

Relevance of Percentile and Gradation System in Today's Era

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Abstract: *This study critically examines the relevance of traditional evaluation methods—such as percentile rankings and letter grades—in today's evolving educational and professional landscape. While these systems historically offered standardized assessment, they now appear inadequate in measuring creativity, emotional intelligence, and real-world skills. Based on surveys from 300 students, educators, and employers across five Indian universities, and supported by global educational reports, the research highlights growing dissatisfaction with conventional grading. Findings reveal significant academic stress, limited skill recognition, and a disconnect from job market expectations. A paired sample t -test ($t(299) = 4.26, p < 0.01$) confirms that alternative assessments—like project-based and portfolio evaluations—lead to better academic and developmental outcomes. The study concludes that while traditional grading remains useful for standardization, it should be integrated into a broader, hybrid model. Recommendations include policy reform, teacher training, and greater stakeholder awareness to foster more inclusive, skill-based, and student-centric education systems..*

Keywords: Grading system, percentile ranking, student development, educational evaluation, academic stress, holistic education, skill-based learning, project-based assessment, education reform

