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**The New Nation**

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**HSC misperformance**

THIS year's HSC results are utterly disappointing. 75.16 per cent of the candidates have failed to get across. The total number of unsuccessful candidates is 2,37,437. It is, however, not known how many were scratched at the sending up examinations at the college level.

Too those who have failed, the two-year exercise has proved a sheer waste of time, money and energy. To say that this gigantic failure leading to frustration is due to adoption of strict measures to prevent unfair means at the examination hall will not compensate for the loss incurred by the nation. Nor it will be a sympathetic approach to the problem. The tendency to adopt unfair means among a vast number of our students is reproachable, even punishable. They are surely committing a great wrong by expressing their anger in different ways when prevented from taking unfair means. By trying to have a pass without deserving it they are betraying none but themselves, and this kind of self-betrayal will not earn them anything in the long run.

But is it only the students who have failed and behaved wrongly? Those at the helm of affairs are supposed to be well aware of our educational dispensation. Has not the total education system been in a mess despite formation of education commissions one after another? The way the private coaching homes

are mushrooming and the private tuition business is flourishing, in the near future the schools and colleges will become redundant, at least in essence. It is a slur on the whole nation that even education is becoming commercialised, although there is no dearth of lip-deep services and rhetorics. Who does not know that most of the kindergartens are doing business? Who does not know, again, that quite a good number of school teachers and even college level teachers, particularly those associated with reputed educational institutions and doing various assignments of the boards, are utterly neglecting their duties in the class, and concentrating on private tuition? Allegedly, some of them even sell notes and suggestions to their private students. Could these so-called teachers be singled out, transferred or punished in other ways?

If the elderly ones with educational, even long teaching background, could not be purged, how do we expect that our young boys and girls would be made to be dictated by conscience? When falsehood and adulteration will be nationally condemned, the tendency to copy in the examination will automatically subside to a great extent. Let us reproach the students for their bad deeds. But self-reproach and soul-searching among the elderly ones should start at the same time. Otherwise, the total effort to contain the rot in the examination will become a matter of expressing mutual anger, disbelief and revenge.

Why have the results been exceptionally bad this year? Strictness in the examination hall may be one

reason. But does this lone factor adequately explain the cause of the wholesale failure? During 1969-70 overall per centage of pass was 97/98. Those were the years of an outburst of extreme regio-national sentiment. Immediately after liberation also extreme leniency was shown. Later on the necessity of showing a bit of sagacity was felt. But even then the percentage of pass was seldom below forty. Little variations in the year-to-year or board-to-board results are natural. The authorities perhaps know the secret of being too strict or too lenient at times. But for students and for parents sometimes it becomes too unbearable.

We should not forget the basic fact that a majority of our parents belong to the lower middle class and even poorer groups. They should not be directly or indirectly subjected to experiments. Moreover, if strictness is the best policy, let us do it from the beginning and everywhere—not only in the examination hall and at the time of marking the scripts. By doing our duties honestly only as invigilators and examiners we could not boast of performing our duties. If students have met the tragic fate of wholesale failure, none else could boast of a success anyway. Failure to do our duties at other levels could not be compensated by adopting strict measures only in the examination hall.