

Types of Evaluation

Introduction

This unit provides an idea of the importance of evaluation in education. The purpose of measurement and evaluation are discussed. We shall be looking at the importance and functions of tests in education. It will give you an overview of educational measurement and evaluation, which you will find useful in building up deeper understanding of the area. The specific purposes of measurement and evaluation in schools are:

1. Placement of student- this involves bringing students appropriately in the learning sequence and classification or streaming of students according to ability or subjects.
2. Selecting the students for courses – general, professional, technical, commercial etc.
3. Certification: certifying that a student has achieved a particular level of performance. Stimulating learning: this can be motivation of the student or teacher, providing feedback, suggesting suitable practice etc.
4. Improving teaching: by helping to review the effectiveness of teaching arrangements. Information from measurement and the ensuing evaluation are used in a variety of educational processes namely,
 - Research, Guidance and counseling
 - Modification of the curriculum, textbooks, teaching methods
 - Selecting students for employment. particularly at the secondary level, to make informed decisions about their educational and vocational plans and aspirations, and to inform admitting institutions of the applicants' accomplishments and potential
 - Promotions of the student
 - Reporting students progress to their parents, making it possible for them to cooperate with the school in the development of plans.
 - Awarding scholarship and merit awards
 - Admission of students into educational institutions

There are various types of evaluation in education, according to the relative emphasize they have on these various functions.

The different types of evaluation based on purpose are: placement, formative, diagnostic and summative evaluations.

Placement Evaluation

This is a type of evaluations carried out in order to fix the students in the appropriate group or class. In some schools for instance, students are assigned to classes according to their subject

combinations, such as science, Technical, arts, Commercial etc. before this is done an examination will be carried out. This is in form of pretest or aptitude test. It can also be a type of evaluation made by the teacher to find out the entry behavior of his students before he starts teaching. This may help the teacher to adjust his lesson plan. Tests like readiness tests, ability tests, aptitude tests and achievement tests can be used.

Formative Evaluation

This is a type of evaluation designed to help both the student and teacher to pinpoint areas where the student has failed to learn so that this failure may be rectified. It provides a feedback to the teacher and the student and thus estimating teaching success e.g. weekly tests, terminal examinations etc.

Diagnostic Evaluation

This type of evaluation is carried out most of the time as a follow up evaluation to formative evaluation. As a teacher, you have used formative evaluation to identify some weaknesses in your students. You have also applied some corrective measures which have not showed success. What you will now do is to design a type of diagnostic test, which is applied during instruction to find out the underlying cause of students persistent learning difficulties. These diagnostic tests can be in the form of achievement tests, performance test, self rating, interviews observations, etc.

Summative Evaluation

This is the type of evaluation carried out at the end of the course of instruction to determine the extent to which the objectives have been achieved. It is called a summarizing evaluation because it looks at the entire course of instruction or programme and can pass judgment on the teacher and students, the curriculum and the entire system. It is used for certification.