

The purpose of Teacher Evaluation in most systems is to bring about an improvement in the classroom and to foster growth of the teacher. And the acceptable parameters of evaluating a teacher are the student's academic growth and marks and the quality of teaching along with the teachers relationship with the class. A highly qualified teacher is also seen as a teacher who can be evaluated highly.

If and only IF someone had handed me a check list and asked me to mark my teachers the same way they marked me in the exams, I would have grabbed the chance with both hands. And then I would have stared at the paper, thoroughly confused.

In a class of 60, how does any student objectively evaluate a teacher?

Is it down to the teacher's passion for the subject or their educational qualifications?

For a long time I was under the impression that a 'good' teacher is one who can teach without a text book, someone one with knowledge that they could just come into the classroom and work their magic. Though I now realise the challenge lies in being able to teach and not just knowing the subject well.

Teacher Evaluation: A Student's View

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My English Literature teacher from 6th grade was a teacher who clearly loved the subject and taught with the same passion. I still remember Tennyson's 'Brook' and Mark Twain's 'Tom Sawyer' being read out in his voice. It didn't matter that he wasn't as highly qualified as the other teachers but none of the other teachers have left an impression that has lasted for eight years.

Does one evaluate the teacher on how much attention they give to the student, not just the one passing with flying colours but also the weaker, less motivated ones?

If so, then my Eight Grade Math teacher would pass with flying colours. I was never particularly motivated enough to expend energy on Math. But he sat with me, punished me, coerced me and made sure I had developed an interest in the subject by the end of the year.

And yet, the same interest was undone by the experienced and qualified Math teacher in the Ninth Grade. Her marks oriented, fast paced style that aimed at getting the syllabus done rather than taking time to allow the class to grasp concept, ruined the entire experience for me.

In school, there was no question of giving feedback to the teacher, her word was law and no one dared question her or her methods. Teacher Evaluation is an alien concept to anyone who has grown up in traditional Indian schools, it borders on the blasphemous to evaluate a teacher. But, I believe that it might be the wakeup call that teachers across the country need.

And fancy words like 'teacher evaluation' didn't exist in our world. And now that it does, I wonder if in a class of 60+ 15 year old teenagers would have been objective in their evaluation.

It's very obvious that teachers are overworked, that they're pressed to rush through the syllabus regardless of the abilities of their students. A 'good' teacher in this scenario is one who can produce the highest marks, in a country where marks make or break your future it seems the most rational course of action. The system is changing now with all the new methods, texts books and merging CBSE and State Syllabus, the teachers are expected to move forward with the times and cater to a different classroom.

Any Evaluation system needs to be built to accommodate a large class room, varying language skills and the work load of the teacher.

Teacher Evaluation is a brilliant concept, a way to improve the education standards and to build an effective feedback system. But this is provided we are able to objectively evaluate every kind of teacher that exists.

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