

10. E - Examination

Dr. Wahengbam Jyotirmoy Singh

Assistant Professor

D.M. College of Teacher Education

D.M. College Campus

Imphal Manipur India

ORCID iD: <http://orcid.org/0000-0001-5015-7741>

E-Mail: wjyotirmoy@yahoo.co.in

Abstract:

The contributor is the HSLC Additional Head Examiner for Social Science of BOSEM for the last six year, Assistant Head Examiner for B.Ed of Manipur University and also Higher Level and Standard Level, Diploma Programme online examiner of International Baccalaureate Organisation Examination for the last three years. The paper is developed based on the experience of the contribution of the said examination. It seeks to compare the traditional mode of examination with that of the online examination in citing the mode of High School Leaving Examination of Board of Secondary Education Manipur and International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO) examination as case studies. .

Keywords:

HSLC, BOSEM, IBO

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E-Examination ...by Dr. Wahengbam Jyotirmoy Singh Stuti Saxena Page no. 145 to 148

E - Examination

For long examination including public examination and also competitive examination was carried in the traditional mode of writing in the hard copy i.e. on the answer script. Most of the public examinations are very tedious. It has to undergo various processes. From paper setting to paper moderating to printing question to examination of the answer scripts and declaration of the examination, it takes six – seven months to conduct an examination.

Another difficulty of traditional mode of examination is that it requires the presence of all the examiners at a particular centre to examine the answer script. Examiners have to be present at the evaluation centre for at least five hours till the completion of the evaluation, which at times lasted for a months. Evaluation centre must be large enough to accommodate to accommodate large number of teacher. Need many personnel to man the evaluation centre.

High School Leaving Certificate Examination (HSLC), 2016 of Board of Secondary Education Manipur (BOSEM) may be taken as a case study. Around 37,000 examiners appeared for this year HSLC examination of BOSEM in more than 100 Examination centers. Board delivered question papers along with answers scripts from these centers before the commencement of the examination. It also takes back answers scripts from these centers after the end of the examination. This year BOSEM has appointed around 120 examiners to evaluate around 37,000 Social Studies answer scripts of HSLC, 2016 at CC Higher Secondary School. This means around 720 examiners (120 x 6) maybe needed to evaluate 222,000 (37,000 x 6) answer scripts by BOSEM. The evaluation of the answer scripts starts from 11th April 2016 and is still continuing (as on 30th April 2016). It may be completed by 10th May 2016). This meant that more than 700 examiners have to be present from 9.00am to 4.00 pm every day for one month at CC Higher Secondary School. When the examiners are more than 700, it means that it needs a large centre to examine the answer scripts. The examiners did not teach in their school during this period. Their school children miss them during this period. The class at CC Higher Secondary School where the evaluation of the answer scripts is going on is disrupted.

Competitive examination in the traditional mode of examination almost takes the same procedures. Many centers are needed to conduct the examinations. Large manpower's like Invigilator are needed to conduct such examination. Large man powers are also needed to examine the answer scripts. For an examination, like preliminary examination it takes more than fortnight to declare the exam result. A small or an undesirable unexpected aspect in such examination may lead to the postponement or at the worst the cancellation of such examination. The re-processing for such examination takes time. These days e –examination are favored by many who conduct examination for entry to the jobs or to the next level of classes. Questions are asked from a pool of questions where the question asked to one examinee may not be the same one to that who is sitting next to him. Examination can be conducted in a limited examination centers. The examinees appeared for the examination in batches according to the time allotted to them. The number of manpower to man the examination is

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considerably reduced as only a few of them are required. In such examination leak of examination in the traditional mode of examination is reduced to a greater degree. Examination results are also declared within an overnight. It needed only one machine to declare the examination. These types of examination also reduce the manpower's required for conducting such examination. So also the manpower's for examining the answer scripts. In today's world where instant examination and declaration of its result was preferred by one and all, it would surprise no one as more and more institution opts for e-examination for such type of examination.

In contrast to the HSLC of BOSEM, one may cite the Diploma Programme examination of International Baccalaureate Organisation. In IBO Diploma Programme Examination, the interested examiners are selected from different parts of the world. The answer scripts are uploaded in the website of IBO and the examiners have to download them and examine the scripts online. The marks are submitted online and the scripts examine by the examiners are further assessed by the senior examiners.

As with the case of IBO examination, e - examination does not need large examination centre. It can be assessed by examiners from different parts of the world. They assessed the scripts according to their convenience. This spared the examiners from the fixed routine of their presence at the particular place for one whole month. In this mode of examination, the examiners need not skipped their classes. They can assess the examination in their spare period.

In this type of examination, it is easy to supervise the examiners by the superior examiners during the course of evaluation.

Another advantage of E – examination is that it is paperless examination. Such examinations conserve our environment.

Conclusion:

Taking into consideration of the problems taken in carrying out the conventional mode of examination e – examination is an important alternative to it. It requires limited resources like infrastructures to conduct and assess such examination. The result can be declared overnight.

National Focus Group on Examination Reform of NCF 2005 also calls for online examination. It states that for the benefit of the students, e – examination should be carried out. But it is not an easy one. Not many public examinations are able to conduct e-examination.

National Institute of Open Schooling is conducting such examination for the last few years. Here, it is felt Boards conducting public examination needs to take cue of IBO examination if one wants to examine answer script online. Though, many arguments may linger for a while, but a serious thought is deemed necessary in regards to the traditional mode of examination being conducted all over India. It seems to outlive its utility. And in the present digital age of the 21st century one needs a serious thought to conduct and assess examination through e-examination.

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E-Examination ...by Dr. Wahengbam Jyotirmoy Singh Stuti Saxena Page no. 145 to 148



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E-Examination ...by Dr. Wahengbam Jyotirmoy Singh Stuti Saxena Page no. 145 to 148