PRESENTATION OF DATA

Good presentation can make statistical data easy to read, understand and interpret. Therefore it is important to present data clearly.

There are two main ways of presenting data:

a. Presentation of numbers or values in lists and tables, and
b. Presentation using graphs, i.e. pictures.

List and Tables

Rank Order: means in order from highest to lowest. Here are 15 grades in rank order: A, A, A, B, B, B, B, B, C, C, C, D, E, E, F.

The ordered list makes it easier to find the following:

i. The highest and lowest grades,
ii. The number of students who got each grade,

iii. The most common grade,

iv. The number of students above and below each grade, and so on.

Frequency Table: Frequency means the number of times something happens. For example, three students got grade A. The frequency of grade A is three. A frequency table below gives the frequency of each grade.

Grade	A	B	C	D	E	F
Frequency	3	5	3	1	2	1

Graphical Presentation

In most cases, a graph or picture will show the meaning of statistical data more clearly than a list or table of numbers. The following are kinds of graphs that illustrate data.

Pictogram: a pictogram uses pictures or drawings to give a quick and easy meaning to statistical data.

Bar chart: a bar chart is very like a pictogram. Data is being represented by a bar instead of a picture. The bars have the same width and usually have equal spaces between them. The height of each bar represents the magnitude of the variable or sometimes the frequency of the variable.

Pie chart: is a graph in the shape of circular 'pie.' The total number of data makes up the whole pie of 360^{o}. Each piece of the pie is a sector of the circle and represents a particular variable in the data set.