Problems and Threats in Examination System

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Abstract

Education in India does not cover each and every child in the country. Then there is the ever increasing gap between the government owned institutions and the private ones as far as factors like quality and facilities are concerned. However, there is one issue that has always escaped the notice of the stakeholders – the common people, the authorities, the teachers and also the students perhaps and that is the system of exams in India. The Indian education system in criticized for a number of gaps in its examination system. It is criticized for the not keeping pace with the demand of the outside world, for not being scientific and comprehensive for not considering the practical skills required for good adjustment and for its traditional methods of measurements. Till today there are various problems and shortcomings that pervade India's system of education on the wole and in the area of examinations in particular. They system of examination as it is conducted today lacks reliability, validity and objectivity. The examination system of India has remained unchanged for many years. In the education system of India, ability of a student is decided by an exam. In this system there is no place for performance of a student in full academic session. Scoring more and more marks in exams has become they only aim of a student.

Keywords :Problems of Examination system, Importance of Examination system,Problems and Threats in Examination System

Introduction

Problems in the Existing Examination System

Every day there is a new innovation in technology. Change in technology is accelerating at a high speed and it is becoming very difficult to keep pace with the change in technology. With the technological growth Himachal Pradesh University has also initiated the process of computerization of examination system but it is not making itself comfortable with new technology. Although HPU is imparting education on the use of Information Technology, it has one University Institute of Information Technology Department and Department of Computer Science and offering courses viz. Post Graduate Diploma in Computer Applications (PGDCA), Post Graduate Diploma in Information Technology (PGDIT) through distance education mode. Every year it is producing lots of computer literates, but university still is not making full use of IT even for day-to-day activities. LAN is available in university campus, but it is not making its use for data sharing, it is just limited to viewing personal e-mails and web surfing. In the examination branches, where the process of computerization is going, computer systems are used for typing work. Computer systems are seen in the computer centre of examination branch only where the process of software development is going. In the computer centre, examination wing, software for the computerization of examination is being developed, database of computerized classes is maintained, and the whole work related to computerization is done in this branch only.

Problems of present examination system in India

1. The entire education system is centered around examinations.
2. Evaluation mans to conduct the examination and to give marks and ranks to students'
3. Student's knowledge is often limited to rote memorizing and reproducing the same in the examinations. Their innate talents are not recognized; instead their capability in writing examination is being tested. It is restricted to only by-hearting/rote memory

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4. There is no uniformity in evaluation. Different types of evaluation systems are prevaliling in different Board i.e., government, ICSE, CBSE etc. There is no flexibility in conducing of tests

5. It is rigid Board examinations that are only helping in classifying students as meritorious and slow –learners i.e., in turn pass/fail. This leads to unhealthy discrimination.

6. The tests and examinations conducted at present are only testing the memory power of the students, they are not measuring the higher order skills of learning like analysis, sybtesis and problems solving

7. The examinations are mechanical Correcting and posting of marks is done routinely. There is no scope for remedial teaching and testing to know how far student is lagging behind.

Examinations are not helping in assessing the all-round development of the student that is in co-curricular activities, social –personal qualities, health status and level of competencies.

NCF 2005 also emphasized the need for reforms in present examination system by making them child friendly and stress free. A serious look into the issue should help bring about some changes taking off its demerits for making examinations an important tool in assessment of child. The HRD ministry has agreed to the proposed changes. There is a body of research and studies conducted by examinant Indian educatinists behind this move, which have been repeatedly mentioned in various education committee formed to reform and revitalize the Indian education system.

Factors for Halting the Process of Computerization

No Full Autonomy of the University: The autonomy of universities is very essential for safeguarding university's interests. The state government has amended H.P. University Act, 1970 in the year 2003 by inserting section 35- A, which says "No post, position and assignment created by the university shall have any effect unless approved by the State Government." thus fetching more power. As university is an autonomous body, it should be given fi-ee hand in creation and filling up of the posts.

No dedicated IT wing: In HP University there is no dedicated IT wing who can administer the computerization of University. Officers who are sitting at the administrative posts do not know more about computerization. They don't have knowledge of computerization, for them it is just a typing work. They have in their mind that computer does the whole process itself and there is no need of dedicated staff for computerization. Although there is one Computer Centre in the university campus. It has one System Analyst, Programmer, Web master and Operators, This computer centre has a dedicated lab of 30-40 computers over the network and this lab is being used by Academic Staff College (ASC) for imparting training to the students who come for on-job training or oriental courses being conducted by ASC. Computer centre is also compiling the result of various entrance examination conducted by the university. Monthly salary of the university employees is also processed by this centre. Web Master in computer centre looks after university web-site. Although university web-site has been designed, hosted and maintained by NIC department of the state but information which is to be hosted is being supplied by Web Master of university. For hosting university has to ask NIC department and they upload the same according to their convenience. For computerizafion of various processes, it should have a dedicated IT wing who can understand various requirements and activities related with computerization process.

Lack of Sufficient Resources: University does not have sufficient selfgenerating resources. Most of the universities in India are going through the problem of scarcity of funds. Resource crunch and budget constraints have forced university to change its priorities. It is fully dependent on UGC grant and State government grant-in-aid. University is imparting education at a minimum rate, the fees which is being charged from students is very meager and for the girls it is totally free. The Government of Himachal Pradesh, Department of Education vide letter No. 4-41-/93 (Genl) dated 16* September, 1995 has exempted tuition fee for girls^' for admission for various courses in the state. However, there are some departments in university which do get funds from some resource generation schemes under some project funded by UGC in addition to their share in university main budget. They are using

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this fund on purchasing hardware and other related activities for their department only. But there are such department also who are totally dependent on university's budget allocation. There is no resource or budget sharing among the departments or with the university budget.

No Dedicated Computer Centre: There is no dedicated Electronic Data Processing (EDP) cell for computerization work in the university. No proper infrastructure established for the computerization of examination system. As stated earlier, university has adopted the in-house software development for computerization. Four programmers are doing the software development in addition to result processing, maintenance of database and other administrative work. Whereas data entry work is being done by the persons hired fi-om the open market on remuneration basis. University has started the process of computerization without making any proper plans. There are 20 computers, 1 server, 4 heavy duty printers, two scanners in the computer centre, examination wing. For the maintenance of these hardware there is not any proper mechanism, company with whom AMC contract has been signed does not turn up for the maintenance, faulty machines have been piled up in the comer. After the completion of 5 years of computerization, there is no proper networking. There is no centralised database. All the softwares are running on stand alone machines. After result processing and declaration of result, data is handled by the hired persons.

No Security in Computer Centre Examination Wing : University is fiilly dependent on hired persons and has to do faith on them. There is a possibility that the software alongwith data may be taken out of university. There is no secrecy in the system. Students and officials frequently visit computer centre to enquire about results much earlier than the declaration of result. Due to the lack of security there is a possibility of tempering with data. Problem in Awards Fetching:- Presently fetching of awards is done in all classes of B.Sc. and B.Com. by scanning ICR awards list and recognizing through AutoRec software. Although fetching of awards through ICR saves time but accuracy of records is not 100 percent or near to it, it is approx 90 percent. In fetching of awards through ICR award list, the first step is designing of template.

Malpractices in Examination System Examination malpractice is as old as examination itself Yakubu and Edokpa [4] as described examination malpractice as a cankerworm. In spite of stiff penalties, examination malpractice is growing in leaps and bounds at all levels in educational system. Students, teachers, administrators, parents, examination invigilators and supervisors, custodians of examination materials, officials of examination bodies and law enforcement agents are also involved.

Reforms Suggested in Examination

1. Examinations are to be considered a part of evaluation system
2. Instead of 3 terminal examination, 2 should be conducted
3. A test is to be conducted after completing of every unit; with this we will know the children's achievements and their level. It helps to know the competency level of the child for remedial teaching.
4. The most important items in the test is the nature of questions. They should be above the level of rote –learning
5. The open-ended questions which allow the students to think and write and express their views on their own should be given importance. To evaluate these questions the indicators should be prepared.
6. Entrance examinations and Board examinations are to be abolished.
7. Teachers are to be encouraged to prepare their own questions papers to conduct examinations.
8. In-service training programmes should conducted for teachers to develop their ability to make question paper innovatiely.
9. They must be given adequate skills to prepare question Banks
10. Open book system is to be introduced for languages and social studies.
11. The same test paper is to be used after re-teaching and relearning for slow-learners/non achiever.
12. Model question-papers should be developed.
13. Class X Board examinations are to be abolished and they should be made optiona.
14. Oral tests also should be included in examination system

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15. Evaluation in co-curricular activities like art and games can use tools/techniques like rating scales, checklists, observation techniques, interviews to assess to co-curricular activities like physical education, social , personal qualities, art games, health and sports.

Conclusion

One of the major problems with the Indian education system, as it stands now, is the way examinations are being conducted. It has been the same over the years where the students have went to an examination hall, then given an examination in a short time where they are supposed to give their best with respect to the questions that they face and then waited for the results. Quite often it has been seen that guys who have prepared all the year have suffered nerves on the big day or some other problem and then had a poor exam while someone who got questions he or she was acquainted with had a terrific examination and then basically had a good result. he main purpose of education is to educate students and help them appreciate the better points of the knowledge that is being imparted to them. However, that seems to have been shortchanged right now with the added emphasis on grades and marks. The system needs to be one that enables students to truly learn what they are being taught and internalize it and not just mug it up for a few days or months. It needs to be more long term than what the situation is at present. At the same time it also needs to be practical so that the students' abilities are properly tested. One way out of this could be a project or assignment like system where the students are given tasks they can complete at home and they can be given sufficient periods of time to complete them like a couple of days. This system will ensure that students devote quality time behind their studies and also eliminate any excuse or reason for failure. The second way out would to be introduce the major and minor system that is already in operation from the higher levels of education in the lower levels like the 6th standard for example.

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