



## PSYCHOLOGICAL REFLECTION THROUGH ACADEMIC WRITING: AN ASSESSMENT TOOL

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### Abstract

*Academic writing in an educational setting is generally used for expressing views, ideas and thoughts about scholastic/curriculum transaction a teacher has done in his/her classroom. In education system these academic writings are generally used for practicing and assessing the learning outcomes which bring about the desired changes in the behaviour of learner. The forms of academic writing generally used in assessment and learning practices are essays, comprehensions, story writing, reflective dairies, speeches, self written poem and literary works etc. throughout the subjects. As academic writing is a free expression of learners understanding of his curricular learning and his interaction with his internal and external environment, it becomes an authentic source of assessment and judgement of learners academic & life skill accomplishment. A psychological reflection through academic writings proposes as personality traits of the learners, their attitude towards learning, teachersand institution. One's specific interests, opinions, assumptions, psychological need adjustment at institution and home and one's perception towards oneself, society, country and humankind. Other then one's academic reflections, these writings could be very authentic records of his/her psychological reflections which can be very helpful for a teacher, instructor or parent in understanding their mindset and learning requirements. And a step ahead from that, a teacher can adapt, adopt and even evolve individualised transactional strategies for learning. All the way we can patternize his course of life development in a desired mode. Finally it proposes that simultaneously with academic assessment through academic writings if psychological reflections of learner are also looked at, then the assessment will become holistic and insight full for all the stakeholder of teaching learning process in particular and education in general. This paper tries to highlight the psychological reflection of learners conveyed through, by one's academic writings. We thematically analysed the academic writing of 6 learners throughout all subjects in DIET's D.El.Ed. program.*

**Keywords:** *Academic writing, psychological assessment, classroom transaction, learning*



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### Introduction:

Academic writing in an educational setting is generally used for expressing views, ideas and thoughts about scholastic/curriculum transaction a teacher has done in his/her classroom. In education system these academic writings are generally used for practicing and assessing the learning outcomes which bring about the desired changes in the behaviour of learner. The

forms of academic writing generally used in assessment and learning practices are essays, comprehensions, story writing, reflective dairies, speeches, self written poem and literary works etc. throughout the subjects.

In the teaching learning process of curriculum students usually produce the hand written material in the form of his classroom work copies, home assignments, formative and summative tests answer sheets, drilling practices, peer assessments, book reviews , students diaries ,reflective journals ,presentations, ,projects reports, excursions reports and many more. While assessing the records for academic purposes is very well known and is used frequently in the course of his learning academic achievements. Now the question is that if we will be able to use these academic writing in finding out the psychological reflection of students then it will be of great use for all the stakeholders of child learning and his all round development. By psychological reflection through academic writings proposes as personality trait softhelearners, their attitude towards learning, teachers and institution. One'sspecificinterests, opinions, assumptions, psychological, need adjustment at institution and home andone' perception toward some self, society, country and human kind. All the way we can patternize her course of life development in desired mode.

These psychological reflections will help the stakeholders i.e. teachers, planners, administrators, parents and child itself in the following way:

**1. For education planner:**

1. for reviewing the goals and objectives of an educational program.
2. for reviewing the syllabus and curriculum

**2. For administrator:**

1. for reviewing infrastructural arrangements for achieving the goals and objectives of an educational program.
2. for reviewing plans which are being incorporated to achieve the objectives of an educational program.

**3. For teacher:**

1. Reviewing his intervention strategies for effective classroom transaction and management.
2. for developing the teaching learning process for all round development of child.

**4. For parents:**

1. for Introspecting their perceptions towards their wards .
2. To work in association with teacher for better accommodation ans accomplishment of their child.

## **5. For students:**

1. Knowing their strength and weakness.
2. Working on collaborative effort of teachers and parents for their regular development academically and socially.

In the appropriateness of above concerns of all the stakeholders of education, it becomes very important that every task performance done by teacher and students must be assessed in such a way that it becomes a resource for everyone who is associated with all round development of a child. So there is a need arises to look into the academic writing produce as a result of exhaustive teaching learning process very creatively and in a planned manner.

### **Objective of the study:**

To look at psychological reflections of a child through her academic writing produce as a result of exhaustive teaching learning process.

### **Hypothesis:**

The academic writing of a child provides psychological reflections of his personality.

### **Methodology:**

Academic writing samples of six students of D.El.Ed. program of DIET Keshavpuram, Delhi were taken as sample to see for their personality psychological reflections through their academic writings by analyzing them qualitatively using thematic qualitative analysis.

**Tool used:** 6 samples of academic writings.

### **Delimitations:**

The study is limited to six students of D.El.Ed. program of DIET Keshavpuram, Delhi chosen purposively and interpretations and conclusions are only indicative and depends on subjectivity of interpreter/teacher/educator.

### **Findings:**

#### **Case 1**

**Name:** Preeti Saini, D.El. Ed. 2<sup>nd</sup> Year

**Topic:** How Knowledge of child growth and development helps in teaching?

**Sample of academic writing:**

Q: How knowledge of child growth and development helps in teaching?

→ Knowledge of growth and development of the child enables one to bring the best in the child's life. Role of the teachers is also high. They should concentrate on the development of the child through the psychological approach. The teachers should give a child's physical growth, mental development, emotional stability and value-based life when they study the growth and development of various periods of life.

→ Knowledge of this concept helps in —

1. Understanding the individual differences among the children. Teaching is an ideal profession for his standing students and society. Teacher's important role most influences the students. So, he/she should know that an individual passes through different developmental stages such as infancy, childhood, adolescence and adulthood. Each stage has its own characteristics. So, effective instruction according to developmental stage is helpful in moulding the behaviour of pupil.

Ans: As you if a child is behaving in classroom then don't lose your patience, deal calmly and study the factors behind his behaviour according to the level and stage of development. It also helps in maintaining discipline and having active participation of the students by knowing about their interest, needs and wants. On the basis of which a teacher can select the teaching method to teach any subject. So, between attention for identify the special needs, disabilities and disorders in them. He/she can do his best to motivate all children which arouse the interest and self confidence among these students. It is also helpful to identify the problems of an individual child and motivational guidance can be given to the life betterment of the children. Also to enable teacher's levelness development - that should be designed based on the needs to wants of the individual to get accommodated in the present world of development. So, It is the conclusion that

"No two children are alike. Teaching to be effective must cater to individual differences of children that can be done by following major concept of psychology - Growth & Development of Child".

Article by - Trish shini

**Findings:**

Psychological reflections	Presence of coded sample text from academic writing		
	Low	Moderate	high
<b>Optimism</b>			*
<b>Positivism</b>			*
<b>Dynamism</b>			*
<b>Rationalism</b>		*	
<b>Assertiveness</b>			*
<b>Confidence</b>			*

**Table: 1: Psychological reflections**

Preeti Saini, a student of D.El. Ed. 2<sup>nd</sup> Year had reflected through her academic writing on the topic “How Knowledge of child growth and development helps in teaching?” that she is highly optimistic, have positivism, dynamism, assertive and confident but moderate as far as rationalism is concerned. She had reflected high positive attitude towards his peers, teachers, parents and school in her academic writing.(Table 1)

**Case 2**

**Name:** Ojasvi , D.El. Ed. 2<sup>nd</sup> Year

**Topic:** Which picnic place will you select for students for excursion and why?

**Sample of academic writing:**

with people from all over  
for recreation & leisure.

A picnic is a great way for summer  
to a beautiful place. There are many  
to see. They provide one another  
enjoyment. After enjoying a picnic, people feel  
fresh and take up with love and  
kindness.

There is a beautiful city. The popular  
picnic spots in Delhi are the Tomb of  
Babur, Tughlaq Gardens, Buddha Image  
Park, Lotus Garden, The Garden of  
Five Senses etc. These places are full  
of areas and plants of different  
varieties, where one can play or just  
sit & relax.

If I am given a chance to select  
my favourite picnic spot, I would  
like to select "The Garden of Five  
Senses" for recreation. This is situated  
in Tughlaq village near  
Paharganj.

There are some specific reasons to  
select this place. This is a majestic  
view of the Babur Minar and the  
Chhatrapati temple in the background.  
The various trees shade delight the  
senses. There are almost 2000  
varieties of plants in "Khan Bahi".  
Remarkable stone sculptures, fountains  
famous artists, sculptures, fountains

trees and shrubs, etc. adorn the  
place. There are also some famous  
musical instruments and call of the  
"Salaam Bagh". The wood  
crane trees make music in the  
area is a beautiful sight to watch.  
The visitors can sit and rest on  
the lush green ground in the open  
sunshine. There, we can enjoy the  
eternal natural beauty. It is the  
best picnic spot for the lovers  
of nature.

So, I would like to select  
this beautiful place "The Garden of  
Five Senses" as a picnic spot  
for recreation.



**Findings:**

Psychological reflections	Presence of coded sample text from academic writing		
	Low	Moderate	High
<b>Optimism</b>			*
<b>Positivism</b>			*
<b>Dynamism</b>	*		
<b>Rationalism</b>	*		
<b>Assertism</b>			*
<b>Confidence</b>			*

**Table 2 : Psychological reflections**

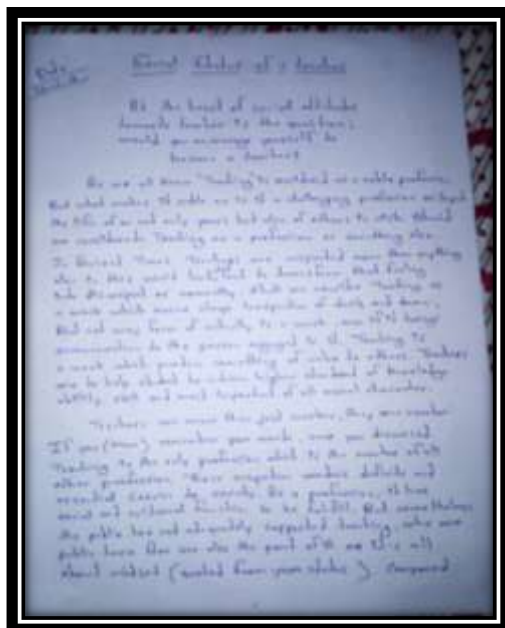
Ojasvi, a student of D.El. Ed. 2<sup>nd</sup> Year had reflected through her academic writing on the topic “Which picnic place will you select for students for excursion and why?” that she is highly optimistic, high positivism but moderate dynamism and rationalism. She is highly assertive and confident. She had reflected high positive attitude towards his peers, teachers, parents and school in her academic writing. (Table 2)

**Case 3**

**Name:** Sandeep, D.El. Ed. 1<sup>st</sup> Year

**Topic:** Write your views about Social status of a teacher

**Sample of academic writing:**



**Findings:**

Psychological reflections	Presence of coded sample text from academic writing		
	Low	Moderate	High
<b>Optimism</b>			*
<b>Positivism</b>	*		
<b>Dynamism</b>			*
<b>Rationalism</b>			*
<b>Assertiveness</b>			*
<b>Confidence</b>	*		

**Table 3: Psychological reflections**

Sandeep, a student of D.El. Ed. 1<sup>st</sup>Year had reflected through his academic writing on the topic “Write your views about Social status of a teacher” that he is highly optimistic, has moderate positivism, high dynamism, highly rational and assertive but moderately confident. He had reflected moderate positive attitude towards his peers, teachers, parents and school in her academic writing. (Table 3)

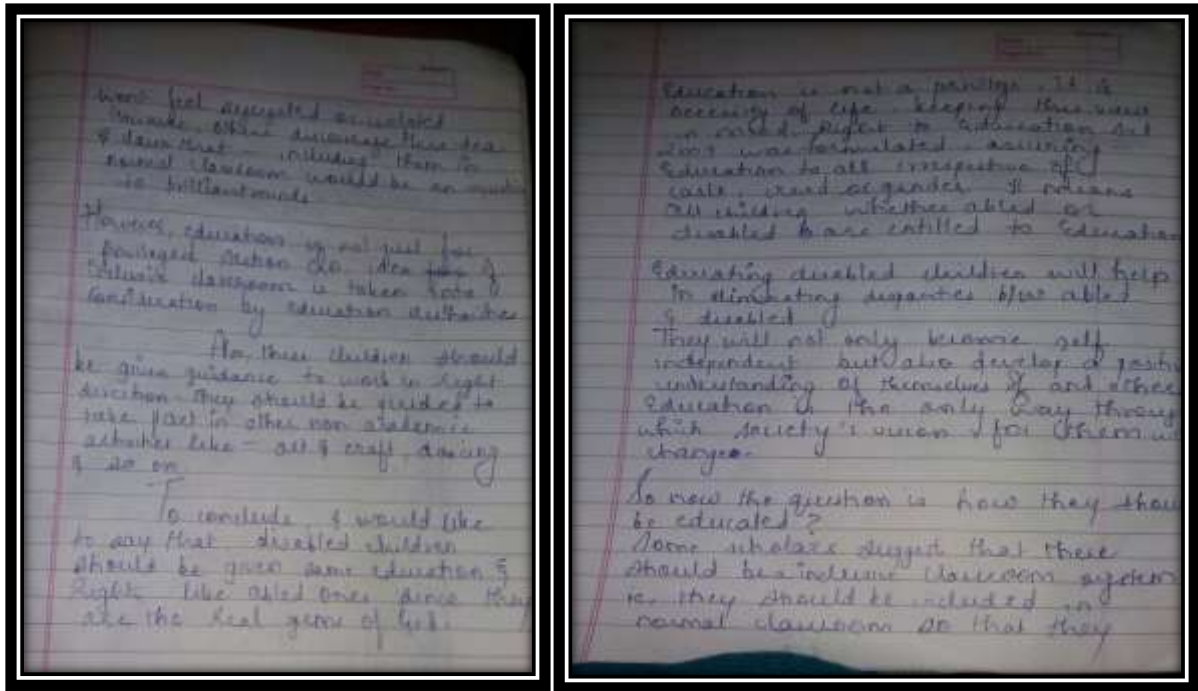
**Case 4**

**Name:** Vaishali Sikka, D.El. Ed. 2<sup>nd</sup> Year

**Topic:** inclusive education

Sample of academic writing:





**Findings:**

Psychological reflections	Presence of psychological reflection			coded sample text from academic writing
	Low	Moderate	High	
<b>Optimistism</b>			*	Educating disabled children will help in eliminating disparities between abled and disabled
<b>Positivism</b>			*	Education is not a privilege it is necessity of life
<b>Dynamism</b>			*	Assuring education to all irrespective of caste, creed or gender
<b>Rationalism</b>		*		How they should be educated?
<b>Assertism</b>			*	Disabled children should be given same education and rights like abled ones
<b>Confidence</b>			*	they are the real gems of God

**Table 4: Psychological reflections**

Vaishali Sikka, a student of D.El. Ed. 2<sup>nd</sup> Year had reflected through her academic writing on the topic “inclusive education” that she is highly optimistic, has high positivism, high dynamism, moderately rational, highly assertive and highly confident. She had reflected high positive attitude towards his peers, teachers, parents and school in her academic writing. (Table 4)

**Case 5**

**Name:** Pragya, D.El. Ed. 2<sup>nd</sup> Year

**Topic:** ICT – A boon in educational scenario

Sample of academic writing:

"ICT - A boon in Educational Scenario"

Information and Communication Technology, the 4th revolution, has a very broad scope. Everything ranging from an audio, a video, a picture, a print, translation to full fledged network included come under the domain of ICT.

Moreover, with continuing the advancements in science, considering the mental retention capacity among the new generation coming up, ICT has become an ally for educational set up. It has become a boon for improvements and advancement in education.

It not only makes student further into new learning technology but also promotes effective understanding. The use of ICT in different subject provides better concept clarity and the concepts gain permanency in the minds. It is an effective way to increase student attention and make further curiosity in the child, making him want to learn and have more spent from the academic advantage. ICT gives the teacher a break from the monotonous routine and helps child increase her concentration. Use of technology maximises the use of almost all sense organs through interactive sessions in the form of a PPT, an audio, a video etc. This way the child becomes less dependent on the teacher and learns playfully.

Not only students but also teachers are benefited from the use of ICT in daily education. It becomes easier for her to grab student attention

which take longer than usual through the use of ICT. The use of ICT is time saving and provides easy teaching & learning. It makes the study of complex concepts simple by presenting the concepts, knowledge in a more convenient, accessible and more understandable manner. The most important use is to superimpose and Communicational Technology is very much helpful in catering to inclusive classrooms.

Concluding the above mentioned things, -

"ICT is necessary for all round development of the child and making study a joy and a knowledge experience rather a burden on the child"

Pragya

**Findings:**

Psychological reflections	Presence of psychological reflection			coded sample text from academic writing
	Low	Moderate	High	
<b>Optimism</b>			*	ICT has become an exilir for educational activeness
<b>Positivism</b>			*	Not only students but also teachers are benefitted
<b>Dynamism</b>			*	It has become boon for improvements and advancement in education
<b>Rationalism</b>		*		Presenting the concepts, knowledge in a more convenient, presentable and more understandable manner
<b>Assertism</b>			*	Use of ICT in different subjects provide concept clarity
<b>Confidence</b>			*	Making study a joy and a tremendous experience rather a burden on the child

Table 5: Psychological reflections

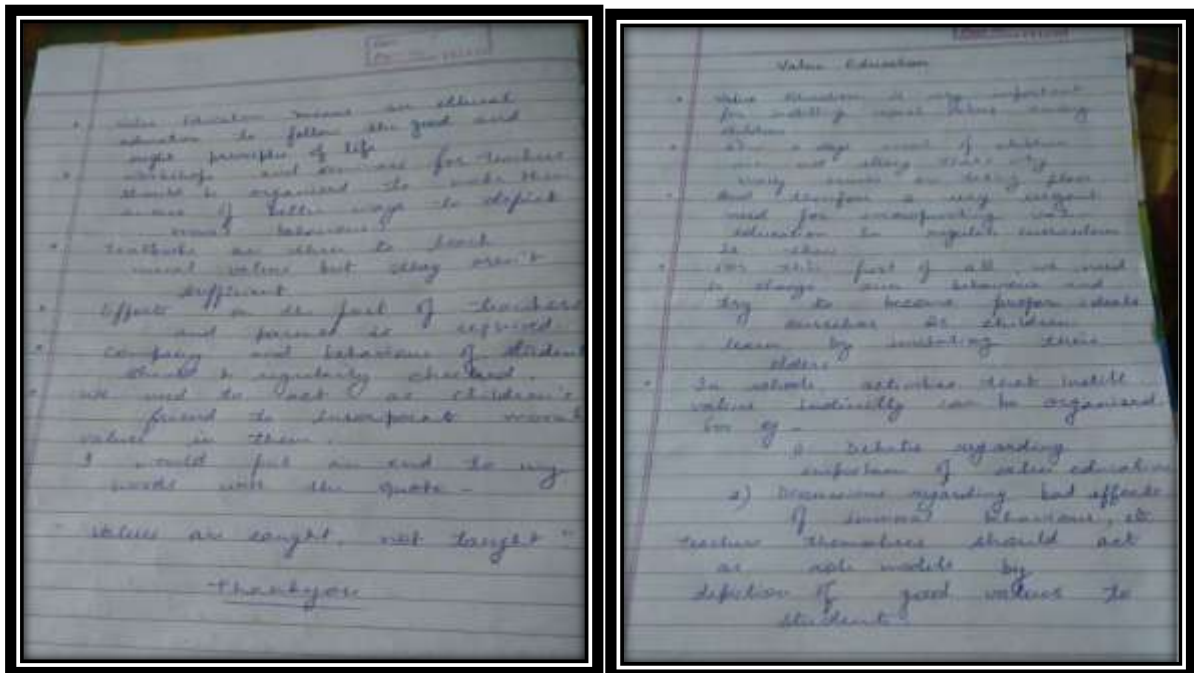
Pragya, a student of D.El. Ed. 2<sup>nd</sup>Year had reflected through her academic writing on the topic“ICT – A boon in educational scenario” that she is highly optimistic, has high positivism, high dynamism, moderately rational, highly assertive and highly confident. She had reflected moderate positive attitude towards his peers, teachers, parents and school in her academic writing.(Table 5)

**Case 6**

**Name:**Shikha, D.El. Ed. 2<sup>nd</sup> Year

**Topic:** value education

**Sample of academic writing:**



**Findings:**

Psychological reflections	Presence of psychological reflection			coded sample text from academic writing
	Low	Moderate	High	
<b>Optimism</b>	*			Values are caught , not taught
<b>Positivism</b>			*	We need to act as children’s friend to incorporate moral values in them
<b>Dynamism</b>	*			Activities that can Instill values indirectly, depiction of good values to students
<b>Rationalism</b>	*			Now a days moral of children are not strong
<b>Assertism</b>			*	There is a very urgent need for incorporating value education in regular curriculum
<b>Confidence</b>	*			Value education is very important for instilling moral values among children

Table 6: Psychological reflections

Shikha, a student of D.El. Ed. 2<sup>nd</sup>Year had reflected through her academic writing on the topic“value education” that she is moderately optimistic, has high positivism, moderate dynamism, moderately rational, highly assertive and moderately confident. She had reflected moderate positive attitude towards his peers, teachers, parents and school in her academic writing.(Table 6)

**Conclusion:**

The trend up till now is that a teacher mostly mark the assignments and papers in Quantitative terms but now the need of time is that a teacher should comment on the academic writings from psychological point of view also, so that an outlook of the learner can be interpreted by the learner himself too and he would be compelled to think about his hidden talents, capabilities and type of personality he possesses.A psychological reflection through academic writings proposes as personality traits of the learners, their attitude towards learning, teachersand institution. One’s specific interests, opinions, assumptions, psychological need adjustment at institution and home and one’s perception towards oneself, society, country and humankind. Other then one’s academic reflections, these writings could be very authentic records of his/her psychological reflections which can be very helpful for a teacher, instructor or parent in understanding their mindset and learning requirements. And a step ahead from that, a teacher can adapt, adopt and even evolve individualised transactional strategies for learning.

All the way we can patternize his course of life development in a desired mode. Finally it is proposed that simultaneously with academic assessment through academic writings if psychological reflections of learner are also looked at, then the assessment will become

holistic and insight full for all the stakeholder of teaching learning process as particular and education as general.

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