



DIGITAL SKILLS AND RESEARCH METHODS

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REPORT BASED ON MY QUESTIONNAIRE

INTRODUCTION

This report is a research based on a questionnaire which I personally did and with University of Wales Trinity Saint David approval, I sent it by email to my colleagues.

This questionnaire is about VLE (Virtual Learning Environment) . Virtual Learning Environment is a web based platform for the digital aspects of courses of study , usually within educational institutions.

In this report we will see the questions from the questionnaire, and below of them we will see the answers in Pie Charts .

RATIONAL

I made this survey because we live in a pandemic . This pandemic has changed our lives completely. From our everyday task to education . We are forced to do VLE and this had a different impact for each of us , especially as students.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

This reports objective is to show and demonstrate how the simple become difficult. How the pandemic pushed us into the modern way of learning. Into Virtual Learning Education .

LITERATURE REVIEW

REVIEWING SARA'S DUNN VLE RESEARCH FOR DISABLED STUDENTS

1. Sara's Dunn research was about VLE on disabled students. The aim of this research is to investigate the current state of knowledge concerning the accessibility for disabled students of virtual learning environments (VLEs) in UK further education (FE) and higher education (HE) institutions, particularly since the introduction of SENDA – the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001. The study combines an extensive literature and web review with an online questionnaire and a series of interviews. Relevant literature is drawn from academic research in the fields of e-learning and of web accessibility, as well as from educational policy and technical guidelines from the educational and commercial sectors. The literature and web review and the online survey all found similarly low levels of accessibility in VLEs. The accessibility barriers were within the VLE software itself and within the content. Aspects of the VLE software shown to be particularly difficult were synchronous communication tools (chat and whiteboard), navigational structure (over-complex frames-based architectures), and assessment procedures. Many respondents pointed to generally poor usability hindering accessibility, so that even if the product was technically accessible to a user with disabilities, it was still too complex to use with any effectiveness or efficiency.

2. Right now we are struggling with VLE because we are in a global pandemic ,but schools in the future should focus more on teaching students about VLE and practice it more .
Because of the lack of digital skills , many students struggle now with VLE and there is no other option .

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Definition : According to Polit and Beck (2004) methodology refers to ways of obtaining, systematising and analysing data. Creswell (2003) portrays methodology as a coherent group of methods that harmonise one another and that have the capability to fit to deliver data and findings that will reflect the research question and suits the researcher's purpose.

Types of Methodology :

- ❖ Observation / Participant Observation
- ❖ Surveys
- ❖ Interviews
- ❖ Focus Groups
- ❖ Experiments
- ❖ Secondary Data Analysis / Archival Study
- ❖ Mixed Methods (combination of some of the above)

What is Data , Secondary And Primary Data ?

Data is factual information used as a basis for reasoning, discussion, or calculation. Primary data is the data that is collected by researchers directly from main

sources, secondary data is the data that has already been collected from primary sources . (Formplus Blog ,2016)

What is Data collection ?

Data collection is the process of gathering and measuring information on variables of interest, in an established systematic fashion that enables one to answer stated research questions, test hypotheses, and evaluate outcomes.(George, S.L., 2016)

I consent that during this research , I was completely honest and didn't try to manipulate to archive wanted answers , and I didn't influence anyone in any way . In the above survey the students answered directly to me and all the data that has been collected by me will be used only in my research and will be kept confidential.

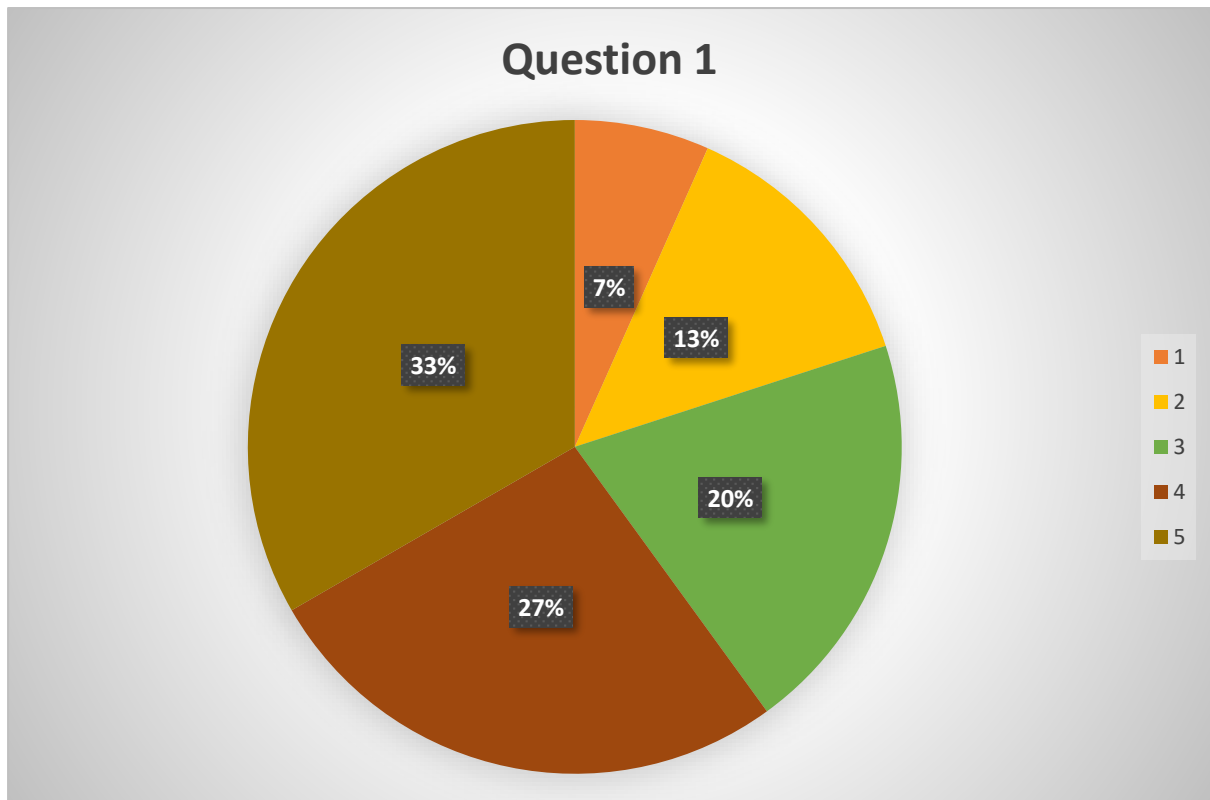
The survey that was sent to the students from the University of Wales Trinity Saint David had the following questions .

1. From 1-5 , how would you rate VLE ?
2. What disadvantages do you think VLE has ?
 - No interaction ?
 - Not easy to access ?
 - You need digital skills ?
 - Connection problems ?
 - Hard to focus ?
3. What advantages do you think VLE has ?
 - More comfort ?
 - You don't need to travel ?
 - Money saving ?
 - Flexibility ?
 - You can multitask ?

4. In your opinion , VLE is as effective as face to face education? Yes or no
5. In your opinion , is VLE providing richer educational experience? Yes or no
6. Do you find the educational platform Moodle , easy to access? Yes or no
7. When not required by your teachers , how many times are you using Moodle outside the classroom to support your learning ?
 - Never
 - Sometimes
 - Often
8. Did VLE had a negative or a positive impact on you ?
 - Positive
 - Negative

Bellow , we will proceed to see the students answers in Pie Charts and I will make an analysis for each of them .

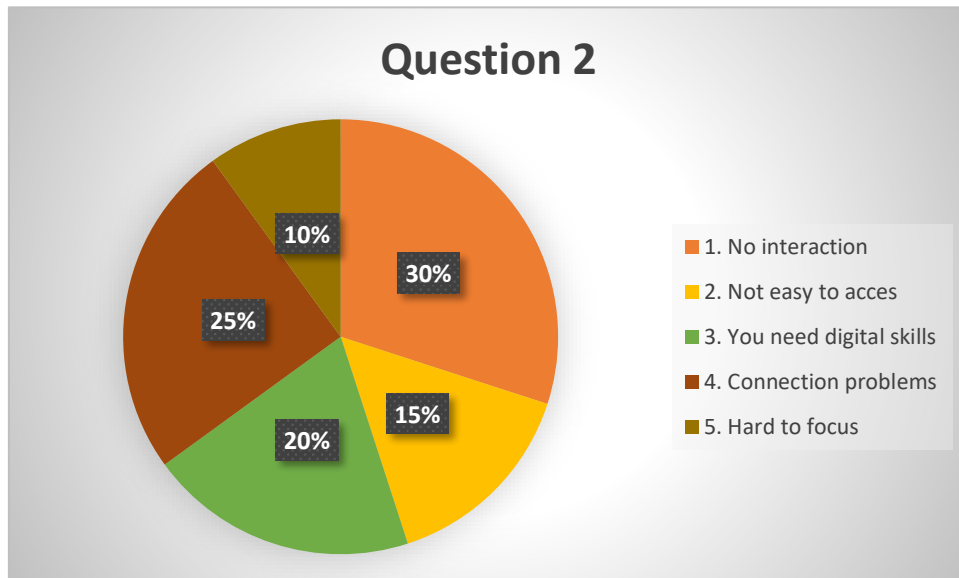
From 1-5 , how much would you rate VLE ?



Question 1 Graph Analysis: in the following chart we can see that that most of the students rated VLE with 5 (33%) and 4 (27%) . Of course because VLE is still a new platform for many , other students disagreed with VLE , so they rated with 1(7%of them) , 2(13%of them) and 3(20% of them) .

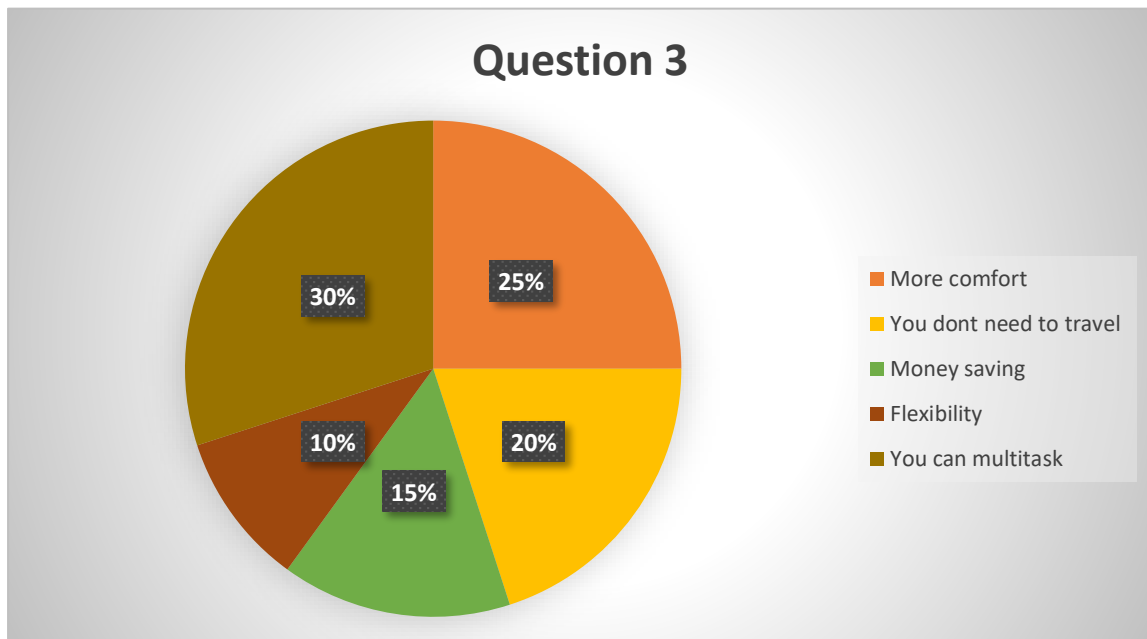
As a result we see that most of the students agree with VLE.

What disadvantages do you think VLE has ?



Question 2 Graph Analysis : in the following Pie chart we can see that most of the students miss interaction with other students and with the lecturers ,30% of them . 15% said that it's not easy to access , 20% said that before VLE you need digital skills ,25% of them have connection problems and 10% said that it's hard to focus .

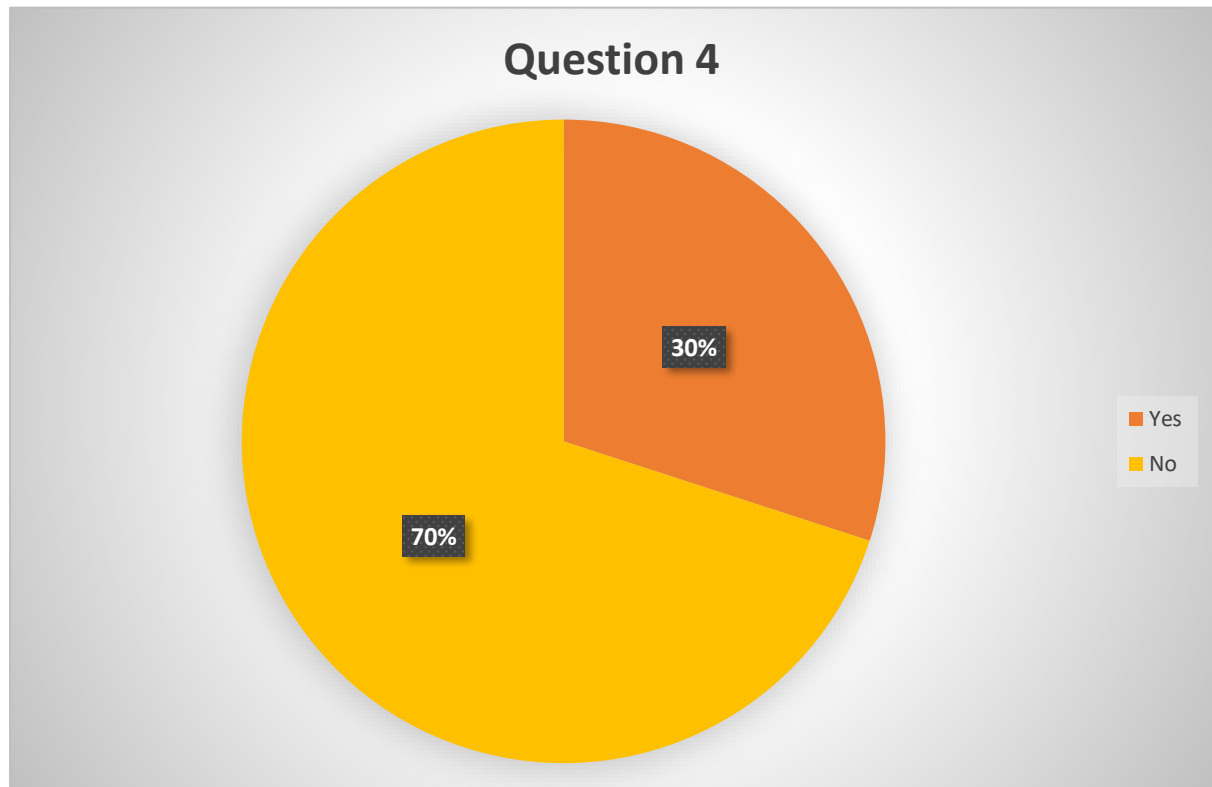
What advantages do you think VLE has ?



Question 3 Graph Analysis. Many students were happy that were able to multitask while joining the classes online ,30% agreed with “You can multitask” . 25% of them said that it’s more comfortable studying from home . 20% were happy that they don’t need to travel . 15% claimed that is money saving and 10% said that they can be flexible .

As a results , in the case of VLE, most of the students are happy with it , because they can multitask. They can work at the same time or do every day activities while practising VLE.

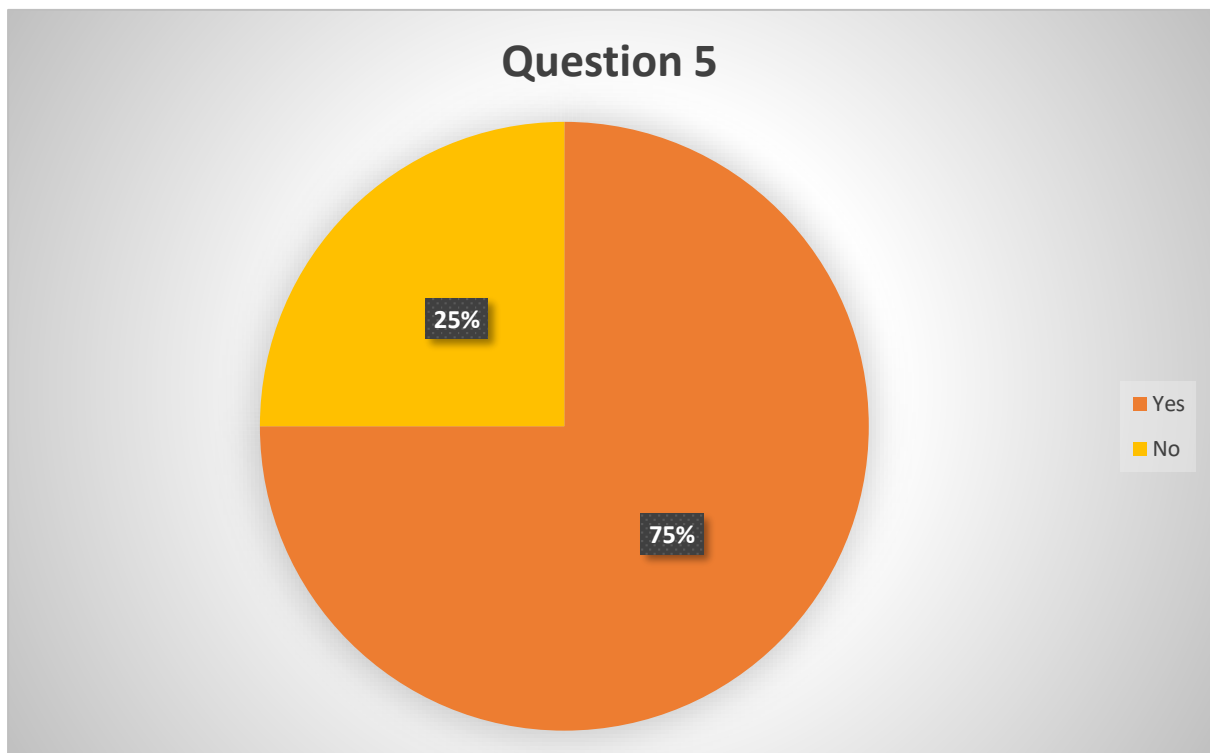
In your opinion , is VLE as effective as face to face education?



Question 4 Graph Analysis: 30% of students agreed that VLE is as effective as face to face education, but 70% strongly disagreed.

As a result , as rich as the VLE is in education , students still prefer face to face as they understand better and they can communicate directly to the lecturers .

In your opinion , is VLE providing a richer educational experience ?

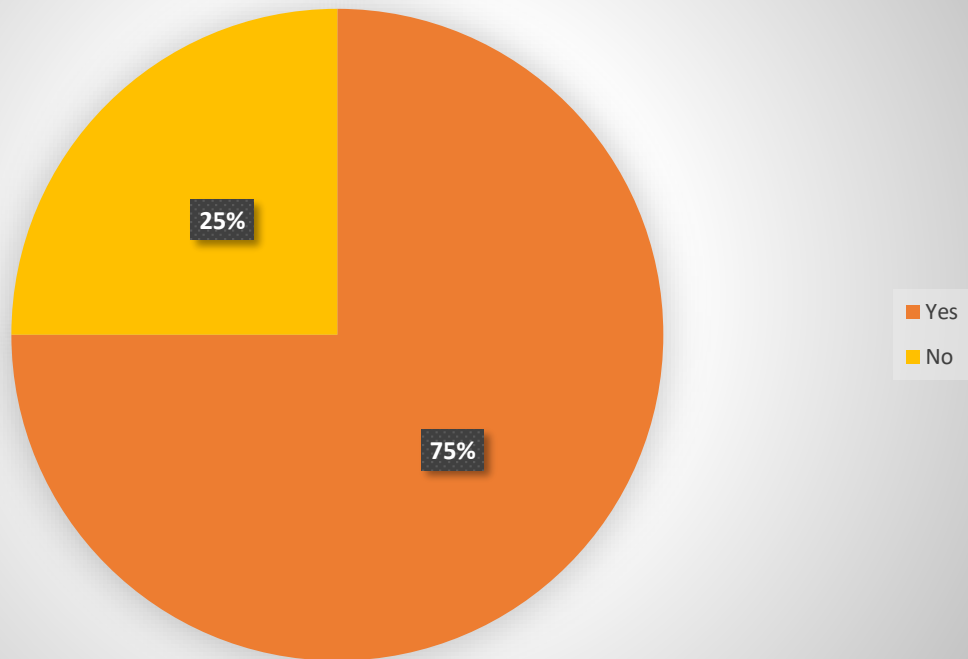


Question 5 Graph Analysis : 75% of students said yes when asked if VLE is providing a richer educational experience . They can see educational related videos , power points, and many others while VLE , something that when the education is done face to face is hard , and sometimes even impossible. 25% of students said no .

As a result , many students are happy with this advantage of VLE and indeed , is more practical .

Do you find the educational platform, Moodle , easy to acces?

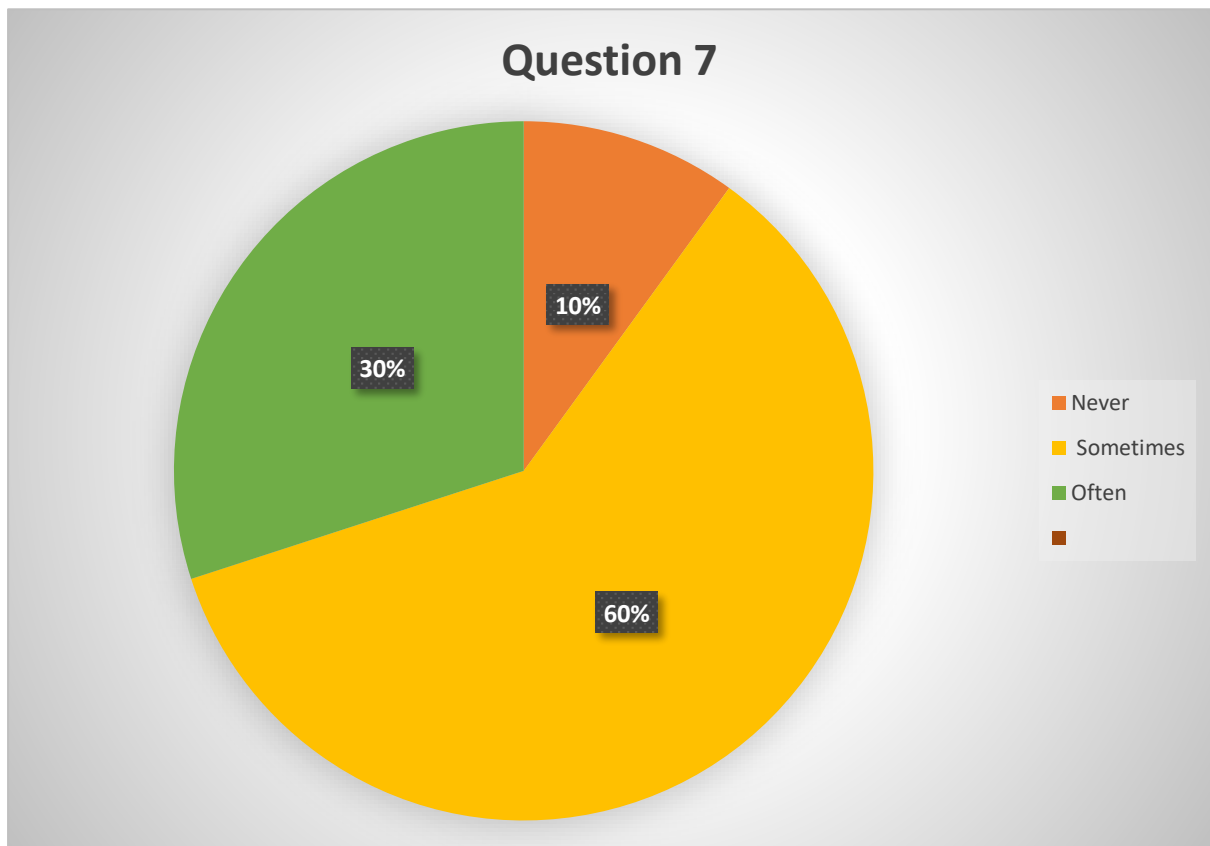
Question 6



Question 6 Graph Analysis : 75% of the students agreed that it's an easy platform to access ,while 25% disagreed and said that before using Moodle you need the least amount of digital skills , which they didn't have.

As a result , Moodle indeed is a very easy to access platform , and is not required a lot of digital experience.

When NOT REQUIRED by your teachers, how often do you access Moodle outside the classroom to support your learning?

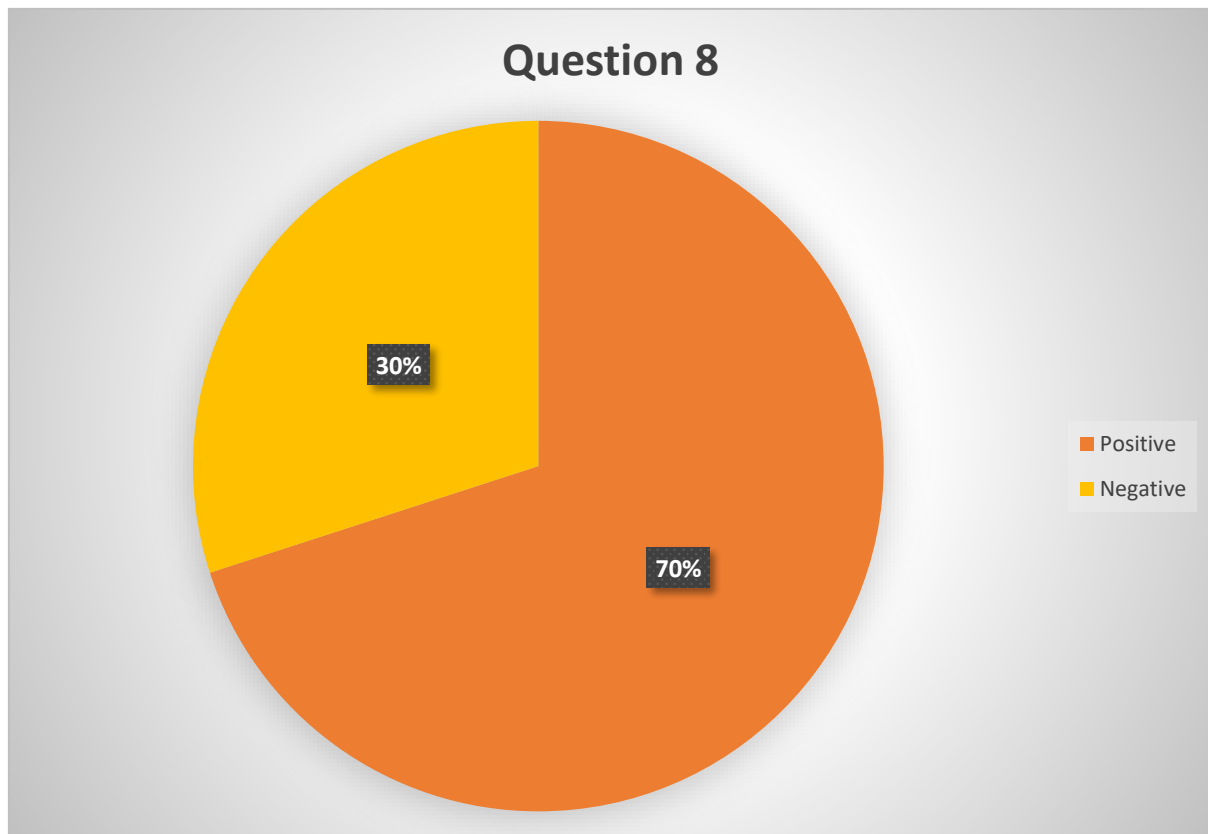


Question 7 Graph Analysis : To this question I asked students to answers with Never , Sometimes , or Often.

10% of students claimed that they never used it when not required, saying that they are using other platforms , such as Google.com which is a larger platform . The majority 60% claimed that they are using it sometimes , which is not very often and 30% said that they are using it quite often .

As a result , we can see that Moodle is a good Educational platform and has a big variety for student's educational materials .

Did VLE had a negative or a positive impact on you ?



Question 8 Graph analysis: I asked the students what impact VLE had on them and I was surprised that after many claimed that face to face education is more effective , the majority answered that is had a positive impact in them ,with a high rate of 70% . 30% said that it had a negative impact since they said they miss interaction with other students and with lecturers .

As a result we proceed to see that VLE on the majority of students has a positive impact .

CONCLUSION

Despite the nature of the evidential base from which to make judgements about the impact of VLEs on teaching and learning, the general impression is that VLEs are likely to have a significant impact on the process of teaching and learning in the future.

VLE is nothing new , but after I shared the survey to my colleagues I understood that many of them never practiced it before and had zero skills when it came to it .

Now like never , VLEs are the most popular way of education and the most used method . What it was odd now become normal . On each of us had a different impact. In some of us a good one and for others , who claim that they never had to do nothing with technology, a bad one .

But I've seen how fast they learned to manage modern technology, and modern education . Because **"VLE is not about tech , it's about practice and people"** .(*John Sumper , 2020*) .

References

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