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Inevitability of Assessment and Feedback Strategies in the Teaching-Learning Continuum

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Abstract

Teaching-learning process never completes without assessments and feedback. The assessment provided by the instructor or faculty, or even peers should enable the learners to progress in all spheres of learning. Feedback given must pave the way for growth and not disruption. The role of assessment and feedback in Teaching- Learning continuum is very vital, as these are the attributes that reveal the quality of the end product (learning outcomes). The facilitators and the learners must be diligently trained in this aspect to view the feedback and the results of the assessment as part of a broader vision. Mindset is another keyword that operates more when the assessment and feedback processes are implemented. Mindset reflects whether the receiver or the learner have a fixed mindset or a growth mindset. People with a growth mindset strive hard to accept feedback in an optimistic way. On the other hand, people with fixed mindsets try all possible ways to make excuses and try to revolve around their comfort zone, thereby trying to escape from challenges. Research reveals that 40% of the learners (youth and adults) have a fixed mindset. In such a scenario, it is very crucial that all our teaching fraternity and the prospective teachers be tuned into all types of assessments that will enhance progress among the GenZ learners at ease. Performance based assessments, sociometric techniques, digital assessments, alternate assessments, etc. can be implemented instead of boring and

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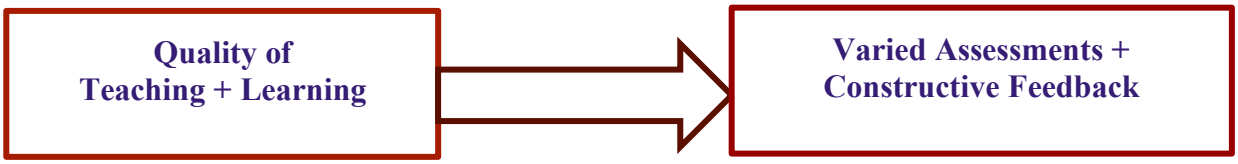
stressful assessments. Constructive assessments and receptive feedback have to be meticulously planned for Gen Z learners.

Keywords: mindset, growth mindset, growth mindset, assessment, and receptive feedback

Prelude

Teaching- Learning process never completes without assessments and feedback. Teaching effectiveness and the quality of learning can be measured through assessments, and the changes to be put forth have to be analysed through constructive feedback.



Purpose of Assessments in Teaching-learning Process

Assessments form an integral part of the teaching- learning process, as they provide a structured way to mentor, monitor and measure learners' learning through guided instructional practices.

To measure the achievement of general and specific learning outcomes: Assessments pave the way for the facilitators to check if the learning outcomes framed and implemented by the ways of learning experiences have been achieved by the learners and the teachers. It helps to gauge how well students understand the concepts of the content and meet the learning outcomes. Assessments provide a way to measure the progress of the learners and determine if the teaching methods adopted are effective.

To identify the learning gaps: Assessments enables the learners and the instructors to

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identify areas where students might struggle or have misconceptions. This allows teachers to intervene and provide additional support systems to enhance comprehensive understanding.

To prepare students to face the challenges of the real world- Problem-solving, logical reasoning and critical thinking, helps the learners prepare for the challenges they might face in their daily lives.

To reflect through feedback for improvement: Assessments offer valuable feedback for both students and teachers. It helps to identify the strong and weak areas. For educators, it's a chance to refine teaching strategies based on how well students grasp the content.

To motivate the learners: Well-structured assessments can motivate students to actively take part in learning. A sense of accomplishment is created when students see their progress and achievements.

To involve the learners in extended learning: The essence of the assessments—often drives the learners to participate willfully in extended learning.

To design instructional designs by the facilitators: Assessments facilitates the instructors to refine or restructure the instructional designs as per the demanding needs of the learners.

Types of Assessments that Fits Gen Z

The present generation benefits from various types of assessments at 360 degree that align with their learning styles and technological advancements. Some of these assessments include:

Formative Assessments: These are ongoing assessments conducted during the learning process. They provide immediate feedback to students and demands the teachers to reorganise

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the learning strategies. Techniques such as quizzes, kahoot, mentimeter, hot potatoes, polls, exit tickets, and classroom discussions fall under this category.

Summative Assessments: These assessments evaluate student learning at the end of a specific period, such as a unit, semester, or year.

Examples include final exams, standardized tests, and end-of-term projects

Sociometric Technique: As a tool of assessment- These techniques enables the teacher to strengthen the social behaviour of her/his class students. This facilitates all round development of the learner.

Performance-Based Assessments: These assessments require students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills through real-life tasks or projects. This includes presentations, portfolios, simulations, etc.

Digital Assessments: With the integration of technology in education, digital assessments have become prominent. These assessments are conducted using online platforms, software, and tools. They include online quizzes, interactive simulations, and computer-based exams.

Peer and Self-Assessments: Involving students in assessing their own work or the work of their peers encourages reflection and a deeper understanding of the subject matter.

Examples are- Peer reviews, group evaluations, and self-assessment checklists.

Adaptive Assessments: These assessments adjust difficulty levels based on students' responses, providing a tailored learning experience.

Examples are- Adaptive quizzes and personalized learning platforms.

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Feedback is Crucial in the Teaching-Learning Process for Several Reasons

Reinforcement and Clarity: Feedback helps to clarify concepts and reinforces learning. Feedback provides students with their strengths and opportunities and, at the same time, indicates the areas that need improvement, allowing them to correct misconceptions or gaps in understanding.

Encouraging and Engaging: Constructive feedback provides a platform for motivating. It acknowledges students' efforts and achievements, encouraging them to stay engaged and continue their healthy learning journey.

Targeted on Progress: Feedback is specific and targeted, highlighting strong areas and areas for improvement. This helps students understand exactly what they need to work on to enhance their performance.

Introspection (Self-Reflection): Feedback encourages self-reflection and drives self-assessment. By receiving feedback, students learn to evaluate their own work and progress. This fosters a sense of responsibility in their learning.

Gauges teachers' performance: Feedback, on the other hand, also benefits teachers. Teachers can gauge the effectiveness of their teaching strategies and adjust their methods based on the feedback received from students' understanding and performance.

Foster growth Relationships: Constructive feedback builds a positive teacher-student relationship. It fosters a supportive environment where learners feel comfortable seeking help and guidance.

Formative Assessment: Feedback often accompanies formative assessment, allowing for ongoing evaluation and adjustment throughout the learning process rather than only at the end.

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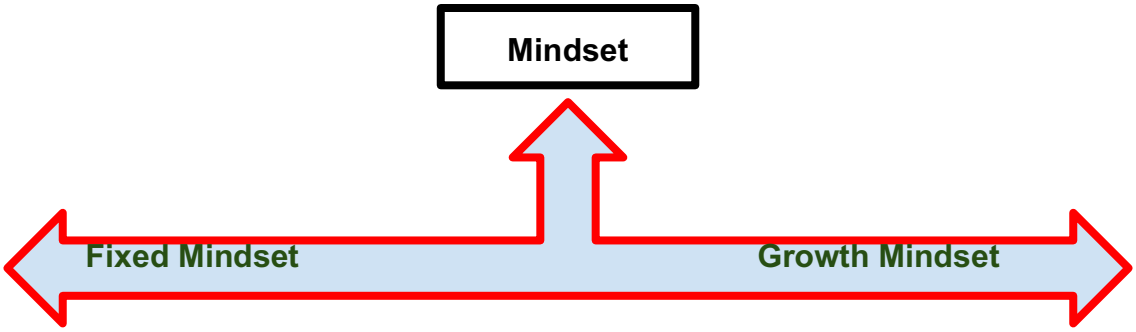
This iterative process supports continuous improvement.

Importance of Mindset in Exercising on Assessments and Feedback

A fixed mindset: Fixe mindset people believe that their intelligence is static and have strong belief that it cannot be changed.

A growth mindset: in this mindset, people believe that intelligence and talents can be tuned or refined or trimmed through effort and learning.



Fixed Mindset	Growth Mindset
Avoid challenges to avoid failure	Try efforts leading to mastery
Ignore feedback from others	Lifelong learning
Threatened by the success of others	Believe failures as temporary setbacks
Escape from situations judged by others	View feedback as a source of information
Believe that putting in effort is worthless	Embraces challenges
View feedback as personal criticism	Success of others - source of inspiration
Give up easily	View feedback as an opportunity to learn

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To put it in a nutshell, people with a growth mindset strive to be proactive, resilient, and optimistic. This influences the learners to utilize assessments and feedback as tools for the elevated development in all spheres of life.

Conclusion

Teaching and learning are vital parts of life in order to eradicate the darkness of ignorance. Assessment and feedback pave the way for evaluating the attainment of learning outcomes. But mindset is an important attribute that leads to quality of the end product in the Teaching and learning continuum. To put it in simple words- If there is a will, there is a way.

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