

Five years of introducing projects and making practical work compulsory at G.C.E.

Advanced Level

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The structure of education system and the curriculum were changed under the reforms introduced in 1997, in which several changes were implemented in the G. C. E. Advanced level classes. Making projects and practical work compulsory as a requirement to sit the examination were two major changes introduced at this stage. According to these two reforms students have to complete an individual project and a group project within the two years in the advanced level class and no candidate is permitted to sit the examination without having completed 80% of the listed practical exercises and assignments. This paper discusses the impact of introducing these two reforms at G.C.E (A/L) science classes. The study aimed at finding out how far the implementation of the reforms was successful in achieving the expected outcomes and it was conducted in 10% of 1 AB schools (schools with A/L science) in all the provinces of the country. Four types of questionnaires were developed to collect the views of students, teachers, parents, principals and education officers. The students' questionnaire was administered to a randomly selected sample of students in selected schools. Interviews were conducted with the principals, teachers, parents, and education officers with the use of the questionnaires. Analysis of data from the interviews and questionnaires reveal that the majority possess positive attitudes towards projects but all the categories expressed their concerns in the weaknesses in implementing the projects. Most of the respondents agreed with making practical work compulsory as a requirement to sit the G.C.E. (A.L) examination. Most of the teachers expressed their difficulties in maintaining assessment records regarding to these two reforms. Conducting workshops with activities for teachers to enhance their knowledge and skills in implementing the reforms and strengthening the zonal monitoring panels to ensure continuous supervision will enable to implement the reforms successfully.