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Education

Dear Editor,

Good examination results generally depend on hard academic work, an organised mind and ability to keep calm and do one's best while taking the exam. Unfortunately, in our country, thanks to the boards of education, one can hardly rely on any of those things.

Many hard working students have been sadly crushed on hearing their exam results. Many people not subjected to this injustice claim with confidence that these people just did not work hard enough. This is not always true.

After the exams are over, one is left to the mercy of the people in charge of the educational board. People pray that their papers are corrected by people of pleasant disposition who have the heart to be generous with their marketings. But people should pray more for the safety of their papers as they undergo their journey to their destination in another part of the

"eight" in English is written "four" in Bengali, and the English "nine" is similar to the Bengali "seven". Other such mistakes frequently occur. I personally know people who have been victims of such carelessness.

A couple of years ago, a young man who had previously obtained star marks in prior examinations, got a third division in B. Com. Unwilling to accept such results, he and his family investigated and eventually found out that some of the extra answer sheets, scuttily attached with a thin piece of string, had come loose and disappeared. But, of course, the board would never admit this nor correct the boy's result.

The board of education could not even protect the question pa-

pers as they made their way to the examination halls. Papers leaked out, boys left their study tables to run after people who were selling photo-copies of the question papers.

This caused much confusion even among people who wanted to take their exams properly without going through this method of direct cheating. I, myself, felt unreasonably jittery and nervous as I walked towards the examination hall five minutes before certain exams began. For I heard boys yelling out to each other the things that would be in the paper, some of which I had not prepared for. And more than once it has been that my friends and I have left the halls feeling we had not done as well as expected, only to see some

of the laziest students looking smug because they had fared well. If this wasn't enough, some exams had to be repeated as well. A very intelligent girl I know, who took her H.S.C. exam the same time as I, sits in her house crying all day. Her roll number was not printed in the newspapers. Her family went to Board to investigate. The people there said there is nothing they can do about it. This girl studied very hard and deserved an excellent result. The same girl sat her S.S.C. exam while her father underwent open-heart surgery. Even then she got three letters and a total of 725 marks. A girl as intelligent and cool headed as she could not possibly get below 33 per cent in her intermediate examination. How

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country. Many a time has it been read in the newspapers of bundles of answer-sheets are lost in trains. Later, they may be found in the streets or in grocery shops, about to be converted into grocery bags. This shows how incredibly unreliable the people in charge are. How literate people can hold such little respect for academic products of growing people is beyond my understanding.

When copying marks from answer sheets to mark sheets, it is not uncommon for mistakes to be made. Many students have been found to fail for this reason. A person expecting around 70 marks in Maths ended up obtaining 17 marks. Obviously the numbers "one" and "seven" were written in the wrong order. As the number

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can we study day and night to sit examinations directed by a board of education that does not perform its duties in security as it should.

Should this girl lose a year of her academic life, feel the pangs of fighting for something she doesn't respect because of the carelessness of other people? people who could not even stop question papers from leaking out.

People with such little sense of responsibility should not be allowed to run a board of something as serious as education. I, being young and inexperienced, cannot think of a suitable solution. But these problems—very serious problems do exist. A person with reasonably good result like me can say how she feels. Students with bad results cannot or do not speak out as it will be seen as a plain cover-up for failure. Besides, these people have lost faith in this system altogether.

Yours sincerely,
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