

Short Communication

Role of Student Assessment in Learning

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Abstract

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Student assessment helps in determining the progress of students throughout the program. Through evaluating the students' performance, teachers may devise new teaching methods based on the needs and development of a particular student or the whole class. Aside from these, assessments provide the students awareness regarding the extent of their knowledge and what topics they should improve. The use of student evaluation allows the development of teaching strategies, student performance, and the school as well.

Keywords: Assessment, Performance, Education, Knowledge, Evaluation, School, Methodology, Research

INTRODUCTION

Student assessment or educational assessment refers to the systematic process of gathering, interpreting, and utilizing of learning and experiential data to develop a deep understanding of what students may acquire, understand, and accomplish. Students' educational experience ends when assessment is finished and the obtained results are used to improve subsequent learning (Great Schools Partnership, 2015). Thus, assessments are beneficial to teachers to adjust their teaching strategies to various student needs, accordingly.

Generally, assessments for learning provide students with information and advice to help them plan and determine the next steps of their education. However, assessments are powerful processes that may either optimize or prevent learning as it is applied (Webber et al., 2011) due to the use of gathered information to guide students on the previously learning and decide on the future learning as well. In this sense, evaluating, teaching, and learning are inextricably linked as they all inform the students.

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Additionally, student assessments are a key element in the current educational system. Assessments allow the comparison of individual performances and within population groups. Considering the numerous types of reviews for different organizations that are available and often needed today, it can be difficult to identify the true purpose of assessment (Examinations, n.d).

Basically, the aim of student assessment is to gather relevant information on the students' progress, or to identify their interest through evaluation of their learning process. Upon receiving this information, teachers can reflect on each student's level of success as well as the class specific inclinations to customize the lesson plans (Purposes of assessment / Underlying principles of assessment for learning / Assessment in the classroom / Home - Assessment, n.d.).

Furthermore, student assessments are an integral part of instruction as they determine if the goals of education are achieved. Assessment results affect decisions regarding grades, placements, advancement, instructional needs, curriculum, and in some cases, funding. Assessments inspire teachers to ask themselves if they are teaching what they should impart to the students, in return, are the students learning what they must learn in the classroom, and the possible ways to improve teaching and promote better learning.

Importance of Student Assessments

Student assessments help us design and modify programs to better promote student learning and success because it provides common definitions and benchmarks for student skills. Thus, enabling the educators to be more consistent and effective in the promotion of student learning. Assessments also provide feedback, advice, and guidance to help students better plan and conduct their training programs. Finally, through assessments, collection of feedback regarding student learning assists teachers in their work (Purpose of Assessment, n.d.).

However, to maximize the benefits from assessments, it must be planned according to the goal. Together, assessment and learning play an important role in supporting and improving student learning, and thus, must be balanced. The most important part of assessment is the interpretation and use of information received for the intended purposes (Connolly and DeYoung, 2004).

Today's students need to master both the basics of comprehension and arithmetic, as well as the competent skills necessary to navigate in the changing world. To succeed nowadays, one needs to think and analyze critically, and draw conclusions based on the data available. The continuous need for changes in the skills and knowledge base of the students require new learning objectives. Hence, it changes the relationship between evaluation and teaching. Along with their students, teachers must also play an active role in the decision-making aspect for evaluation and content assessment.

The assessment is designed so that students can understand their progress toward course goals and change their behaviors to achieve those goals. To determine the progress throughout the course of learning, the assessment process must be continuous. For example, classes with one or two exams in a semester do not utilize the scores in the most efficient way. For students to perfectly understand their progress, frequent assessment is essential and must be accompanied by a response.

Role of Assessment in Learning

Student assessment plays an important role in the student's discovery of the factors influencing their motivation and how teachers impart knowledge to the students. Considering its benefits, assessments may be used for many purposes.

Assessment as Guidance

The assessment helps teachers determine what the students understood, plan and direct the education based on the needs of the class, and provide meaningful

feedback to the students. In 2017, it was observed that 89% of the teachers in colleges in the U.S. have determined ways to improve student performance after regular assessments (Joshua, 2017).

Assessment as Source of Awareness

Through assessment, students develop an awareness of what encourages their learning and the utilization of this awareness to adapt new methods and advance their learning. In this process, they are taking greater responsibility for their own learning. Thus, it was noted that 70% of the students have improved due to regular assessment and encouragement (Joshua, 2017).

Apprenticeship Assessment

The assessment provides information to students, teachers, parents, and the educational community of the achievements based on the set goals as a way to celebrate the success of previous teaching strategies, plan interventions, and support ongoing progress (Assessment and Evaluation | Manitoba Education, n.d.).

Assessment Directs the Statement

Preliminary, or on-demand analysis, informs the instructors about the previous knowledge of the students as well as the unfamiliar subject matters at the beginning of the class. Once determined, it guides the teachers in setting the direction of a course. If done correctly, the information gained will highlight and bridge the gap between existing knowledge and the desired result. Experienced instructors will discover what students already know and use the prior knowledge as a step towards developing a new understanding. The same applies to the data obtained from the evaluation made during trainings. By enrolling students in the course, exceptional teachers constantly review and refine their lessons to meet the diverse needs of students (Gardner, 2012).

Assessment Stimulates Learning

What and how students learn largely depends on how they think they were evaluated. Evaluation practices should give students the right information of what and how they are learning as well as how long they can devote themselves to the concepts and skills of a course. Then, the teachers will communicate what the students need to know, either through an articulated curriculum or through careful selection of evaluations to guide student energies. Along with this, high expectations of learning

occasionally appear to students (Nature and Purpose of Educational Assessment – A Response to Andrew Davis, n.d). It was observed that over 50% of high school students improved dramatically after the quarterly assessment due to competition among the improving students (Harold, 2017).

Assessment Informs Students on their Progress

Effective assessments give students an idea of what they know and do not know about a subject. If done correctly, feedback given to students will show the ways on how they can improve their performances for assessments should reflect the content, rational and skills taught in the classroom. Also, trainer's feedback will inform the students on their strengths and challenges based on the learning outcomes of the course.

Assessments Informs on Didactic Practice

Thinking about the success of students provides instructors with information on the effectiveness of their teaching strategies. By systematically collecting, analyzing, and interpreting the evidence, teachers can determine to what extent the student learning have met the expectations for a particular lesson, unit or course (Durkin, 2015). Feedback knowledge guides teachers on how to improve the classroom, strengthen the class, and determine well understood concepts to be condensed in future courses.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, assessments play a critical role in student success. After each course, students can fill out assessments which helps to identify best practices for instructors. In addition, the implementation of assessments means students can be more self-reflective

on their own learning along the way. This self-reflection is imperative for student development, as it serves as a measurement to confirm whether the learning objectives met student learning outcomes. In the long run, assessments help in the student's learning process and helps educators with improving year-to-year curriculum.

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