

MANAGING NIGERIA CHILD EXAMINATION RESULTS FOR EFFECTIVENESS

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Abstract:

Managing examination results is a crucial aspect of educational administration and student development. This paper examines the multifaceted approach to handling, analyzing, interpreting, and communicating assessment data within educational institutions. The effective management of exam results involves ensuring data security, employing efficient storage and retrieval systems, and utilizing robust analytical tools to derive actionable insights. Transparent communication of results to stakeholders fosters collaboration and informed decision-making. This paper highlights the importance of strategic utilization of examination results for driving positive change, guiding instructional strategies, and fostering continuous improvement in educational practices and student learning outcomes.

Key Words: Examination Results, Managing, Effectiveness, Scores, Grades

Introduction

Examination results are more than simply numbers or grades; they serve as a reflection of an individual's academic achievement and, to some extent, their grasp and application of information within a certain topic or sector. These outcomes include several characteristics beyond basic score, retaining relevance in both educational and personal situations. Examination results serve as a standard to measure a student's grasp and mastery of the subject matter. As Tomlinson (2018) observed, "assessment should be ongoing and varied so that educators can see the full range of a student's knowledge and abilities."

Examinations give vital feedback for both students and instructors, showing areas of strength and weakness. This feedback loop provides for specialized teaching approaches and personalized learning methodologies. Hattie and Timperley (2017) writes, "feedback is one of the most powerful influences on learning and achievement." Also, outcomes typically play a vital role in determining academic progression, admission to higher education, scholarships, or career possibilities. According to studies by the National Association of Colleges and companies (NACE), grades are a key factor for companies when selecting job applications. Exam outcomes might impact a student's motivation and self-belief. Positive outcomes can strengthen confidence, while setbacks might give opportunity for development and progress. Psychologist Albert Bandura's self-efficacy theory underlines the relevance of perceived competence in obtaining success (Bandura, 1977).

Collation of examination results is a procedure that travels through numerous steps. Collating examination results requires a systematic procedure involving many steps, from the grading of assessments to their compilation and distribution (Popham, 2021). This method assures correctness, transparency, and fairness in presenting the findings of tests.

Managing examination outcomes entails a systematic way to handle, organize, and utilize assessment data efficiently. It encompasses procedures such as data storage, analysis,

interpretation, and transmission of outcomes to stakeholders. Key parts of managing test results include securing examination data, arranging storage and retrieval, data analysis tools and methodologies, interpretation and communication.

Utilizing secure databases or systems with restricted access provides confidentiality and integrity (Trenholm, 2015). Implementing structured data storage systems promotes simple retrieval and analysis. Proper indexing and classification allow rapid access when needed. Utilizing proper tools and procedures for data analysis boosts the knowledge of examination findings, assisting in decision-making and suggesting areas for improvement (Popham, 2021). Interpretation of test results should lead to actionable insights. Understanding the implications of the data helps in establishing plans for improvement. Transparent sharing of outcomes to stakeholders creates confidence and collaboration. Clear reporting and distribution procedures guarantee that the information is accessible and intelligible.

This paper examines the many steps of handling examination results for increased effectiveness.

Phases of Collating Examination Results

a. Grading and Assessment:

This initial phase involves evaluating students' performance based on predefined criteria. Educators employ diverse assessment methods, to gauge understanding and proficiency. Grading and assessment are fundamental components of education, shaping learning experiences and providing valuable feedback to students (Black & William, 1998). These processes involve evaluating students' performance, understanding, and skills across diverse assessment methods and criteria. In Nigeria's higher institutions of learning, grading of courses is done by a combination of percentage marks and letter grades translated into a graduated system of Grade Point as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Grade Point System

Mark %	Letter Grade	Grade Point
70-100	A	5
60 – 69	B	4
50 – 59	C	3
45 – 49	D	2
40 – 44	E	1
0- 39	F	0

Source: Core Curriculum and Minimum Academic Standards for the Nigerian University System, NUC (2023).

For the purpose of determining a student’s standing at the end of every semester, the Grade Point Average (GPA) system is used. The GPA is computed by dividing the total number of Units x Grade Point (TUGP) by the total number of units (TNU) for all the courses taken in the semester.

Components of grading and assessment include formative and summative assessment. Formative assessments are ongoing evaluations that aid in understanding students' progress during the learning process. Summative assessments, on the other hand, evaluate students' overall achievement at the end of a specific period. Authentic assessments aim to evaluate real-world skills and application of knowledge (Wiggins & McTighe, 2015). Performance tasks and simulations are examples of assessments that mirror authentic situations, allowing for a deeper understanding of students' abilities. Assessments however may come in various forms, including but not limited to written exams, oral presentations, projects, practical demonstrations, portfolios, and peer evaluations (Nitko & Brookhart, 2021). Each method offers unique insights into students' skills and knowledge. Establishing clear assessment criteria and rubrics helps standardize grading. Rubrics outline specific expectations and criteria for different levels of performance, offering transparency and consistency in evaluation (Brookhart, 2013).

Feedback is a crucial aspect of assessment. Providing constructive feedback helps students understand their strengths and areas for improvement, promoting continuous learning and growth.

b. Data Entry and Verification:

Results obtained from assessments are entered into a database or system for further processing. It is critical to ensure accuracy during data entry to prevent errors (Trenholm, 2015). Data entry and verification in the context of examination results involve the meticulous process of inputting collected assessment scores or grades into a system or database, followed by a thorough review and validation to ensure accuracy and reliability.

This data inputting phase involves transferring raw assessment scores or grades obtained through various evaluation methods (exams, projects, etc.) into a digital or physical record-keeping system. The accuracy and precision of this initial data entry are crucial. Cross-verification is the second phase. To minimize errors, a cross-verification process compares the entered data against the original records or source documents (Baillie, 2022). This step helps identify discrepancies or inconsistencies that might have occurred during data entry. The third is validation checks. Implementing validation checks ensures that the entered data adhere to predefined criteria, such as valid score ranges, correct formatting, and appropriate data types (Grady & Pymm, 2021). Validation routines help maintain data integrity. The next is to identify error and correct same. Detected errors or discrepancies are flagged for correction. A systematic approach involving error logs or reports aids in identifying and rectifying inaccuracies promptly (Grady & Pymm, 2021). Instituting quality assurance procedures ensures that the data entry and verification processes comply with established standards. This might involve periodic audits, review protocols, or quality control checks.

c. Quality Assurance and Review:

A thorough review process verifies the accuracy and integrity of the collated results. This phase involves cross-checking, validation, and reconciliation of data. Quality assurance and review processes are critical aspects of ensuring accuracy, validity, and reliability in the collation and dissemination of examination results (Assessment Training Institute, 2004). These phases involve systematic checks and measures to verify the integrity of the assessment data and reports. Key elements of quality assurance and review are as follows:

i. Accuracy and consistency checks:

Rigorous checks are conducted to ensure that the entered data aligns with predefined standards and expectations. This involves verifying calculations, scoring, and grading consistency across different evaluators or assessments (Stiggins, Arter, Chappuis & Chappuis, 2014).

ii. Compliance with standards and guidelines:

Quality assurance involves aligning assessment procedures with established standards and guidelines set by educational boards, institutions, or accreditation bodies (Brookhart, 2013). Adherence to these standards ensures fairness and consistency.

iii. Peer review and calibration:

Peer review involves collaborative assessment and calibration sessions among educators or assessors to ensure alignment in grading criteria and fairness in evaluation. This process helps mitigate subjectivity and discrepancies.

iv. Data verification and reconciliation:

Independent verification processes cross-reference data entries and reports to identify discrepancies or errors. Reconciliation ensures that all data sources are accounted for and discrepancies are addressed (Stiggins et al, 2014).

v. Feedback integration:

Feedback gathered from stakeholders, including students, educators, and administrators, is integrated into the quality assurance process. This allows for continuous improvement and refinement of assessment practices (Nitko & Brookhart, 2021).

d. Result Compilation and Reporting:

The finalized results are compiled into reports, which may include individual grades, overall statistics, and additional contextual information. These reports are often disseminated to students, educators, and relevant stakeholders. Result compilation and reporting constitute the final stages of the assessment process, where collected data is organized, analyzed, and presented in formats accessible to stakeholders, providing insights into students' performance. Collected assessment data is analyzed to derive meaningful insights. This involves aggregating scores, calculating averages, and generating statistical summaries to comprehend overall performance (Popham, 2021).

Interpreting results within the context of the assessment's purpose and standards is crucial. This step involves explaining the significance of scores or grades in relation to learning objectives and external benchmarks. Compilation of individual reports detailing each student's performance allows for personalized feedback (Brookhart, 2013). Additionally, comparative reports might showcase cohort performance, aiding in identifying trends and areas for improvement. Presenting data through graphs, charts, or visual aids enhances comprehension. Visual representations offer a quick overview and facilitate easier understanding of complex data sets. Ensuring accessibility of reports to relevant stakeholders, including students, parents, teachers, and administrators, fosters transparency and encourages informed decision-making based on assessment outcomes.

e. Feedback and Communication:

Effective communication of results is crucial. Providing feedback to students and stakeholders regarding their performance fosters a culture of continuous improvement. Feedback and communication play pivotal roles in the assessment process, providing valuable information to students, educators, and stakeholders, fostering learning, growth, and informed decision-making.

Timely delivery of feedback is crucial for its effectiveness. Constructive feedback focuses on strengths and areas for improvement, guiding students toward better performance. Tailoring feedback to individual student needs enhances its relevance and impact. Personalized guidance acknowledges students' unique strengths and challenges (Sadler, 2019). Encouraging dialogue between educators and students fosters a supportive learning environment. Students should have opportunities to seek clarification and discuss their performance. Feedback should facilitate goal-setting and action plans. It empowers students to set targets for improvement and strategize their learning trajectory (Nicol & Macfarlane Dick, 2016). Clear, concise reporting of assessment results is vital. Reports should integrate feedback to provide a comprehensive understanding of performance.

Conclusion

Effectively managing examination results is pivotal in shaping educational strategies, fostering student growth, and facilitating informed decision-making within academic settings. By employing systematic approaches for data handling, analysis, interpretation, and communication, educational institutions can leverage assessment outcomes to drive meaningful change and improve learning outcomes.

A comprehensive approach to managing exam results involves ensuring data security, organized storage, and accessible retrieval mechanisms. Employing robust data analysis tools

aids in deriving actionable insights from assessment data, offering a clear understanding of student performance and areas for development.

Transparent and clear communication of examination results to stakeholders cultivates trust and collaboration within the educational community. When results are effectively communicated, interpreted, and acted upon, they become catalysts for positive change, guiding instructional strategies, curriculum design, and individualized student support.

In conclusion, managing examination results for effectiveness involves not only the technical aspects of data handling and analysis but also the strategic utilization of these insights to drive continuous improvement in education. When managed thoughtfully and used as a foundation for informed decision-making, examination results become powerful tools for enhancing teaching practices, fostering student success, and advancing the quality of education as a whole.

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