

The education department, through a letter issued on March 28, 2003, has maintained that the examination reforms and internal assessment system needs to be introduced from the session 2002-03 according to a previous letter issued on March 22, 2002. However, the said internal assessment system needs scrutiny to determine the effectiveness and suitability of the system and also to see whether it has been an improvement over the previous system or otherwise, the letter suggested.

The committee that has been formed for the purpose includes some leading educationists who have been asked to submit their recommendations within seven weeks. The first meeting of the committee is expected to be held on Monday (tomorrow). The members of the said committee are Dr Munaawar Sultana Mirza, Director Institute of Education and Research of Punjab University as the convenor, Dr Fazila Saleem, Chairperson Punjab Text Book Board, Dr Narsen Lal, Principal Comprehensive High School for Girls, Wahdat Road, Lahore, Dr Hariz Iqbal, Institute of Education and Research, Punjab University and Jamel Nagma, Director Punjab Community Schools project.

Remarkably, no one from the University of Education that devised the controversial new system of assessment, is a member of the committee. The Vice Chancellor University of Education, Lahore, Dr Mustafa Habib Ullah, the man to propose the new assessment system, when contacted, said that the old system was laying undue emphasis on memorisation. It was not proving to be the true test of abilities and knowledge gained by the student during the whole year.

This system recommended and associated directions to review the assessment policy.

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Dr Habib Ullah remarked that the new assessment system is aimed at bringing the teachers back into the class with renewed zeal and involvement. The assessment report cards of the students which will be sent home will give parents a chance to interact more with the teachers of their children. He believes people turn to private educational institutions because of the very same reason. There is nothing wrong with the system. The criticism into the matter. One of its members, Jamil Nagma, says they would be making an attempt to capitalise on the recommendations of the earlier committee besides exploring other avenues to come up with a suitable solution. He says they would be willing to listen to the complaints and suggestions of all concerned stakeholders to come up with an amicable and workable formula within the given time span.

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The newly formed five-member committee has already held its initial meetings to probe into the matter. One of its members, Jamil Nagma, says they would be making an attempt to capitalise on the recommendations of the earlier committee besides exploring other avenues to come up with a suitable solution. He says they would be willing to listen to the complaints and suggestions of all concerned stakeholders to come up with an amicable and workable formula within the given time span.