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A study on tutor comments given for essay-type assignments

The Open university of Sri Lanka (OUSL) uses assignments as a means of teaching. Tutors are expected to write comprehensive comments on student assignments with the aim of facilitating learning, communicating knowledge and providing information about their progress to students. There is a general belief that the OUSL tutors tend to limit themselves to the assessor's role by neglecting other significant roles. Therefore, a detailed investigation was carried out to examine the different roles performed by tutors in the light of their comments given on assignments. The sample consisted of 10 tutors and 500 assignments marked by these tutors. As a way of improving the quality of tutor comments, suggestions were made for the provision of sufficient training to tutors and for maintaining a proper monitoring system by the institution.