



A Study of Students and Parents Opinions regarding Open Book Examination

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Abstract:

Since past many years, there have been major changes in the Board Examinations. The main reason behind them is the students' fear for examinations. With a view to check the requirement of Open Book Examination for removing the fear as well as evaluating the understanding of the students rather than their memory power, the researcher intended to have a survey of the students' and parents' opinions. These students and parents were randomly selected from Ahmedabad city and around twenty schools of AUDA area. Students were given a questionnaire of 10 and parents were given that of 11 questions. The information was gathered and analyzed by finding median and average on the basis of these questionnaires. From the results, it was revealed that half of the students were not enthusiastic about this new kind of method and parents believed that this examination system would reduce the fear of public examinations.

Keywords: *Open Book Examination, Interpretation of parents' opinions*

1. Introduction

We all have felt that students are fearful of examination. As a solution to this, the way to accept the thought of 'Open Book Exam' is getting widened. Because of this, the definition of education, teaching-learning process, evaluation – all such aspects change. According to the taxonomy of Benjamin Bloom, the objectives of education, experiences and evaluation – all three depend upon each other. By changing one, the other two would surely be affected. Students cram answers, only memory is tested in exams, answers are written without understanding. Based on all these matters, Gujarat Secondary Board is thinking over a new method i.e. Open Book Examination. However, due to different opinions obtained from different classes and some administrative reasons, the implementation of the decision regarding Open Book Examination system has been restrained until now. Still this issue is constantly being discussed throughout the education world. The Gujarat Government has not cancelled, but restrained it. There is a possibility for it to be implemented in near future after some stages of discussion. The opinions of students and parents regarding the openly discussed issue of Open Book Examination have been surveyed by the researcher here.

2. Operational Definitions

2.1 Open Book Examination

Open Book Examination is a new examination system, which focuses not only on the student's memory power, but also on his understanding.

2.2 Objectives of study

1. To study of the students' opinions regarding the open book examination and its possible impacts.
2. To study of the parents' opinions regarding the open book examination and its possible impacts .

3. Method of research

Survey method is used to fulfil the objectives of this research.

4. Population and Sample

The present research contained Ahemadabad city and the area of AUDA. Total 210 students from 20 schools had been selected randomly for this research. Moreover, total 208 parents from the same areas belonging to those schools. The schools had been chosen on the basis of their medium, area and the format of their administration.

5. Tools and Data Analysis

The researcher had prepared questionnaires for students and parents, which included 10 questions on reading method, reading material, hard work and fear for examination. In addition to this, parents were asked questions based on reading material, hard work and fear for examination and tuition classes. The obtained information from both the questionnaires was analyzed through Percentage.

6. Interpretation of the information

6.1 Interpretation of students' opinions

1. 91% students from Gujarati and English medium think that Open Book Examination System means to write answers based on understanding of the textbook.
2. 61% students from both the mediums will write understanding based answers with the help of textbook, while 35% students of Gujarati medium and 7% students of English medium will write understanding based answers without the help of textbook.
3. 54% students of both the mediums are not favorable to the Open Book Examination method.
4. 62% students from Gujarati medium and 74% students from English medium are denying to be tutored if this kind of examination gets implemented.
5. 63% students of both the mediums say that they would not read any other educational material except the textbook for the examination.
6. 38% students from Gujarati medium and 48% students from English medium say that they would have to work harder.
7. 75% students from both the mediums say that they would have to pay more attention to the classroom teaching.
8. 58% students from Gujarati medium and 30% students from English medium believe that they would more serious towards the examination.
9. 44% students from Gujarati medium and 62% students from English medium say that the fear for examination would be decreased.

6.2 Interpretation of parents' opinions

1. As per the opinion of 63% parents, Open Book Examination System means to write answers by students based on their understanding.
2. 63% parents do not favor the Open Book Examination Method.
3. According to 58% parents, the fear of students for exams would disappear.
4. 51% parents opine that their fear for exams would disappear by the new method.
5. 73% parents are not in favor of tuition classes, if this method is implemented.
6. 58% parents are in favor reading other books apart from the textbook.
7. 64% parents don't believe that Open Book Examination is just an examination related tendency.
8. According to 35% parents, this method would help the students in their intellectual development.
9. As per the opinion of 61% parents, this method would improvise the understanding of the students.
10. 30% parents believe that the students would become cleverer due to this method, while according to 25% parents, there would be no change in the students.

7. Findings

7.1 Students finding

- Half of the students are not enthusiastic regarding this new examination system. Still if it is implemented, it seems that they would have to work harder.

- According to most number of the students, they would have to pay more attention to the studies, but their fear for the examination would be reduced.

7.2 Parents' finding

- Half of the parents believe that Open Book Examination would reduce the students' as well as the parents' fear for exams.
- Most number of the parents does not favor this method, but if it is implemented, parents would not be ready for their child to join the tuition class.

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