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Technology Enhanced Learning in Large Group Teaching

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Background: The efficiency of large group teaching (lectures) has long been called into question with much research highlighting low levels of student participation and poor attention spans leading to a lack of engagement with learning which inhibits deep learning. Small group teaching and Enquiry Based Learning (EBL) are methods of teaching that can help promote deep learning. There is also a growing need and demand for Technology Enhanced Learning to suit changing lifestyles. The Labtutor® System is one such piece of software that is designed to incorporate EBL and small group teaching quality into the large group setting.

Aim: To evaluate the Labtutor System from the undergraduate perspective

Methods: The system was used with a September group of students in their life science lectures. At the point of module review a Quantitative survey was employed and data was gathered using PRS system n=115

Results: Participants reported overall that they enjoyed using the system and found it beneficial to their learning specifically:

- (a) Increased engagement with material in online learning as a result of using the system.
- (b) Increased participation and levels of interactivity in the lecture as a result of using the system.
- (c) Increased enhancement of learning as a result of using the system and
- (d) Usefulness of the formative assessment facilitated by using the system.

Conclusion: The study concludes that Labtutor® system and other such methods of Technology Enhanced Learning packages if used correctly can enhance learning.

Implications for practice: The days of didactic large group teaching are over educator's must "up their game" to ensure quality teaching

Notes: