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MOODLE ASSIGNMENT TOOL FOR SUBMISSION & ASSESSMENT FOR COMPUTER SCIENCE STUDENTS OF HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE

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Abstract-In recent years technology has brought much advancement in teaching learning method. The students of present era are interested to use interaction tools for accessing learning materials, online submission of assignment and participating in online quiz and Learning Management System (LMS) plays a vital role in it. There are so many tools available in LMS and Moodle's assignment tool serves as a method for online submission of assignment and also for assessment. This paper reports on a pilot study about the usage of LMS assignment tool by Computer Science students of higher educational institute for submission of assignment. A feedback is presented to the students to know the effectiveness of assignment tool for online submission of assignment.

Keywords- LMS, Moodle, Assignment

I. INTRODUCTION

In this diverse and changing teaching environment and with the extensive use of Internet and the availability of numerous online interaction tools[1], students are increasingly participating in, and requesting access to features such as: Online forums and tools such as electronic learning materials and online assignment submission[2].

A rapid progress is taking place in education with advanced teaching and learning technologies in India. The universities in India are slowly introducing the Learning Management system to keep pace with the emerging technological upliftment. There are numerous ICT tools implemented in education and the Learning Management System (LMS) is considered as the most important and effective tool for ICT enabled teaching-learning process [3]. It is emerging as a potential source of medium for teaching and learning. There is an increasing role of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in the field of student's assessment [4][5][6], to the extent that e-

assessment has emerged as a new issue in the educational field[7][8][9][10].

The author working as Assistant Professor in the Department of Computer Science in a University in India, started to use Moodle, an open source learning management system where initially learning materials were uploaded for various Computer Science subjects. The students used to download the learning materials from Moodle. As part of curriculum each student has to submit two assignments for each subject in a semester. The assignment mark is taken as internal marks along with other component like tests. Before implementing Moodle the student usually used to submit the assignment manually i.e they write and submit.

Username and password were created for each student. Each student can login the Moodle website using her username and password. After logging in, in the front page when the student clicks the subject name it navigates to another page where the student can view the assignment topic which has to be submitted online. At the end of the semester the student were given feedback form to evaluate about the submission of assignment using Moodle.

II. MOODLE ASSIGNMENT TOOL

Moodle is an open source Learning Management System (LMS) with an increasing growth of users accessing it. Till September 2016 it had [11] 70,774 registered sites and 91,445,125 users. Moodle has been selected because it is one of the most frequently used LMS and enables the creation of powerful, flexible and engaging online courses and experiences [12]. So many reports have proved that Moodle rates well and is being used in a number of institutions and has a wide variety of active courses, available in many languages [12][13].

The assignment activity can be added by clicking + Add an Activity or Resource and then select Assignment (Fig.1) after logging onto Moodle website [14]. It then asks to add the assignment topic, description about the assignment, the time of



submission date, maximum file size limit, whether assignment can be submitted by typing text in text editor or by uploading a file etc. Users should be enrolled for the course then only the student can get access to download the learning materials, submit assignment and participate in quiz etc once she logs in. The student can upload assignment either in two ways:

- 1) upload the file either in .doc, .pdf, .ppt or .txt (Fig. 2) or
- 2) can submit by typing text in text editor

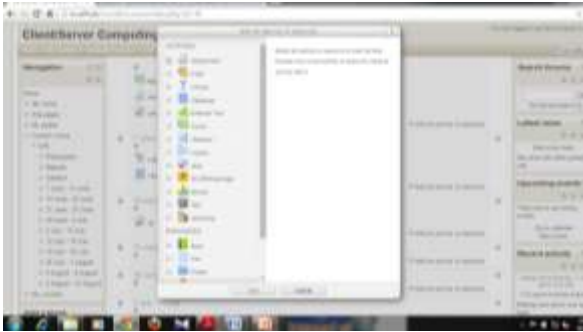


Fig 1. Adding of Assignment in Moodle



Fig 2. Assignment submission in Moodle

III. METHODOLOGY

A questionnaire was prepared that consisted of 6 questions and was given to students to gain feedback about the submission of online assignment. The survey was designed so that minimum effort and time is required from the students to get their opinion about a number of objective facts [15] with regard to assignment submission and receiving feedback. Six questions contained pre-programmed responses asking students to select the most suitable response. The questions in the questionnaire had the following points:

- Convenience of using Assignment module
- Responsiveness of Moodle

IV. RESULTS & DISCUSSIONS

Question 1 of the survey asked students to rate about the submission of assignment using Moodle. Out of 43 students only 2 students felt dissatisfied in using it (F1 in Fig. 3).

Questions 2 to 4 addressed the level of convenience in using Moodle for submitting assignment such as uploading file in any format, typing text in text editor and adding images. 42 out of 43 students found very convenient in uploading assignment in any format .doc,.pdf,.txt,.ppt etc. (F2 in Fig.3). Submission of assignment can be done in other way also by typing text in text editor rather than uploading file. For this feature 41 students found it convenient to type in text editor and only 2 students disagreed (F3 in Fig.3). 42 students felt very easy to add images in assignment material (F4 in Fig.3).

A time bound is set for the submission of assignment. So the students have to submit the assignment on time, failing to submit will lead them to get zero marks. Question 5 asked the students whether they were able to submit the assignment on time in Moodle compared with manual submission. 41 out of 43 felt they were able to submit on time and only 2 felt that they could not submit on time (F5 in Fig.3).

Question 6 sought to determine the responsiveness of Moodle when using it for submission and feedback. 41 students strongly agreed that Moodle was very responsive (F6 in Fig.3).

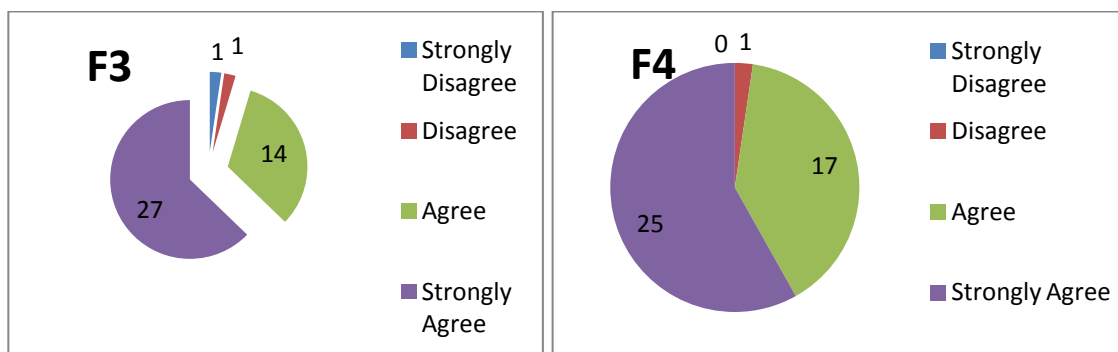
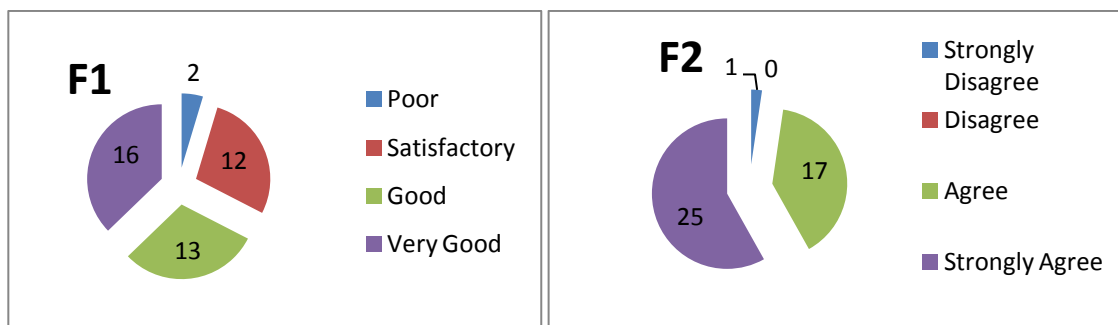
V. CONCLUSION

As technological changes take place students are very much interested in new methods to be introduced for teaching learning process and for assessment. From the experience we can conclude that Assignment module in Moodle is useful for submission of assignment and for feedback. Based on the findings of the pilot study there is clearly a need for further investigation. At present only the Computer Science students use Moodle for submitting assignment. The overall recommendation of this study is to enforce other students from various disciplines of the university also to use Moodle for online submission of assignment. It will be interesting to see how students from other disciplines respond to the usage of online submission.



Questionnaire

F1	I would rate the submission of assignment using LMS as	Poor ☐	Satisfactory ☐	Good ☐	Very good ☐
F2	Moodle is convenient to upload assignment in any format .doc,.pdf,.txt,.ppt etc	Strongly disagree ☐	Disagree ☐	Agree ☐	Strongly agree ☐
F3	It is convenient to submit assignment by typing text in text editor	Strongly disagree ☐	Disagree ☐	Agree ☐	Strongly agree ☐
F4	Easy to add images whenever needed in assignment preparation	Strongly disagree ☐	Disagree ☐	Agree ☐	Strongly agree ☐
F5	LMS allows me to complete assignment on time	Strongly disagree ☐	Disagree ☐	Agree ☐	Strongly agree ☐
F6	Moodle was responsive in submission of assignment and feedback.	Strongly disagree ☐	Disagree ☐	Agree ☐	Strongly agree ☐



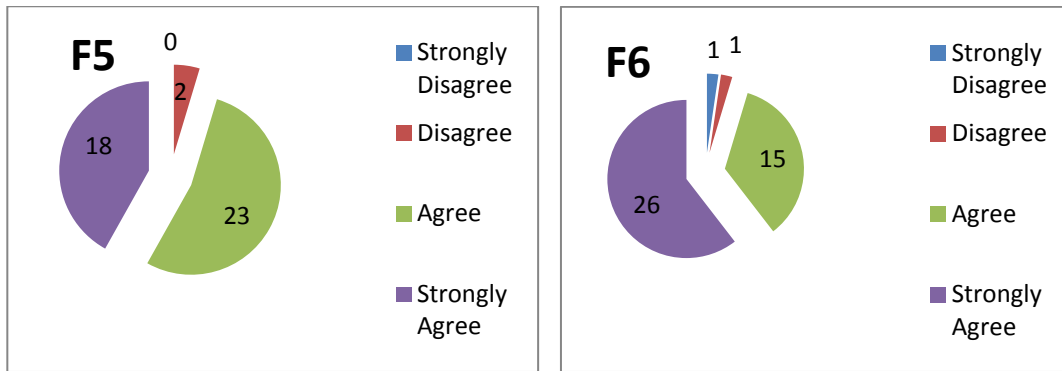


Fig 3. Students Feedback on Assignment Module in Moodle

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