



Need and Change of Evaluation System in Higher Education

DR. ASHOK. J. DESAI
PRINCIPAL,
S.T.T. Teachers' Training College, Visnagar

Abstract:

In the present scenario the evaluation system in higher education worldwide is witnessing a sea change and there is a paradigm shift in the evaluation system are influenced and defined by the political and historical contexts in which they were developed or created. Why evaluation is required? To begin with it is required to evaluate the per requisite levels of students entering into professional courses. To conclude it can be said that education is not the end process but an integral part of educational spiral and a well-designed system of evaluation is a powerful educational device.

Keywords: *Evaluation, skill and communication, curriculum, Challenges*

1. Introduction

India is the fourth largest economy in the world. In the recent melt down, it has shown its prowess by not totally buckling down under the enormous global pressure. In reality the rural India was felt to be the "rescuer". The education system in India has world's largest pool of young people. 60% of India's 1+ bn population is below the age of 25 nearly 10.5% sign up for higher education.

In the present scenario the evaluation system in higher education worldwide is witnessing a sea change and there is a paradigm shift in the evaluation system are influenced and defined by the political and historical contexts in which they were developed or created. The updating of curriculum and bringing radical changes of the evaluation system is gaining momentum around the globe and is becoming a widespread enterprise. As this pace of change accelerates, the role of educators also changes. This change is not only in terms of providing new teaching-learning opportunities but also added responsibilities in assessment and evaluation. Today education is looked at as service industry and teaching as profession, therefore, obviously it demands accountability, professionalism and transparency.

Evaluation is a process of determining the extent to which predetermined educational objectives have been achieved by learner. In short evaluation is a process of making a judgment or measurement of worth. Therefore, process of evaluation consists of collecting evidence and making judgment based on evidence.

2. Need of Evaluation

Why evaluation is required? To begin with it is required to evaluate the per requisite levels of students entering into professional courses. Secondly it determines the success or failure, it can also act as an external motivator for learning most importantly it monitors the learning progress.

The stakeholders of the evaluation system are the student. Evaluation helps them judge their competency and supports learning, the second stakeholder being the teacher –it helps them validate their teaching and the third being the institution –to justify, modify or improve their program.

It is not the marks given that really matters but the choice of assessment methods, tools that are used and its effective implementation and above all the effort that the universities, the institutions and the faculty members put into this evaluation process, truly determines the outcome of educational system. Hence University as an overseeing body of the evaluation process should always works as a facilitator to see that it produces world class professionals by insisting that the affiliated institutions follow a curriculum which is updated regularly. And more importantly follow a good evaluation system.

What constitutes an ideal evaluation in practical terms is intimately related to the task of designing the kind of professionals envisioned for the future of our country. If we are looking at competent professionals, then our evaluation system should adapt competency-based assessment. Competency is being recognized as the benchmark in professional education especially in medical education it is gaining prominence.

The benefit evaluation system followed should therefore assess all domains of education meaning knowledge, skill and attitude. Evaluation method adapted in the system should possess good psychometric properties namely objectivity, validity, reliability, relevance and feasibility. The evaluation but it has to be noted that while selecting methods and tool, striking a balance between validity & reliability is very important because an unreliable valid test is as useless as an invalid test.

3. Challenges of Evaluation

Pertaining to the challenges faced in context to today's evaluation system being followed in universities there is lack of uniformity as the type of evaluation methods used are mostly subjective. More emphasis is given on evaluating knowledge. What is lacking is emphasis on giving students the tool and skills. But the most important factor which is never evaluated are communication skills, interpersonal skills, team work.

Formative assessment has not been given importance which is the need of the hour. Formative evaluation is process oriented, monitors how learning is going and therefore diagnostic and flexible, identifies areas of improvement and helps in progress, because of rapid and frequent feedback formative evaluation provides reassurance, reinforces intrinsic motivation and also helps in shaping value.

Considering the above-mentioned facts, it is evident that formative assessment certainly, should be given continuous appraisal in the form of log books, portfolios, 360 degrees assessments etc. use multi method evaluation with multiple observers by which one can reduce subjectivity and improve reliability should be based on documented evidence. Whatever said and done to see benefits of the new system percolating to the beneficiaries it is to be noted that the teachers need to be trained effectively for the better implementation of the same.

To conclude it can be said that education is not the end process but an integral part of educational spiral and a well-designed system of evaluation is a powerful educational device. All domain of competence should be evaluated in an integrated, coherent and longitudinal fashion using multiple methods with provision for frequent constructive feedback. We need to embrace innovation, exhibit courage, evince wisdom, to implement changes in the evaluation system that will redefine our profession for the next decades.

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