Enhancing Student Interaction and Engagement in Blended Learning

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Abstract. The teaching and learning (T&L) environment has changed considerably with the advancement of Internet and web-based resources in networked environments. In blended learning, students are given the opportunity to learn through online delivery of content and instruction. They have some control over time, place and pace of their learning process. Active learning refers to T&L techniques such that the students will be given the responsibility of learning. In blended learning, part of T&L may be done through the use of a learning management system (LMS). It allows asynchronous out-of-classroom activities. Thus, this may contribute to lack of student active learning. This paper describes the use of LMS with the push-pull method to enhance the student interactions in the system to enhance student interaction with LMS. It also describes the use of the LMS with an approach called Just-in-Time Teaching (JiTT) to enhance engagement of students in the classroom and their interaction with the lecturers. It blends web-based preparatory activities such as assignments and quizzes with classroom learning. It also provides immediate feedback of the learning of students. It is found that, when the push-pull and JiTT are employed, the students become more active in accessing the LMS and respond promptly to the instructions given by the lecturers.