view of the world- Virtual learning covers a wide range of environments in the whole world. Moreover, the students get to interact with other students from different countries and states and also, they can learn their language and many more things (Torres Martín et al., 2021). In addition to this, the students get an extended view of the different other cultures from the whole world and can adopt them easily and smoothly.

The technical skills are imported- Through virtual learning and the virtual learning environment, the technical skills of the students are very well improved (Costello, Johnston and Wade, 2019). The students who use their computers, laptops and mobiles phone for the virtual classes get to know the exact way to enter the virtual classroom, they have a good hand over the keyboard and also other hardware and software which they need every day for the virtual classes (Chen, 2020). Therefore, the virtual learning environment is very much impacting the students of the colleges and the university.

Immediate feedback is approved- In online or virtual learning the students get immediate feedback over their classwork or seminars and many more things. In fact, from the traditional or offline class, the virtual learning is more beneficial for the students of the university to get instant feedback on the work they do (Costello, Johnston and Wade, 2019). Moreover, in the traditional class or offline classes, the teachers take the work in their home or take ample time to mark the grades on it. Therefore, this impacts the students of the university to be quicker on their toes and also progress in their career or academic life a little bit quicker.

Comfort and greater flexibility- The impact of virtual learning and the mood of the students are impacting very greatly nowadays (Costello, Johnston and Wade, 2019). Virtual learning is giving greater comfort and also flexibility to the students who are attending these virtual learning classes. The students can their own time to learn the classroom and also can be free to join whenever they want to.

Conclusion

In the entire report, it is therefore concluded that the report focuses on the impact of virtual learning on the students. The primary data collection is used to conduct a survey on the learning options in the virtual learning environment. Moreover, it is also concluded with the questionnaires on how much that virtual learning can help students in acquiring knowledge is agreed or not. In addition to these four other questionnaires is considered to help the report with the primary survey and therefore it helps the report to conclude with all these five questionnaires. The surveys, graphs and tables are also used to conduct the primary survey and therefore it is summarised very properly the impact of the virtual learning environment on the students. In the second part of the report, the secondary analysis is done on the impact of virtual learning and therefore analysed and therefore concluded.

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