

“A Study of Students and Teachers Views Towards Grading System of Evaluation In Urban & Rural Higher Secondary Schools”

Sonia Gupta*

Deepak Kumar**

Assistant Professor, Ganga Institute of Education, Kabalna (Jhajjar)

rsoniansh252605@gmail.com

Research Scholar, Department of Education, Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak

deepaksharma2890@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The issues of grading and reporting on student learning continue to challenge educators. However, more is known at the beginning of the twenty-first century than ever before about the complexities involved and how certain practices can influence teaching and learning. To develop grading and reporting practices that provide quality information about student learning requires clear thinking, careful planning, excellent communication skills, and an overriding concern for the well-being of students. Combining these skills with current knowledge on effective practice will surely result in more efficient and more effective grading and reporting practices. All teaching is directed towards the welfare of the students and the welfare of the students lies in bringing desirable changes in their adequate progress and development. As a result suitable learning experiences in the form of subject matter and other practical activities are planned and organized with the help of proper teaching-learning methods, strategies, aids and devices.

Throughout the history of education, letter grades have been the primary method of reporting student progress in school. Various studies have indicated that approximately 50% to 90% of all schools use letter grades. In some cases at the elementary & primary level, the report form also includes a series of work habits and personal-social characteristics to be checked by the teacher. As a result suitable learning experience in the form of subject matter and other practical activities are planned and organized with the help of proper teaching-learning methods, strategies, aids and

devices.

Keywords – Grading System, Evaluation

INTRODUCTION

Evaluation plays a vital role in the field of education. Evaluation is directly related with teaching-learning process employed in the class-room situation. It helps the teacher and provides him with knowledge concerning the students' behavior. She/he comes to know how for this teaching, the strength of his teaching give him confidence in the device used by him and his weakness prompt him to modify his methodology. It also helps the teacher in setting refining and classifying realistic objectives for each student. It helps him in determining, evaluation and refining the instructional techniques i.e. learning activities. The teacher can use the result of evaluation to improve his classroom procedures for example, suppose he come to know that only 20% of the students are able to find the area of triangle. Now he realizes that he only demonstrated and the students have not understood individually. He then arranges individual to achieve the better understanding. Thus evaluation helps the teacher to schedule learning activities in any logical fashion.

School education system in the country is all set to witness a change from the “marks” system to “grading system” of awarding “marks” to evaluate a student’s power of comprehension and articulation is no longer wanted. A national consensus has been reached in favor of replacing “marks” with grades.”National council of educational research and training (NCERT) said. It has devised a “grading system” for schools which seeks to “completely eliminate “the negative effects of the current pass or fail method followed across the country. Grading would allow comparability across curricular areas and also be more meaningful in recording the growth and development of individual students in cognitive and non-cognitive learning outcomes.

Logical and Scientific principles known about grading system

- A Grade or School Mark is whatever it is defined to be
- The Grading System must be valid as well as accurate
- Number of Divisions to a Grading System
- Assumptions Based on the Normal Curve
- Meaning and uses of failure Division

Definition of Grading System

Method of assuring greyhounds complete against racers of similar caliber: grades are assigned according to performance, with the top grade being “A”. Students, colleges and universities in the United States Commonly use letter grade to indicate the quality of student’s academic performance: A (excellent), B(good), C(average), D(below average) and F(Failing). Work rated C or above is usually required of an undergraduate student to continue his/her studies: work rated B or higher is usually required of a graduate student to continue. Grade of P (pass), S (satisfactory), N (no credit) are also used.

The process by which a teacher arrives at the symbol or number that is used a pupil’s achievement in a subject area.

TYPES OF GRADING SYSTEMS

There are 7 types of grading systems available. They are:

- **Percentage Grading** – From 0 to 100 Percent
- **Letter grading and variations** – From A Grade to F Grade
- **Norm-referenced grading** – Comparing students to each other usually letter grades
- **Mastery grading** – Grading students as “masters” or “passers” when their attainment reaches a prespecified level
- **Pass/Fail** – Using the Common Scale as Pass/Fail
- **Standards grading (or Absolute-Standards grading)** – Comparing student performance to a pre-established standard (level) of performance

- **Narrative grading** -Writing Comments about students

There are many people who declare there are many advantages of the modern education system and there are also others who say the complete opposite. Well, both sides have a fair share of arguments to support their views completely.

What Made The Schools To Choose This Grading System?

School is a sacrosanct place and is touted to be the second home of children. Today in the rapid life that we are living in, most of the parents are office goers and school becomes a safe haven to leave their children behind and go. Thus, schools play an essential part in the wholesome and the holistic development of each and every student they have got enrolled with. It does not merely perform as an intermediate in which the children study and imbibe new things and habits but, they also are depicted to the actual world where they get to interrelate with their landed gentry and learn many things through understanding which nothing else can provide.

They feel that as technology is advancing, new forms of teaching, guiding and other features should also be improved. One such feature is using a grading system in education to judge a student's capability and knowledge. The main reason for the schools to exist in the world is to impart knowledge to the students who are studying in it and assessing the students thereby forms a vital part of the performance of the school which is usually carried as a two-way method.

Here, in this article, we are going to look in detail at the various dimensions of the grading systems in the field of education and the various advantages and disadvantages of grading system in education.

Grading System in India

Percentage	Grade Point	U.S. Grade Equiv	Classification/ Division
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60–100	3.5–4.0	A or (O)	First-class/ Distinction / Outstanding
55–59	3.15– 3.49	B+	Second Class
50–54	2.5–3.14	B	Second Class
43–49	2.15– 2.49	C+	Third Division
35*–42	1.5–2.14	C	Fail/Third Division
0–34	0–1.49	F	Fail

ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF GRADING SYSTEM IN EDUCATION:

S.no	Advantages	Disadvantages
1	Takes the pressure off from the students at certain levels	It doesn't instil a sense of competition
2	Grading Pattern description	Not an accurate representation of the performance and the knowledge gained
3	Gives the students an obvious idea about their weaknesses and strengths	It is not an exact scoring system

4	Make class work easier	Lack of incentives
5	Leads to a better rendezvous of ideas	



ADVANTAGES OF GRADING SYSTEM IN EDUCATION:

Let us now look in detail the advantages of grading system in education which is used as an inevitable tool for assessing a student's performance at least in school life.

1. Takes the pressure off from the students at certain levels:

In a general grading system as considered above, a student's real scores and it's associated marks are not accounted on the official transcript, which denotes that their GPA will not have an effect on either a pass or a fail mark category.

This spares the students from getting preoccupied and become fussy about getting an elevated letter grade like that of an **O**, and permitting them to unwind. It still provides the necessary educational prerequisites for them to land themselves comfortably on a good job and also mold themselves to become more responsible citizens in the future. An even better aspect is that they will also receive some credit for the course that they have studied for all these years in the past.

2. Grading Pattern description:

One of the main advantages of this method is that the studious children are clearly discriminated from the average and below-average type of students but this led to the development and mounting up of intense pressure amidst the students. The learning was not thought of a process that is revered to be a fun task, but rather as a hard task which they had to properly deal with in an obedient manner.

The advantages of the grading system are that the development of pressure upon the students in terms of studying has appreciably reduced. Here, the students are bundled and grouped according to the different types of grading scales they get which are entirely based on the marks that they get in each subject that is taught in school.

In the case of India the general pattern is as follows

A1: 91 to 100

A2 : 81 to 90

B1: 71 to 80

B2: 61 to 70

C1 : 51 to 60

C2 : 41 to 50

D for 33 to 40 and lesser for E's.

Another advantage that this method has conveyed in the field of education is that it has introduced the notion of measuring the students' knowledge based on their internal assignments, projects, and their answering ability in class and their overall performance in all the major examinations. It is not just a solitary examination forced method.

Earlier the marks that were obtained in the exams are the only indicator of whether a child is studying or not. But, this system analyzes whether a child understands the concept or not.

3. Gives the students an obvious idea about their weaknesses and strengths:

Knowing precisely which subject(s) are their weak spots, students can easily decide where to toggle their focal point on. In a grading system where the alphabets are the scales, a grade of C or grade of D is known to speak a lot. So, when the total grades arrive these students can easily get to know their forte.

4. Make class work easier:

Yes...You have read it right. Suppose if a student knows that getting a D is enough to scrape through the class assignments section in the marking division, he or she will only focus on getting a D without any fuss. Of course, getting a higher grade than a D lies with the student's prerogative only. The point is that the student does not need to toil them to achieve the necessary minimum.

5. Leads to a better rendezvous of ideas:

Classes or the courses that are often taught in a classroom medium within the confined premises of a school are highly difficult and are taken in the ultimate sense as getting a pass or a fail on a subject. This builds a sense of responsibility in their minds to work and train hard in their weak spots.

DISADVANTAGES OF GRADING SYSTEM IN EDUCATION:

Also, the following points can be considered as worthy of our importance while considering the disadvantages of the grading system in education. They are,

1. It doesn't instill a sense of competition:

When all that required is a mere pass mark, we would neither have the urge to outperform others nor do we want to excel with the overall grades. The A grade speaks a lot about our caliber than a D or an F. With a D or an F, we can be only satisfied that we are okay enough in studies, which will make us go lazy.

2. Not an accurate representation of the performance and the knowledge gained:

As we have said already, passing in an examination cannot be considered as plausible enough to declare that the same student has gained an immense amount of knowledge by these exams. An alphabet cannot explain the inner knowledge gained by a student and there is no easy way of gauging a student's level of performance and knowledge in the examinations.

3. It is not an exact scoring system:

Suppose, let us consider that the science subject is your weak point and with a tremendous effort, let us say that you got an A or a C for all your attempts, which would have made a vast disparity in your sense of accomplishment. Still, the inner knowledge you have gained via these grades can be nil, as you may have attempted for learning without understanding the concept, with the sole perspective of getting an A or a C.

4. Lack of incentives:

The traditional letter grade system considers that every alphabet is an inducement to perform good or better or the best. Getting a B could kindle the students to put an extra effort to get an A and is a step closer to getting the highest mark in a class. But, the highest rank in the class tag is going to do no good for the students. To get the tag, the students will only go for rote learning rather than be exploring and explaining the concepts on their own.

Other Areas of Consideration:

The fact that a student scores a centum without any mistakes and a student who scores 90 replete with several mistakes grouped together can make the centum holder get de-motivated. This will dampen the spirits of the hard worker to get mediocre grades itself, as he or she will know that irrespective of the grades, they are going to be placed in the cream students section only. Moreover, the responsibility now lies on the subject teacher and their candid estimation of a particular student who is sent for the overall grading rather than estimating the true merit and caliber of that student.

Thus, these are the unfair advantages that this system poses while considering it as an able system to better. The disadvantages of grading system thus include the piece of information that the students cannot be distinguished with respect to the fellow ones as more than two students with different capabilities in terms of their understanding and grasping power and prowess will automatically fall into the same group.

Thus a teacher will not be able to know which person needs more special attention than the other.

So, is the Grading System a Better One?

Even though there are several disadvantages of the grading system it has removed several disadvantages of the marking system. As a recent survey has shown that with the advent of the grading system in education, the number of students who give importance to education has got drastically reduced as this notion stems from the fact that the grades are a fleeting sort of thing and are able to fetch only in the short-term and have no use in the long run. Especially when these students appear to college entrance examinations with these grades and a nil amount of knowledge, these grades will not speak on behalf of them.

Grades without knowledge are like a batsman going to a cricket field without a bat to play a cricket match. In the same way, the schools should also come forward to implement some changes in their already designed curriculum to make the students get proactive in order to learn

in a meaningful way so that the concept remains with them all through their life. It is simple to assign grading than the exact numerical marking involving no biases and subjectivity. Examiners do differ in their marking on account of the subjectivity and unreliability on the part of the examiners. Grading System provides scaling of the evaluation on a uniform basis for the better comparison of the evaluation outcomes in the different subjects and by the different examiners.

A Grading System Ensures Fulfillment of The Following Objectives:

Evaluation which is mainly judgment based on measurement is uniform if all the universities agree to adopt to point scale grading system and establish relationship between various grades and their meaning in qualitative terms. In short grading is a process of classifying student into different categories on the basis of pre-defined standard and representing each category by a specific letter.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

“A STUDY OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS VIEWS TOWARDS GRADING SYSTEM OF EVALUATION IN URBAN & RURAL HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOLS”

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To know the views of teachers of urban and rural school about the grading system.
- To know the views of students of urban and rural school about the grading system.

HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY

- Teachers have adequate awareness about the grading system.
- Students have adequate awareness about the grading system.

ROME (1993) DURDEN AND ELLIS (2003)

Results confirm expectations with grade point average and days in Attendance having a highly significant positive effect on student performance. Number of Courses taken by student has a

significant positive impact on student performance. While this result may appear counter-intuitive, research suggests the decision to enroll in two classes (full time) or one (part time) may measure in observed attributes of motivation and time constraints.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Methods of research are sometimes determined by the theory underlying the problems of the study. Here mainly Survey Method is used for collection the data.

SAMPLE OF THE STUDY

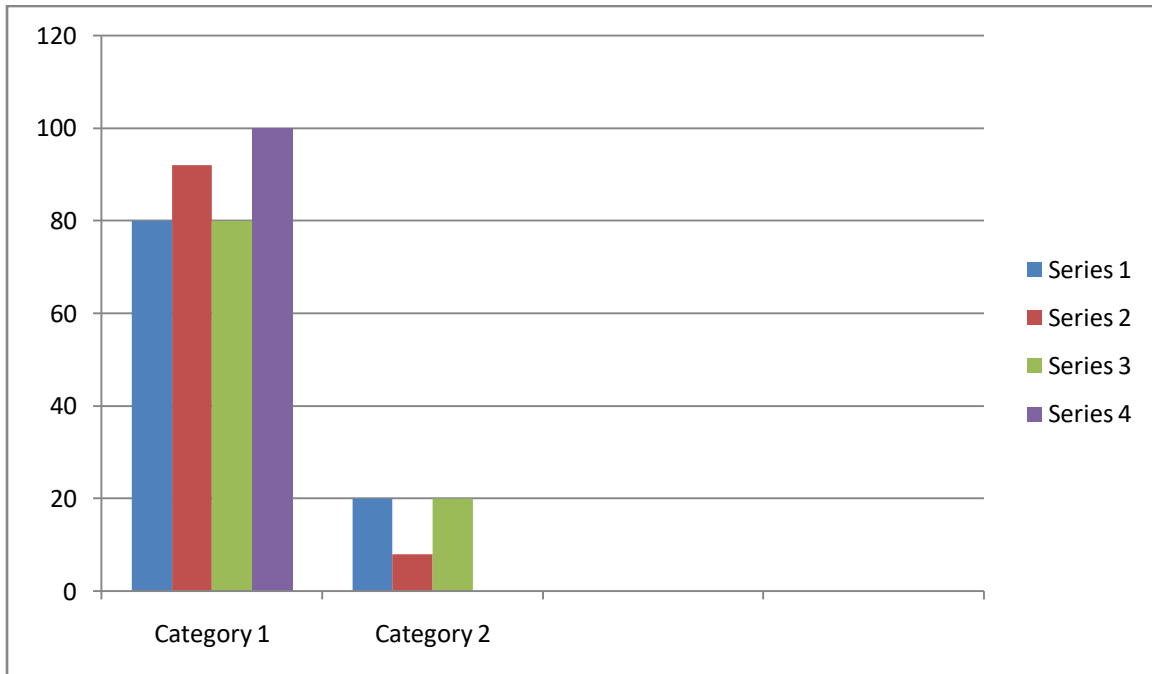
No of Teachers	No of Students	Class
5	25	XI
5	25	XI
5	25	XII
5	25	XII

TOOL

A Questionnaire developed by the investigator.

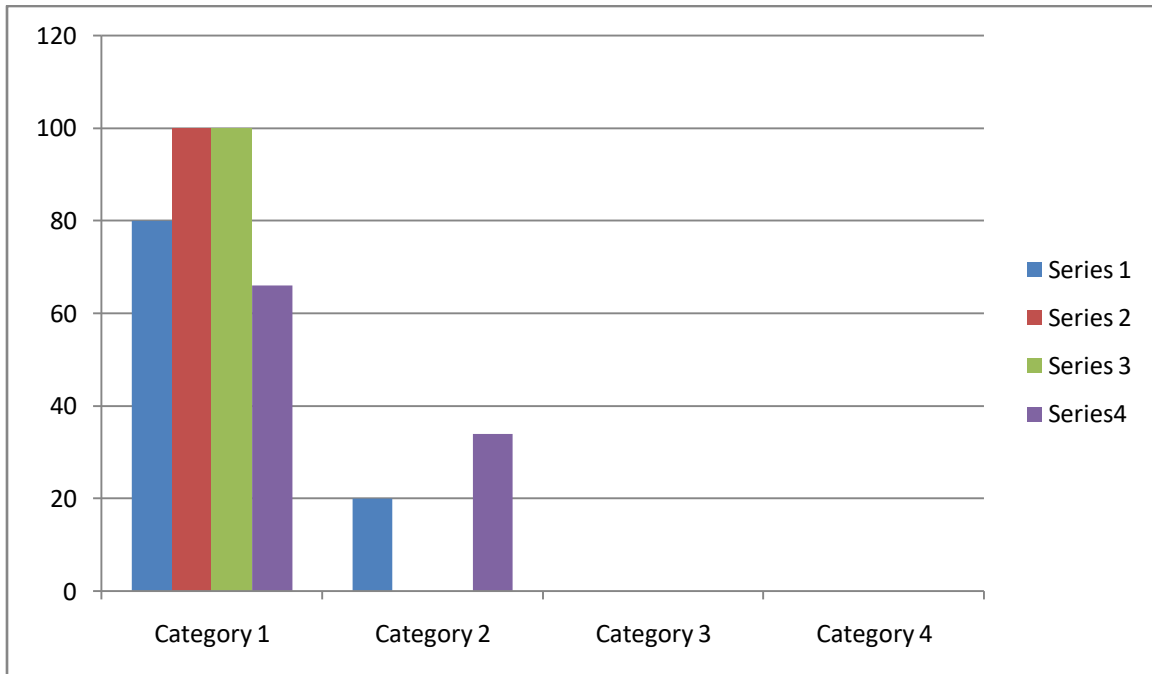
ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE DATA

- **Grading System can improve the students' achievement level.**



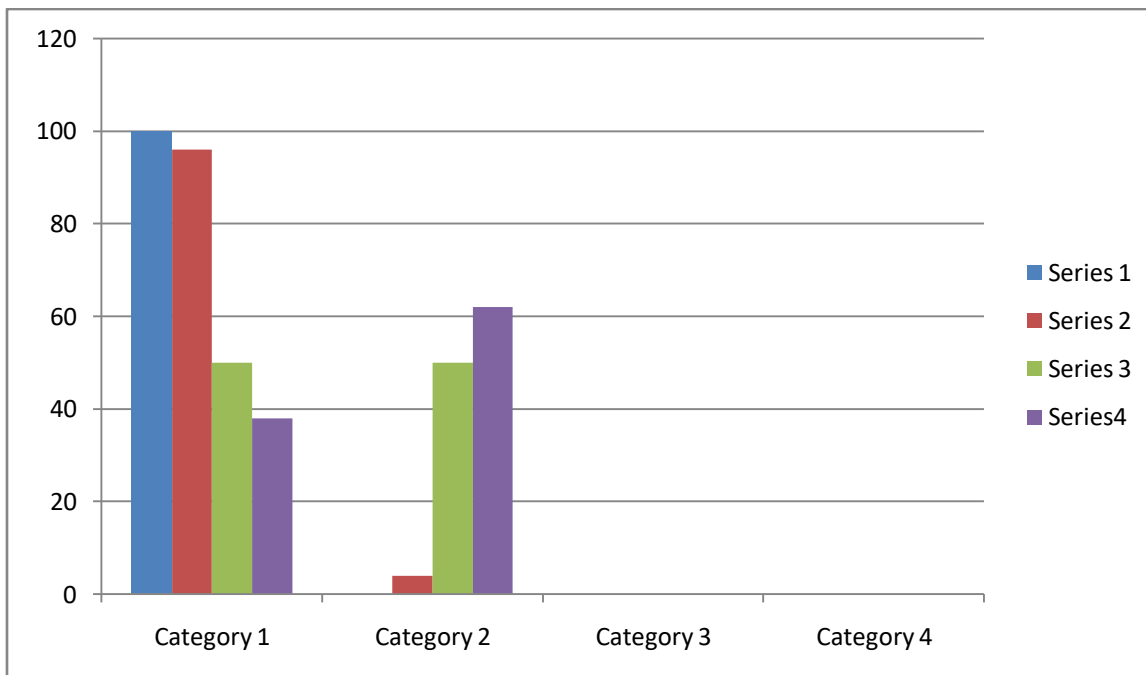
80% Urban and 80% Rural School Teachers says that grading system can improve the achievement level and 20% Urban and 20% Rural School Teachers says that it can't while 92% Urban and 8% Rural School Students says that grading system can improve their achievement and 8% Urban and 92% Rural School Students says it can't.

- **Grading System can motivate the weakest students to get highest grade in class.**



80% Urban and 100% Rural School Teachers says that it can motivate the weakest students to get highest grade in class and 20% Urban and 0% Rural School Teachers says that it cannot
100% Urban and 66% Rural School Students says that it can motivate the weakest students to get highest grade in class and 0% Urban and 34% Rural School Students says that it can't

- **Grading System reduces the mental stress among the students**



100% Urban and 50% Rural School Teachers says that grading system reduces the mental stress among the students and 0% Urban and 50% Rural School Teachers says that it cannot. 96% Urban and 38% Rural School Students says that grading system reduces the mental stress among the students and 4% Urban and 62% Rural School Students says that it not.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

- The present investigation was carried out on a limited sample under much limitation. There are some suggestions for further research.
- The study may be replicated with a large and different sample of the students.
- The study can include more area under investigation.
- Male and Female students can be taken separately.
- A Study can also be done to see the role of guidance in achieving the goal of life.
- In this way, in the above areas, study can be made and we can make use of it giving general awareness about evaluation system to students and in this way this study can contribute much in Educational System Development.

CONCLUSION

The main purpose of the study was to study of the Urban and Rural Secondary School Teachers and Students Views towards Grading System of Evaluation. The purpose is filled with the help of teachers and student, by collecting their views on the questionnaire and through the cooperation of the institutional head. As long as schools carry on to allocate their grades, with non-meaningful consequences, like a class rank or a top to down scorer method or any other namesake methods, fastened to them, students will keep on believing that the grades are the ultimate purpose of studying Hence, it lies only in the hands of the school's curriculum management division to consider all these aspects and make sure they devise a learning pattern that takes all these factors into account and does the needful for the student community. If we start implementing these issues right from today, we can see a wholesome and fully knowledgeable student community within a few years and after which there will only be a competition for soft skills and intensity of knowledge and nothing else.

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