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Digital skills and research methods. (BMSW4003)

Impact of Virtual Learning Environment.

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❖ Introduction:

The impact of the Virtual Learning can be different, depending on each student how they prefer to study, and which method is easier for them. This type of learning has been introduced in 1986 by Michael Xenos. That means that is not something new but before when they created it only few people could afford to buy a computer for the lessons. But now we all have access to one and to have Virtual classes.

In this report I will be writing about how student find it, how we can improve it and which difficulties they are facing.

❖ Rationale:

By doing this research we want to know what people thinks about the virtual learning. Learning through the technology has become the most important source for teaching and learning. It is good because provides 24/7 access to all the activities and support they need. We want to know how students are dealing with it so they can know how to improve it, such as having ICT classes to get more familiar with the technology.

❖ Research methodology:

The method that we have done is via survey. We have sent a survey to all students and they have given us the information that we want to know. We will analyse the answers and put them all in graphics so it will show which students are happy which not, and how we can improve with the virtual learning.

-There are two methods of getting the data:

1. Qualitative: when the data cannot be expressed as a number and we cannot count it, can be pictures, words....
2. Quantitative: when the data can be expressed by number and we can count them as numbers...

The one we are using is the quantitative because we are asking the students in the surveys and the data that we will collect will be numerical.

-Primary and secondary data, the difference is that the primary data we can collect it from our environment while the second data we can get it by researching in internet, newspaper... In our research we are using the primary data as we are asking our students to give us feedback about what they think of virtual learning.

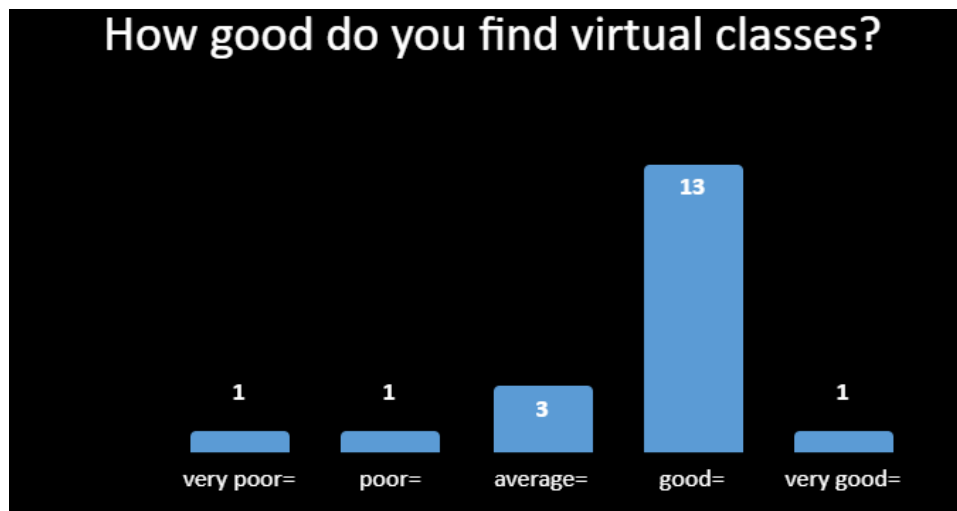
The data collection process will be by email, all the students will need to send us an email with their answers. When we get all the information, we will have to organize it.

From the total population of the University Trinity Saint David is over 25,000 learners across 17 campuses in different city and locations. The one we are focusing on is London Campus which we take a sample of 19 students to do our survey.

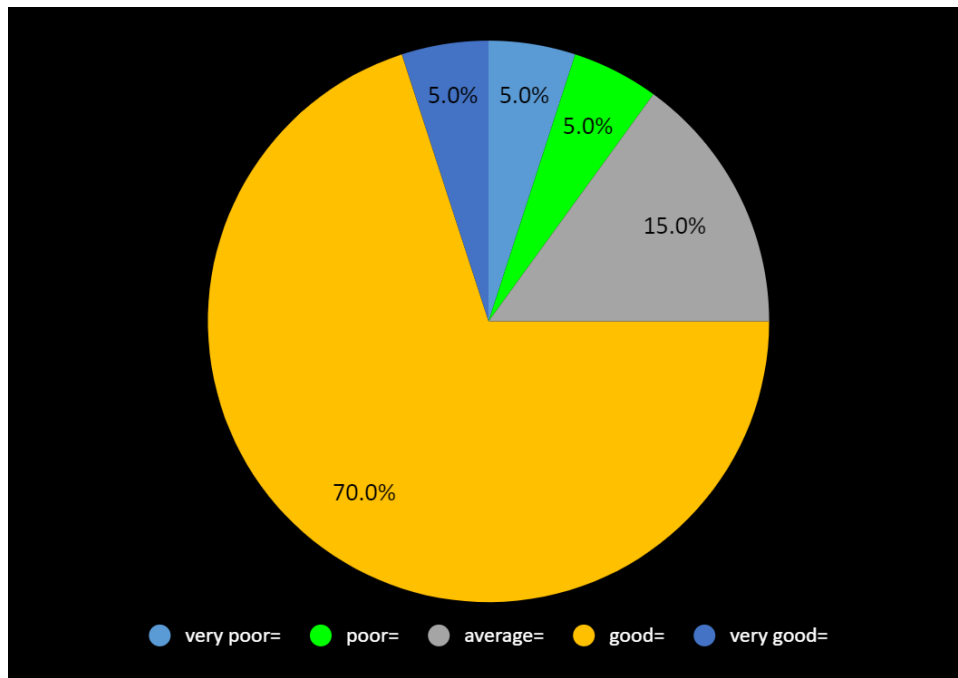
Ethics in data collection: all the information about the data will be protected and not shared with no one else as it is stated in the Data Protection Act. We will be honest with the results of the survey and we do not have right to manipulate the answers of the students. Because of the Data Protection Act we won't put the names of the students will be confidential and to put it I will need to ask for their permission as it shows in the Human right act 1998. and the information that I will get from the survey will be used just for study purpose for the University of Wales Trinity Saint David.

❖ Findings, analysis and discussions:

Virtual learning survey questionnaire

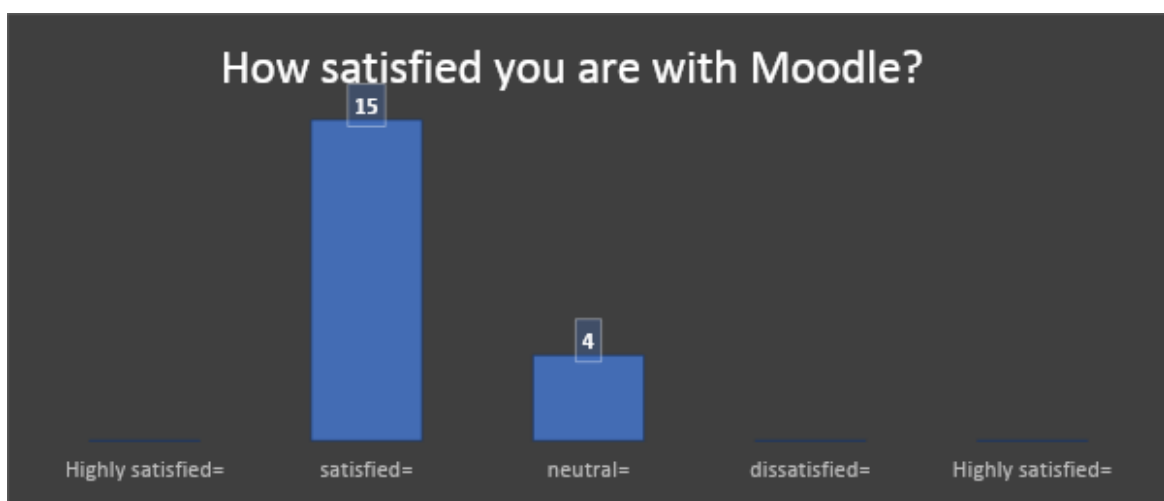


Very poor	poor	average	good	Very good
1	1	3	13	1



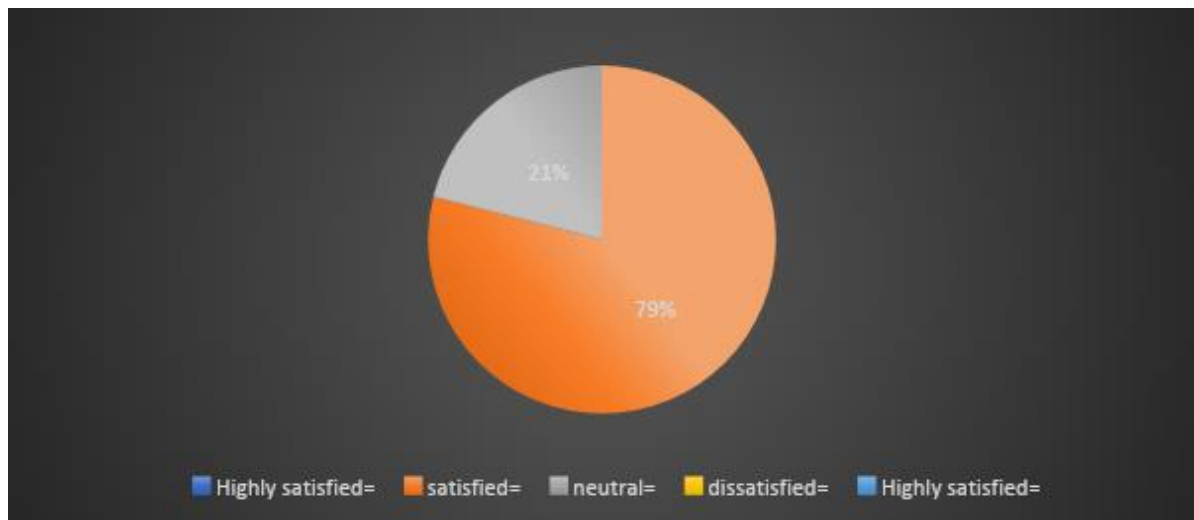
Question 1. Graph Analysis: The 5% of the people thinks that the virtual class is very good and the 70% says that is good, which means that they do like this method of learning. The 15 % says that they do not mind having virtual class. The rest 10% are divided by 5% saying it is poor and the other 5% very poor which means that virtual classes it is very poor.

As a result, students do not mind having virtual lessons and they like it as it shows with the 70% rate. I think that we should divide the class with those who do not like it and give them presential lessons, as they may not be able to attend the virtual classes.



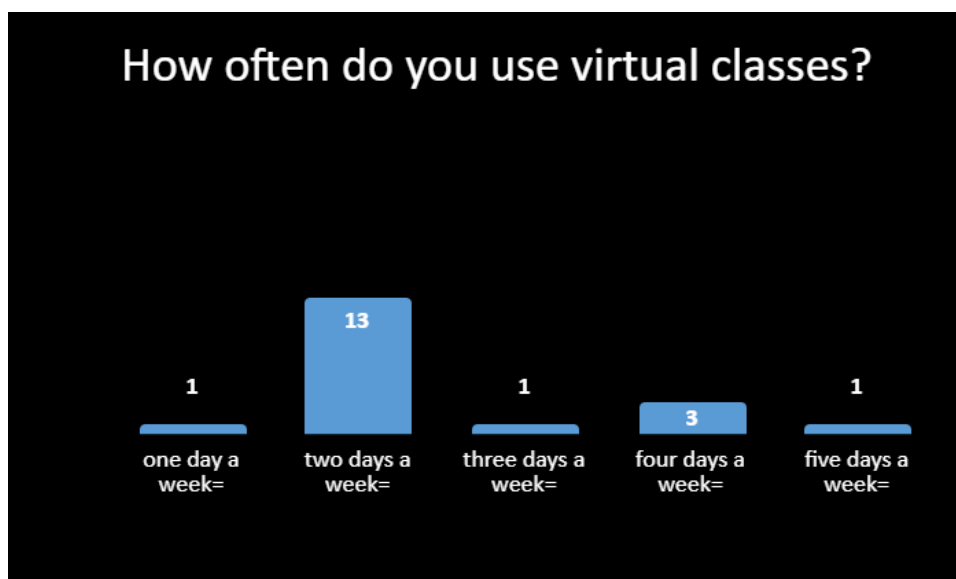
Highly satisfied	satisfied	neutral	Dissatisfied	Highly satisfied
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0	15	4	0	0
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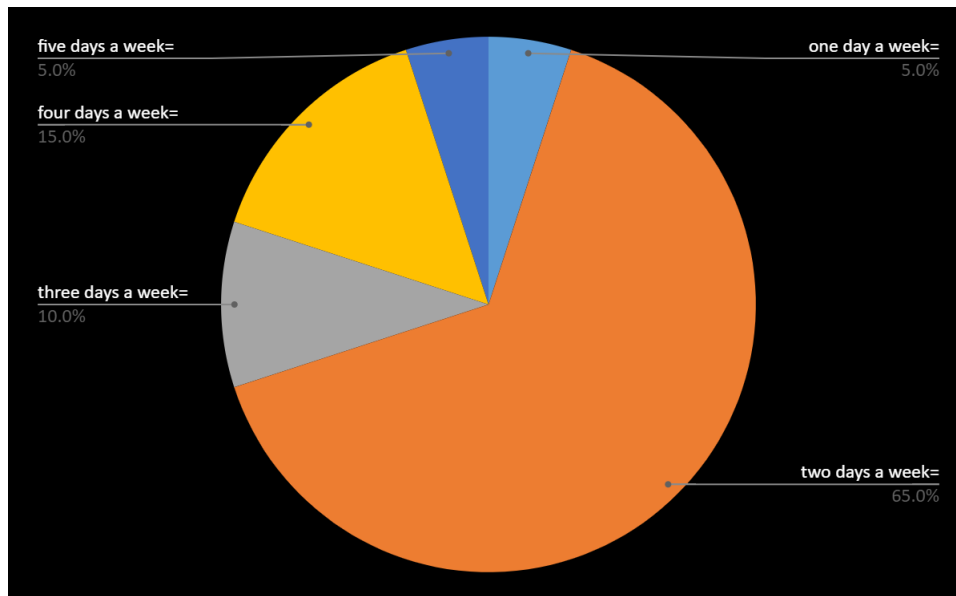


Question 2: 79% of the population says that are satisfied with the Moodle platform while the 21% thinks that is neutral which means that is fine for them to use it.

As a result, we need to improve the Moodle platform for those who are not sure about it. As they will need it to access all the information needed for the course. And for those who are satisfied we must ask them if there is anything that they would like to change and improve, to make things easier for them.

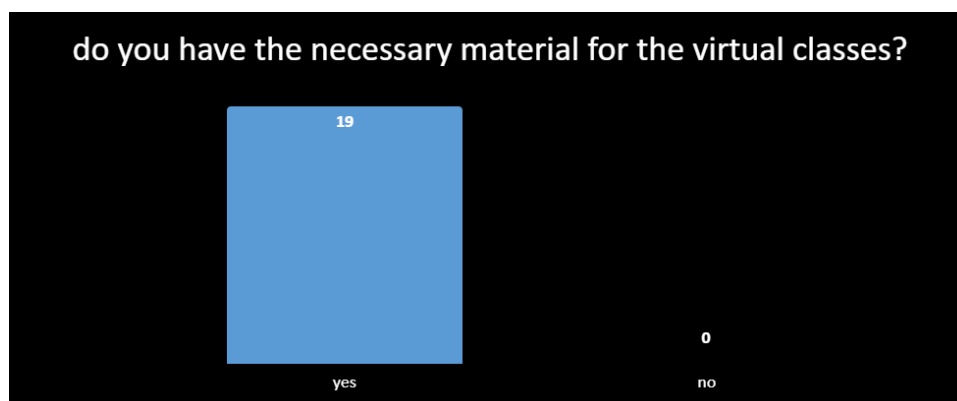


One day a week	Two days a week	Three days a week	Four days a week	Five days a week
1	13	1	3	1

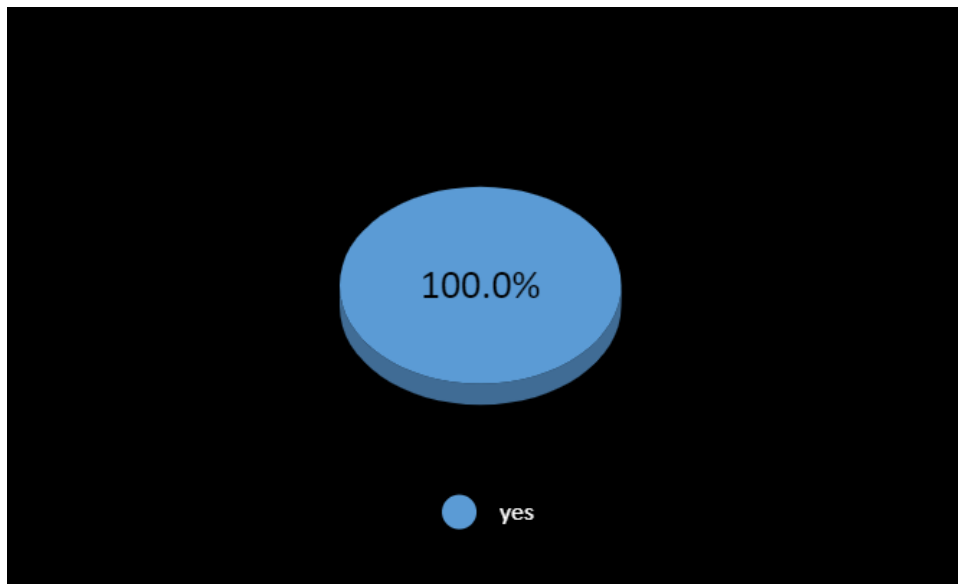


Question 3: in this chart I will say how many days people uses virtual classes during the week. 5% of people use it one day a week, 65% use it two days a week, 10% just three days a week, 15% use it four days a week and the last percentage is 5% and they use it five days a week. That shows that most people use it two days a week.

Most of the population uses the virtual classes two days a week (65%) that means that they may forget about what they have studied previously because they will stay 5 days without lessons. I think that the population that uses the virtual classes 4 days a week (15%) will have higher qualifications because they won't forget what they are studying, and they also will have more opportunities to ask the teacher about the things that they do not understand from the course.

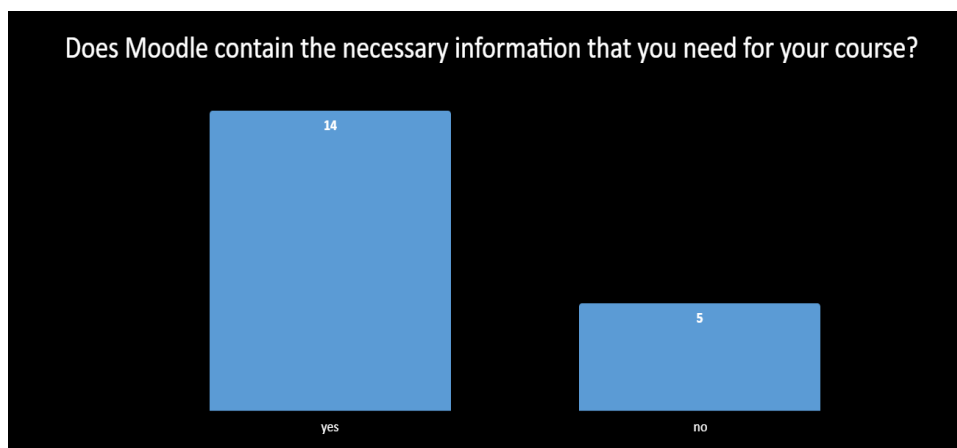


Do you have the necessary material for the virtual classes?	
Yes: 19	No: 0

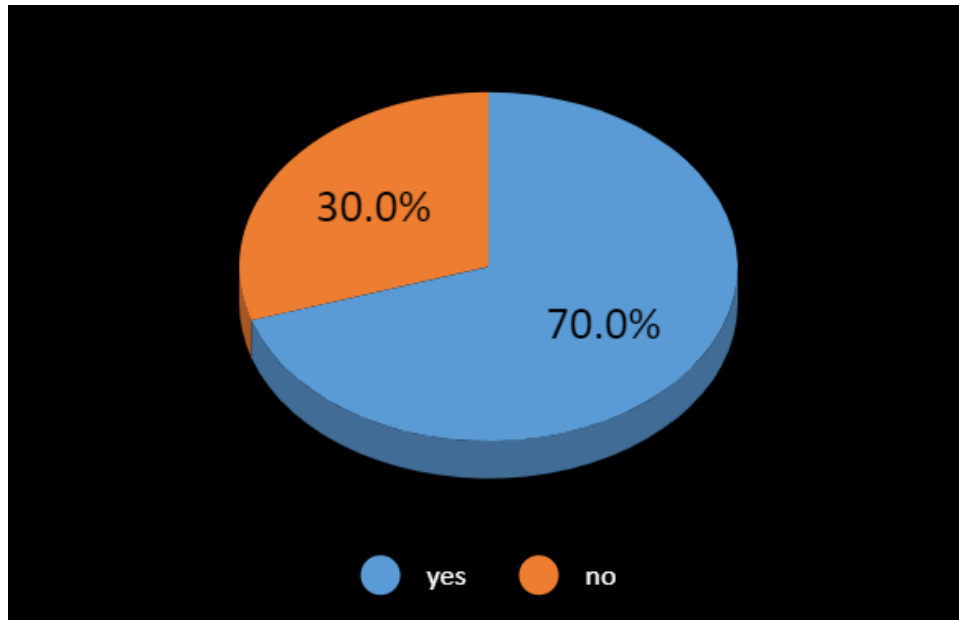


Question 4: this chart clearly shows that all students (100%) have the necessary materials when they are using virtual learning, which will improve their understanding when they are studying.

The results are good because to have all the materials for the course is very important as if we do not have them, will be harder to focus and get all the information we need to achieve the grade we want. In this case we should keep all students happy by giving them the necessary materials and information about the course.

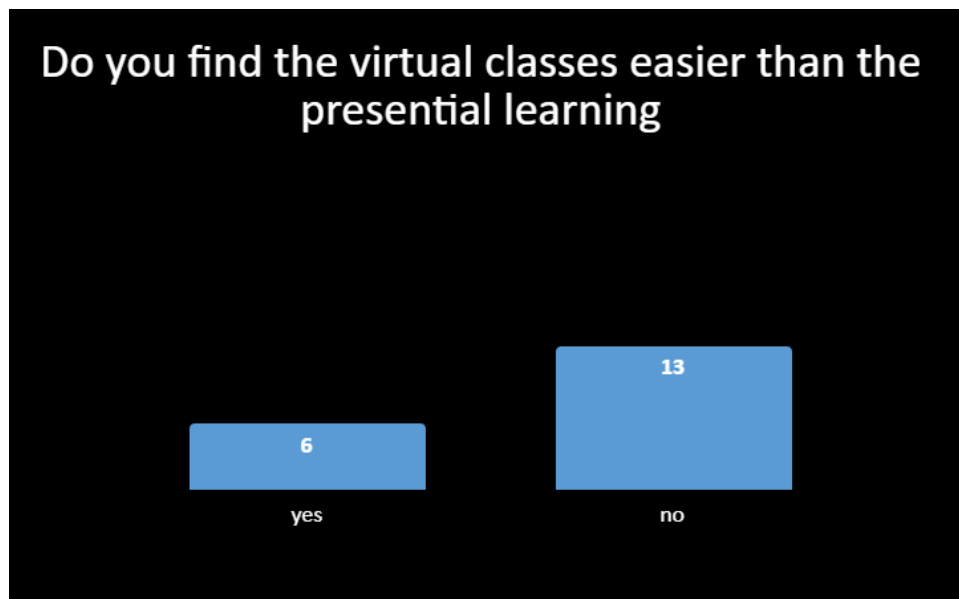


Does Moodle contain the necessary information that you need for your course?	
Yes: 14	No: 5

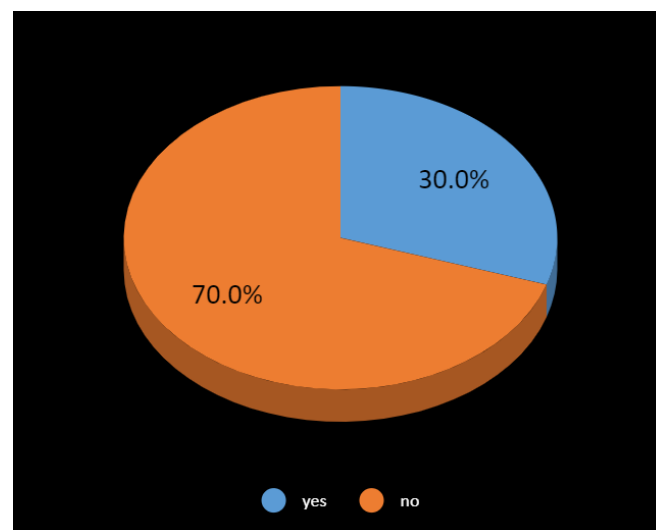


Question 5: 70% of the population says that Moodle have the necessary information about their course, which is good because they won't be lack of information when doing the course. While the 30% says that Model do not have all the information which will affect them because they will not be able to find all information needed.

I think that the 30% of the students should spend more time in Moodle as it is containing all the information they need. Some people may not find the information because they do not pay attention to the platform. It will be a good idea to spend half class showing how to use it. But in my opinion if most of the population finds the information they need, it is because they focus on the lessons when they are using the platform. It is important to give all the information about the course as the students have the right to access it, and it can be helpful in their progress.



Do you find virtual learning easier than the presential classes?	
Yes: 6	No:13



Question 6: 70% of the population prefer to have presential learning than the virtual learning, it can be because they can focus with the lecture, while the 30% of the population find virtual learning easier than presential learning.

As a result, it clearly shows that most people like presential classes, we should take that into consideration and stop virtual learning for them, as their answer can be because they cannot focus and get all the information they need for the assignments... If we cannot stop the virtual classes, we should try to make it easy for them so maybe they can start liking it. It is also a problem for some students who does not have laptop or computer to do their virtual lessons, for those who are in this situation the university may think about providing temporary equipment like laptops, so students can attend to the lessons.

Question 7: What is in your opinion the best thing about virtual learning?

- 90% of the students said that the best thing about virtual learning is that they can attend to the lessons anywhere, the other percentage (10%) said that the good thing is that they can save money because they will not need to travel.

Analysing the results most students like to have the freedom of having the lessons anywhere they want and to be more comfortable, as they can study from their home. Another good thing about it is that they can save money and time because they do not need to travel to the university. A lot of people will join the virtual lessons and will achieve goals, that will help our economy as more people will be able to get a job on what they really want.

Question 8: is there anything that you would like to change about virtual learning?

- Most of the students (80%) said that they do not want to change anything about it, but the 20% said that they would like to change the background noise because they may be kids or more people in the same house during the lessons, and another thing that they want to change is that they would like to be in age categories.

It is good that students do not want to change anything about it, but to have the lessons at home can also have negative things as most of them live with their family and the noise can distract them and they won't be able to focus during the lessons. Another thing that they want to change is the age categories, because the teacher doesn't know who students are, it is impossible to put them in age categories that can cause them to be behind and not get all the information needed for each lesson, as some people will need more time to understand and teacher will need to repeat it until students do understand.

After analysing all the information that students sent us, I can tell that they are not happy with the virtual classes and they are having a bad impact with it as they will not be able to achieve the grades that they want, that can be caused because they do not understand about ICT or because they cannot access to this information.

❖ Conclusion:

Improving our sources from where students get information will make them feel more comfortable and confident during virtual learning. I think it is a good source of learning as many people want to study and get a career. That will improve the way of living as many people want to study but they cannot spend time going to the university because they have family to take care of, or because they cannot afford to spend money for the transport. We need to take also into consideration those who do not like virtual classes by providing them the presential ones. That how students will have the option of making their own decisions of how to study as the Human Right Act states.

❖ References:

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