



School Ratings: guide to parental choice

CCS & India Habitat Centre

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Absolute Return for Kids

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Today's discussion



Is rating schools a good way to
make informed choices for
parents and public?

If so, how is it done?

Never judge a book by it's cover....

Where do we see 'Ratings' being used...



FORBES
500 Ranking

	Year	Rank
Have stood at Indian City consistently improving ratings	2002	220
	2003	191
	2004	189
	2005	170
	2006	153
	2007	135
	2008	118



Why do we need ratings (grading)?



Generic statement

"I graduated from SCHOOL, got a job at a COMPANY and now drive my CAR to work every morning. Sometimes I travel by AIR and stay at a HOTEL."

Specific statement

"I graduated from an **M-CRIL 5 Star** SCHOOL, got a job at a **Fortune 500** COMPANY and now drive my **Luxury Sedan** CAR to work every morning. Sometimes I travel **Kingfisher First Class** by AIR and stay at a **4 Star** HOTEL."



- ✓ **Descriptive – not vague**
- ✓ **Differentiated – multiple combinations**
- ✓ **Demonstrate Choice – provides options**
- ✓ **Standardised – particular category**

Why do we need rating in Schools?

Generic statement

“I want my child **to read and write in English** and **stay in school** till class 12 so that s/he can **go to college** and secure a job.”

Options available today



Government
Schools



Recognised
Private Schools



Aided
Schools



Unrecognised
Schools

Why do we need rating in Schools?

Generic statement

“I want my child **to read and write in English** and **stay in school** till class 12 so that s/he can **go to college** and secure a job.”

Options available post ratings:



ASER Test Scores



NCERT Test Scores



% of School Dropouts

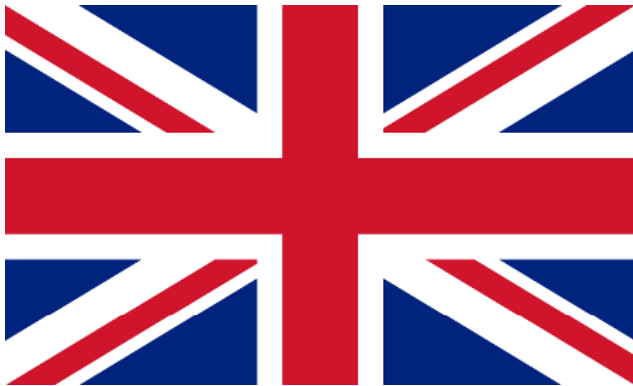


% of College Graduates

Just like companies claim to be “Rated the best employer by so & so....”. Schools can make similar claims, e.g.:

“Gyan Lejao Public School is Rated the # 1 school for English learning Achievement and lowest drop-out rate of students till Class 12 as per M-CRIL 2010”

Are schools being rated anywhere?



Independent Schools Inspectorate

Council of International Schools

International Baccalaureate Organisation



Sindh Education Foundation



Independent Schools Association



Karnataka State Quality Assessment Organisation

Micro-Credit Rating International Limited

How is it done? An example...



1. Preliminary Visit / Preparatory Visit

CIS representatives considers how prepared the school is to carry out a self evaluation

2. Self Study/Evaluation

CIS consider this to be the most 'important part' of the accreditation process - they utilise self study guidelines key areas

3. Team Visit

School is visited for a week by a Visiting Team made up of 'suitably qualified school leaders and teachers' from other CIS schools

4. Decision on Accreditation

Carried out by the CIS Accreditation Service which reviews the Visiting Team Report and then recommends accreditation

5. Subsequent Procedures

A Five Year Report from the school to CIS which provides issues concerning progress, changes, and future intentions

What is typically 'Rated' by agencies?



- Infrastructure
- Governance and strategy
- Teaching and learning (capabilities and outcomes)
- Student performance
- Extra curricular activities
- Planning and implementation
- Attendance and retention
- Parents and the community
- Financial systems and history

FORM 1- self declaration requirements



“Model Rules Under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009” and the RTE. The school must not be ‘run for profit’ (Model Rules 11(1)(b)).

- Total income and expenditure for last 3 years
- Medium of instruction
- Total area of school
- Enrolment numbers
- Sports and play equipment
- No. of books in the library
- No. of periodicals & newspapers in the library
- Types of WC and urinals
- Number of boys and girls lavatories
- Particulars of teaching staff
- Size of kitchen
- Curriculum and syllabus up to class VIII
- System of pupil assessment

Government classification too prescriptive?



Example 1:

- 'Number of books in the Library' could be re-classified to 'amount of time spent in the library' (Dixon 2003)

Example 2:

- 'Must have playground of a certain size' could be re-classified to 'must provide access to physical education in or around the school campus'

Example 3:

- 'Number of boys and girls toilets' could be re-classified to 'at least ONE clean girls and boys toilet'

Example 4:

- 'Particulars of Teacher qualifications' could be re-classified as 'teachers teaching children from under-privileged communities are required to live/work/serve children from the same community for XX duration'

Example 5:

- If a school is rated very low (as per Independent ratings) - don't shut them down - give them a 'PIP' (Performance Improvement Plan) and assess them over time (ISASA, CIS)

Some lessons learnt...@ARK



- Standardisation of assessments - process and resources
- **Minimise scope for subjectivity - eliminate human bias**
- Involve all stakeholders (parents, teachers, students, staff, governing council) - self evaluation then define improvement plan
- **External audit - rule out prejudice, R&D**
- Provide ALL data to ALL - transparency
- **Allow for selective processing of results (online) - e.g. real estate, automobiles**
- Understand the stakeholder (parent, loan agency, DoE) - will they get it?
- **Provide feedback and monitor progress - performance improvement plan**
- Good leadership is critical
- **Difficult to explain cost-benefit to managers**
- Re-evaluate every 3 years - ongoing assessments
- **Be reasonable & relevant! - buy-in**

Possible Challenges...



- Anonymity of tests and assessments
- Scalability of model- while maintaining quality
- Current focus is on obtaining loans (banks, micro credit, lending agency)
- Educating the stakeholder on the power of the tool - eg. RTI
- Simplification of the tool to allow parents to understand it - from all strata
- Softer skill development of children - the 'Happiness' factor (confidence, satisfaction, enjoyment)
- Inclusion of overheads in costing of tool?
- Tested on unrecognised schools? - maybe a good pilot - substitute recognition?

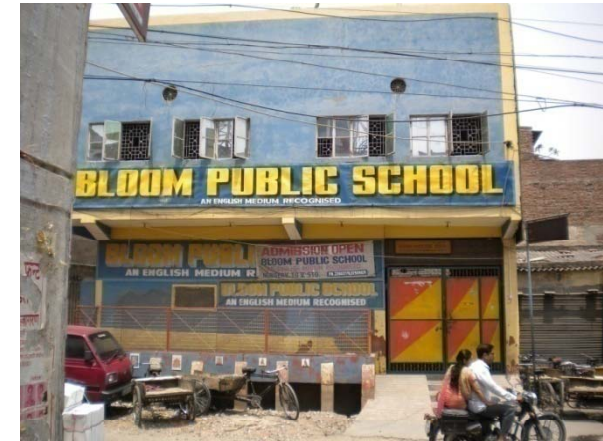
Some of the schools we work with...



Prakash Punj Primary School



MCD Primary School



BLOOM PUBLIC SCHOOL



Garage converted into classroom



Typical Classroom



Principal and Teacher

ARK Teacher Training...



Schools and Children we work with....



Thank you