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Examination System

A drastic reform of the public examination system at Secondary and Higher Secondary levels is long overdue. Questions that demand essay-type answers, the subjective way of evaluation of answer scripts etc. are among the commonly felt inadequacies of the present system which, again, encourages learning by rote. Moreover, the present system makes the examinees largely dependent upon help-books and private tutors. Often the results become an achievement more of the help-book authors and the tutors than of the examinees themselves.

One of the greatest disadvantages with the existing system is that students fail by the thousand. And, certainly, this means a sheer waste of man-hour, money and energy. A student failing to come out successful in the examination at the end of a ten-year course becomes a liability to himself, to the family and to society. But, may be, he has failed in only one or two subjects and has scored well in other subjects. Yet he will not be eligible for admission to a higher course even if the subject or subjects in which he failed are of no relevance so far as that course is considered. This end of the ten-year course examination pronouncing a student good for nothing is, of course, outdated and unkind, to say the least.

Constant evaluation throughout the course and a not-too-rigorous examination at the end of the course will perhaps prove a more rational approach. This will make the school teachers and authorities more conscious of their responsibilities, relieve the education authorities of the heavy burden of conducting gigantic examinations of heaps of answer scripts containing mechanical reproduction of memorised material. It will also ensure a better deal to the poor students and their guardians.

Under the circumstances, a mere failure in one examination becomes the failure of a life. Hence the cases of suicide by examinees following publication of results.

A committee has been formed to look into these issues and formulate suggestions. Let us hope some concrete results will emerge if all concerned will give their opinion without any inhibition.