

CHANGED EXAM SYSTEM

cores obtained in the examination of school education in India open the way to higher education. Not only this, this race of marks, ignoring the inequalities in the education system, makes the chances of good schoolers getting a good college acceptable. Every year several lakh students pass 12th examination, but why are the majority of the students who are ranked in the list of prestigious colleges-universities of the country with hundred percent and ninety nine percent marks belong to the Central Board of Secondary Education? Does the examination system have any role in this or should the meritorious students be given the credit for this achievement? Is it not necessary to have uniformity in the evaluation methodology of the state level boards of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Punjab, Himachal etc. and the Central Board of Secondary Education in the country? The results of all the examination boards of the country also come at different times and the students of the states whose examination results come late are deprived of admission in the prestigious universities and colleges of the country.

Is there really a need for examination boards in the country? Can't it be that the school itself should be authorized to conduct evaluation in classes X-XII? When the school gives education to its students, can't it conduct the examination? In the administrative system which conducts the examination of the board, the question papers are prepared by the teachers only, the teachers who give the duty and evaluate in the examination hall are also mainly teachers. Exams are also held at some school or the other. In such a situation, if schools are given the autonomy to conduct board exams, then will it not be a better option? Typically, student evaluations reveal what the students have learned. Do teachers and administrators learn anything from these test results? Should the failure of the students be considered as their personal failure, the weakness of the teacher's method of teaching or should the examination and education system also be blamed for this? In Japan, if a student is unable to learn a concept in a class, it is the responsibility of the entire class, including the class teacher, to teach that student. But in his own country the student accepts his failure as his destiny. The role of elements like availability of resources, curriculum, examination in student learning and socio-educational inequality prevailing at different levels should be constantly debated. It seems that different types of schools and different boards for examination also represent different socio-economic sections of the society. The students of state boards, majority stay in their respective state universities and colleges. His merit does not excite him to reach Delhi University. If schools are given autonomy to conduct examinations, a provision for national or regional level entrance examinations may be made for university level admissions, as is the case for medical and engineering colleges. In this way frills like Kumbh Mela for board exams can be avoided and the pressure of board exam on students will also be reduced.

Students will be assessed through a seamless process in a local environment. Evaluation at the school level will also provide the school and the teacher with the necessary 'feedback' and experience to make necessary improvements in their teaching system. There should definitely be experiments to change the examination method. The demand for changes in the Indian school education system regarding examinations is very old. The committee headed by Professor Yashpal had also talked about changing the examination method to 'education without burden'. The National Education Policy-2020 also recommends to change the present form of board examination. The Right to Education Act-2009 had a provision for continuous education evaluation. This would allow teachers to regularly know which student in their class had difficulty learning which concepts and could help that student in a timely manner. But due to protests from a section of teachers, Continuous Learning Evaluation was dropped from the Right to Education Act. Three decades ago, an experimental 'open book examination' was conducted in class IX. In this, the questions were made in such a way, for which even if the book was passed, it was not easy to answer by looking at it. But this experiment did not progress. Last year, the Central Board of Secondary Education had talked about reducing the first thirty percent syllabus for the examination due to the closure of schools due to Corona. But there was confusion about the examination and then the 12th board examination was not held. Marks awarded to the students of 2020-2021 session on the basis of pre-boards of class X-XI and XII. Now the Central Board of Secondary Education is conducting an experiment in class X and XII examination for the session 2021-2022. This year provision has been made for two examinations half yearly and yearly. Both the exams will be based on one-half of the total syllabus. The exam will have 'case' based questions with multiple choice questions. It is expected that the Central Board of Secondary Education will take an inclusive approach in conducting its question papers and exams. Because special arrangements have to be made for the students who are handicapped, who cannot see and need an assistant in the examination. During the Corona period, there was confusion regarding the studies that in 2020, where the studies were left, it should be started from where the students have now come, that course should be taught. About eighty percent of the students have been deprived of online studies, out of which some students have to go to school and take exams. The question paper of the Central Board of Secondary Education will be made according to the syllabus. In a similar test, who had the resources for online classes and who did not are unlikely to be considered. In this time of pandemic uncertainty, shouldn't the examination boards of other states also opt for the same type of multiple-choice exams like the Central Board of Secondary Education? There will be uniformity in the examination method among different boards, then the talent of the students will be properly assessed and everyone will get equal opportunity to progress on the basis of their marks. In order to improve the examination, it has to be seen that what is the role of the examination board? Does this give an opportunity to move forward in life or is the only option available to justify our social status through examination? All state examination boards may adopt a common method of evaluation. With this, the students will not feel that there is any discrimination in examination and evaluation due to their state. All the students of the country should feel that the marks obtained by him are giving him the same opportunity as the Central Board of Secondary Education in the selection of the university, there is no feeling of inequality with them.

■ MAHADEEP SINGH JAMWAL

Once, there were two birds sitting on a branch. They saw a man coming from afar. The female said, "I think we should fly away, I am afraid that the man will kill us". The male replied, "I am of a different view. Just look at this man's personality, his apparel and obvious dignity. I don't expect this from him, besides he looks like a good man. Why would he kill us?" As man approached them, he took out his bow and arrow, shot and killed the male bird. The grieving female bird took her case to the King. The king summoned the huntsman and interrogated him, who confessed his crime. On hearing this confession, the King gave the bird the right to sentence the huntsman. The bird requested, "O Mighty King! Change his glorious robes as they don't reflect his true personality and aren't mirroring his misdeeds as well as his deception. Since he is a hunter, he should dress like one." This might be a fable, but it truly depicts the people in the Government and the opposition.

Under current political dispensation to be an informed citizen, it's very important to understand Indian Polity that is betrothed to law-breakers. Society is governed by tainted politicians. People in India vote for persons who govern us and they are termed as Public Servants. But there are some such elected persons who in disguise of Public Servants are criminals. The system of electing representatives is faulty that suits best to illiterate, corrupt and criminal politicians to enter Parliament. And further such stigmatized elected 'Law-Breakers' become as 'Law-

Makers'. Basically in a refined society, the person with tainted history should be barred from contesting elections and parties giving mandate to such candidates be deregistered to contest elections. Under the existing law, politicians are banned from contesting elections for six years only if they are convicted for the crime. Supreme Court of India, in its judgment dated July 10, 2013 while disposing of the Lily Thomas v/s Union of India case ruled that any MP, MLA or MLC who is convicted of a crime and given a minimum of two years' imprisonment, loses membership of the House with immediate effect. This was in contrast to the earlier position, wherein convicted members held on to their seats until they exhausted all judicial remedy in lower, state and Supreme Court of India. In an attempt to overturn this decision, the Representation of the People (Second Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2013, was introduced into the Rajya Sabha on 30 August by the then Law Minister and by virtue of the proposed amendment; representatives would not be disqualified immediately after conviction. The Indian government also filed a review petition, which the Supreme Court dismissed. The Government tried to bring the bill into effect as an ordinance. The controversial ordinance, which would have sidestepped a Supreme Court judgment disqualifying convicted MPs and MLAs, was withdrawn by the Government after it was publicly torn by ruling party's vice-President. Our Indian democracy has seen a steady increase in the level of criminalization creeping into Indian polity. This tends to

disrupt constitutional ethos, strikes at the root of democratic form of government and makes citizens suffer. Nearly 1,700 MPs and MLAs, a little over a third of all elected representatives in India, face criminal charges. The PMs/CMS of the country had never bothered to keep their cabinet neat & clean and had been inducting tainted MPs/MLAs as ministers in their cabinet. A five-judge Constitution Bench, headed by Chief Justice of India, on 7th August 2014, held that while it cannot issue directives to the PM or CMs, a cabinet with clean leaders was legitimately expected and advised the Prime Minister and Chief Ministers not to induct in their ministries people against whom charges have been framed in criminal or corruption cases. In another judgment, Justice Kurian Joseph referred to the Constituent Assembly debate wherein Dr B R Ambedkar had said the issue was to be left to the good sense of the PM and the CMs, since it was expected that they would not induct an otherwise unfit person.

Hence, it has become the bounden duty of the court to remind the PM and CMs of their duty to act in accordance with the constitutional aspirations and advised to consider avoiding any person in the council of ministers against whom charges have been framed by a criminal court.

In 2018, a bunch of petitions filed before the Supreme Court had argued that this should change.

But in a judgment, Supreme Court has declined to ban politicians with criminal cases from contesting elections but underlined that it is time Parliament enacts

laws to ensure that people with criminal cases do not enter polities. Our Indian democracy has seen a steady increase in the level of criminalization creeping into Indian polity.

According to the Association for Democratic Reforms, in the year 2004, 24 per cent of MPs had criminal cases pending against them, the number was 30 per cent in 2009, and it shot up to 34 per cent in 2014, while number stands at 43 per cent in the Parliament that was elected in the year 2019.

Since 2014, there has been an increase of 13 per cent MPs with criminal history.

Earlier the Government had 20 or 31 per cent ministers who have declared criminal cases against themselves, while 11 ministers or 17 per cent were facing serious criminal cases. Presently, out of 78 ministers in cabinet, 33 (42 per cent) have declared criminal cases against them in their election affidavits (ADR). Additionally, 24 ministers (31 per cent) have declared serious cases against them, including those related to murder, attempt to murder and robbery. These figures picture an alarming situation with regard to where we are headed if things continue to go in the same direction.

No political party or any leader in India across all the parties and governments will ever think of deriminalization of polities as they are neck down in accommodating tainted people in their party and while in power pushing them into the cabinet thus promoting 'Law breakers' as 'Law Makers'. When Polity is affiliated to law-breakers, we can never expect a neat and clean Government.

Polity betrothed to law-breakers

■ PURAN SHARMA

It is a considered view of one and all that Humans are special creation of God because of the fact that human race has been blessed with fully developed intellect having unique faculty to make a judgment as to what is right and what is wrong for him. Apart from this divine grace he is also imbued with few inherent vices, negative faculties which either get blossomed or deactivated in accordance with the availability of congenial or opposing family or social environment as per the will of providence. Sage Tulsi Dass aptly narrates them in a beautiful Hindi couplet 'Kaam, Krodh, Mad, Lohk Ki Jab Lag Man Mein Khaan, Tulsi Pundit Moorh Jano Ek Samaan.' It signifies that in the event of a human being, who may be either a learned person or an insane one getting overwhelmed by uncontrolled desires, anger, haughtiness and greediness, are reckoned as chips of the same block. They lose their mental equipoise and wisdom to take decisions based on justice and morality. At this critical juncture when we passionately look at behaviour of modern man, we astonishingly find that the so called intellectually advanced man is overstuffed with the undesirable mental rut which is a matter of grave concern. In current scenario people are too involved in multifarious activities personal, social, commercial or allied ulterior pursuits to devote some useful time to take care of and maintain his physique with due diligence.

Socio-economic conditions, mad race for more and more material possessions, junk food, undue haste, insatiable lust for pleasures, unwarranted desires, and tendency to store things beyond reasonable need have been playing havoc with the peace of mind and stable life. Resultantly physical, mental and spiritual stress is multiplying at a double quick speed and becoming deep rooted to cause serious physical disorders in the body. Resultantly it triggers the dormant vices as narrated herein above and accordingly anger and arrogance become inalienable part of erratic life style of the modern man, ultimately leading to depletion of natural soft skills such as perseverance, calmness, humility, mutual trust

and co-operation, empathy and sacrifice which symbolise integral humanism in true sense of the term but, alas! The things have changed upside down. Anger and arrogance have become the predominant emotions of the new era which are ruling the roost and show their ugly presence at all significant places. Even on the occurrence of minor and insignificant incidents, people are seen picking up big quarrels, accusing and abusing each other followed by hot arguments, sometimes causing grievous injuries and even fatalities in certain cases. They are not driven by reasonable and fair judgment but get carried away by misleading emotions. Sometimes minor road rage cases lead to prolonged litigations and also cause severe discomfort and inconvenience to other road users and fellow travelers as well. This unruly behaviour triggered by pent up anger and arrogance is grossly unbecoming of human beings.

Divine deep into the matter we come across many more startling revelations of these natural vices which have been playing havoc in the life of intellectually advanced modern man.

As per a studied opinion of experts on ANGER it is said, "Anger is a burning coal in your hand which will burn you first." Frequent bouts of anger adversely affect all the vital functions of the body, triggers hypertension, Diabetes leading to many other dangerous ailments. It also spoils mutual relationships and general goodwill of the people in the society. Man's mental and spiritual faculties do take a hit as well.

From the objective analysis of the prevailing scenario we generally observe that the so called progressive man stands enslaved by his unending desires, hankering after elusive material prosperity like a mirage day in day out.

We have tremendous scope to learn from our grand scriptures and great epics such as Mahabharat and Ramayan. Mighty Ravan was well versed with principles of morality as well as its destructive impact but he failed to rein in his inherent vices and impulsively gave a long rope to them.

He ruthlessly persecuted the saner elements, indulged in heinous crimes against pious women folk

and of uncontrolled lust and power. The end result of his misdeeds is universally known to one and all. The golden Lanka and the invincible empire fell like house of cards and dashed to the ground at the spur of moment. Similarly the epic of MAHABHARATA shows the mirror to present set of people.

The haughty, conceited and the wily Duryodhana bubbling with anger and arrogance ridiculed the saner advice of all his elders and even KRISHNA, the Divine Incarnate.

His blunt refusal to give even an iota of empire to his co-brothers, Lakhya Graha conspiracy to eliminate Pandavas, Disrobing Queen Droupadi in the open royal court, killing Abhimanyoo mercilessly by seven top warriors in the Chakravati, ultimately led to the horrible destruction of the Kaurava dynasty.

The insatiable greed for infinite wealth and comforts has made the present lot of Homo sapiens unstable, unhappy and too crazy to maintain his equipoise and manly prestige.

Having said that we need to turn focus on the possible solutions and the corrective measures to reverse the trend and stem the escalating rot. Following few steps can generate magical transformation:-

Yoga: Understanding and consistent practice of Yog Asanas, Pranayama i.e., breathing exercises with proper technique under guidance of an expert can be very helpful in creating awareness and neutralizing the excessive anger, arrogance, greediness, ego and other inbuilt vices for switching over to healthy life style and overall harmony in social relations.

Easily Digestible food: Quality of our food plays a very significant role in our mental make-up. It is well said, 'Jaisa Ann Baisa Mann'. Predominantly stick to simple and easily digestible food and religiously avoid easily available junk food for physical and mental health.

Always live close to Nature: Living in close vicinity of Mother Nature gives a fillip to our natural immunity. Principles of Yog lay emphasize on Selfless social service which is pre-requisite to purification of mind and capping the burgeoning inherent vices. Self Belief and determination is the Buzzword.

modern technology. They also have to test the raw materials in the plants and arrange the storage before sending the product to the market. Therefore, along with the best job opportunities in the sector, there are also alternatives to self-employment.

To graduate in Food Technology, students must have a 12th pass in Physics, Chemistry, Math or Biology. It is necessary to pass graduation to do master or diploma in it. If one has graduated in Home Science, Nutrition, Dietitian or Hotel Management, they can also pursue higher education in Food Technology. After completing course in Food Technology, the students have to do internship in Mother Dairy, Britannia Industries, Surya Foods and Agro Limited, Sky Chef, Food Research and Analysis Center etc. This will make you better prepared to work in the industry. There are many job opportunities in both the public and private sectors. You can work in Processing Industries, Research Laboratories, Hotels, Quality Control Division, Rice Mills, Packaging Units and Catering Industries.

It is expected that 26 lakh new jobs will be created in the food processing industry by 2022. Therefore, there will be continuous opportunities for professionals in this field to move forward in

food processing companies, rice mills, soft-drink companies. Traditionally, the food processing industry employs unorganized workforce, but monitoring and management work requires qualified professionals. In this industry you can start working as a trainee or operator by doing a certificate or diploma course. There are good job opportunities as an operator or trainee in food processing or maintenance with an ITI diploma in related fields. Candidates specializing in Home Science Graduate and Nutritionist, Food Technology, Food Service, Management can make excellent careers in this field.

The food technologist initially gets a minimum of Rs 20,000-30,000 per month. After two-three years of experience, the salary goes up. Professionals abroad earn a good salary, while working as a freelance consultant or advisor is paid according to their qualifications and experience. The food technologist must have the ability to perform scientific analysis. They have to work as an important part of the team. So the art of communication should be good. It is also important to be more aware of scientific and technological changes in the field of food and nutrition.

Vijay Garg

YOUR COLUMN
Great job opportunities
in food technology

Dear Editor;

Whatever occasion is there for celebration, the tendency to cook at home, is now declining fast. Lack of time is one of the major reasons. Therefore, the trend of packaged food has increased and employment opportunities in this sector have also increased. Food technologists are responsible for a wide range of tasks, such as food manufacturing, storage, packaging, processing and canning. Food processing involves the long-term maintenance of freshness and quality of food and beverages for the consumers as well as the delivery of hygienic food or beverages to them. This includes processing dairy, fruits, vegetables, grains, packaged foods and beverages. The government has also planned to provide financial assistance to start food processing units and equip them with