

## NEED OF GRADES IN THE MODERN EDUCATION SYSTEM

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### ABSTRACT

Grading system has been used in our education system for evaluating the learning process of the students. Grades are the mathematical values that we associate with the achievement of the learner and their proficiency in the subject. It is used as a measure to see the understanding of the learner. Grading is of different types that are used to see different things when it comes to see the performance of the individual. Schools use the grading system to provide a measure about the learning of the students. Since the system of education is changing from the traditional system to the modern system, the value of grades is also changing. Grades act as the record or proof of the performance of the learners. On the other hand it can also cause division among the students based on the marks they have scored making categories like excellent, average, and below average. Grading or giving a numeric based on what a student has written is not enough to know whether they have actually understood a concept as it is only concerned with the writing skills of a student. Education aims at the all-round development of the students which cannot be assessed with a numeric based on just knowledge of the contents of the book. The school systems are heavily dependent on the grading system to keep records of the students and also as a numeric to know the weaknesses and strengths of different individuals. The grades are a core part of the education system in our country which acts as a base for higher studies. Grading system is deeply rooted in the educational system of our country which cannot be eradicated completely. As education is modernizing day by day with including latest technologies, the education system needs tools like grading system to keep a record for the students and to make them aware of their strengths and weaknesses. Grades reflect the extent of the objectives achieved by the teacher. Grades create the different categories in the classroom which in turn can affect the morale of the student. Grades are a standard that has to be maintained by the students in order to make sure that they are appreciated by everyone. Grades cannot always show the actual learning of the students. It can just be a number that is achieved by memorizing the things. The pressure that is related to scoring good grades is something that needs to be stopped as it can create

fear in the students and negative outlook towards those who do not score good grades. Grades should not be the only parameter of judging the performance and the caliber of an individual. . Grades should be assigned keeping in mind the understanding and application of a concept by the student rather than giving just the content of the book. It also depends upon the classes that the system is used for. For different classes the criteria might differ based upon the age of the learners and the teaching – learning activities

## **INTRODUCTION**

Education is a process that involves the acquisition of knowledge which leads to the making of beliefs of an individual. Education in India has evolved over the years from the early gurukul system to the modernized structure of the government and private schools with the levels divided up into primary, secondary and higher secondary. Grades are the mathematical values that we associate with a learner's achievement and proficiency in the subject. Grading system is used as a tool for evaluating a student's performance in one academic year. It is based on the series of tests that are conducted related to the syllabus of the students. It is used to reflect the level of understanding of the learner and the final grade of the year denotes the level of understanding of the learner. There are different types of grading which have different attributes to them. Percentage grading involves giving values that are calculated in terms of percentage. The percentage is calculated from the marks obtained by the student against the total marks. This type of grading is done in every semester and also at the end of an academic year. .letter grading involves assigning symbols such as A, B, C etc to the students based on the marks that they have achieved in the different subjects. Grades are assigned individually to the subjects and collectively to all the subjects by joining the total marks obtained by the learner. Letter grades are generally attached to the points that a person has scored. Norm-referenced grading the students are assigned the grades by comparing their performance to that of the whole class. It involves comparing the performance of the students based on what they have scored in the test.

## **ADVANTAGES OF GRADING SYSTEM**

It is a tool for evaluation- Grading systems are used in education to assess the understanding of the learners and their subsequent improvement in the different subjects. Schools use the grading system to provide a measure about the learning of the students. It also acts as a measure for the school as the overall result of the school reflects the overview for the performance of the school as well as the

students. Grading system is used to differentiate between the performances of the students in a particular subject. Record/ proof -It is a record of the performance of a student which can be used in future by the student as well as the school to show the accomplishments of the students. It acts as a validation for the learning experiences of the students. It increases the amount of students that get a high score as the students with grade A can be anywhere between 91 to 100 marks reducing the difference between the two by giving the same grade to the learners. It makes the assessment an easy process. It also reflects the achievement of the objectives that are predetermined by the teacher. A grade reflects the level of achievement of the objectives and also acts as a feedback for the teacher as well as the learner. It can also help the teacher to see what kind of methodologies is effective in the classroom. Good grades can boost the confidence of the learners. They also open the doors to various institutions after completing school and further for higher education. It is an important part of the qualification of a candidate when going for higher studies or jobs.

### **DISADVANTAGES**

Grading system can cause division among the students based on the marks they have scored making categories like excellent, above average and below average and underachievers that can instill lack of confidence among some and overconfidence among others. Grading system can cause students to take everything for granted as they might perceive education as the process of achieving marks and might not use their full potential in learning. Grading or giving a numeric based on what a student has written is not enough to know whether they have actually understood a concept as it is only concerned with the writing skills of a student. Education aims at the all-round development of the students which cannot be assessed with a numeric based on just knowledge of the contents of the book. It does not tell us whether the students are capable of actually relating their contents of the book with the outside world. Students tend to go for rote learning methods rather than actually trying to understand a topic. Grade becomes the end product of learning for the students. This limits the personal development of the students .Their sole concern is to get the marks and not to explore the content. They might even focus on just getting the passing marks which can result in lack of interest among the students. It does not give the actual picture of the performance of the student, instead it is all based on what a student has achieved in a particular exam. Grading can lead to demotivation among the students due to the comparison between the high scorers and the under achievers .The ones who score higher with rote learning also promote rote learning among the others and are

appreciated for their marks by their teachers and the society without knowing the actual knowledge gained by the student. Temporary learning- As the students pass the academic year they tend to forget what they have learned previously as they have only done it to score marks. Grades as a measure for higher studies- Students who are at the higher secondary level only focus on the grades as it is a measure for them to get admission in prestigious colleges after they complete their school.

### **BOOKS PERTAINING ONLY TO GRADES AND LIMITING STUDENTS CREATIVITY -**

There are certain books that are also available that promote this type of grade oriented learning that limits the thought process and creativity of the students having ready-made answers. Grading system unlike any other has its own set of advantages and disadvantages which cannot be eradicated completely. The school systems are heavily dependent on the grading system to keep records of the students and also as a numeric to know the weaknesses and strengths of different individuals. The grades are a core part of the education system in our country which acts as a base for higher studies. There are some things that can be added in the system to make it a way of measuring the overall development of the students. Feedback can be included in the class room when the students submit their work. This will help the students to improve their work. Feedback given at the right time might also help them to improve their weak areas. These way students will be motivated to work hard and they will also develop interest over time. Teacher should try to include different modes of assessment in the classroom. One should not be only dependent on the traditional methods of written tests. Discussions and role-play or sketching can also be included just to give every individual an opportunity to showcase their talent and work in their area of interest. Participation in the class and the school activities should also be considered while grading the students. Each individual should be encouraged to celebrate when they have passed an academic year irrespective of their grades. Every student should be given equal opportunities inside and outside of the classroom. The questions in the test should be application based so as to determine the actual learning of the students. Group work should be included in the evaluation process. Students should be encouraged to learn together. This will help to increase their creativity and help them to come up with the answers by themselves rather than looking in the book. Students should not be segregated based on their marks as it can be demotivating for those who have not scored high grade. Rubrics can also be used to evaluate students. Using rubrics the teacher does not have to sign the grades to the students; instead they just have to assess the students in the rubric. This way the students will be able to reflect upon their work and will be able to improve it in the future. Rubric does not involve any grades and that in itself

eliminates any sort of unhealthy competition between the learners. Grading system is deeply rooted in the educational system of our country which cannot be eradicated completely. As education is modernizing day by day with including latest technologies, the education system needs tools like grading system to keep a record for the students and to make them aware of their strengths and weaknesses. Grading system should not be fully dependent on the written tests and exams. Different methods of evaluation can be used to make the grading system fair for all the students. Grades help to identify whether the objectives have been achieved or not. Grades are an important part of ones qualification for jobs or interviews. Grading system is not accurate but it is approximate and gives a value to the efforts put in by the students in terms of the numbers or letters. Grades should be assigned keeping in mind the understanding and application of a concept by the student rather than giving just the content of the book. It also depends upon the classes that the system is used for. For different classes the criteria might differ based upon the age of the learners and the teaching – learning activities.

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