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## **LET'S STOP** **FAILING** **WITH DUMMY SCHOOL'S**

Dear Parents,

As successful individuals, we pride ourselves on our achievements and our ability to navigate life's challenges independently. In the glossy world of LinkedIn, Facebook and Instagram, we flaunt our successes like badges of honour, painting a picture-perfect image of our lives. But behind the façade of professional achievements lies a stark reality—we are failing our children (At least some of us definitely are !)

Allow me to share the story of a bright young student who recently crossed my path. This student achieved an impressive 95% in Class X and harboured a keen interest in biology. Consequently, her parents enrolled her in a #dummyschool to prepare for the Medicine Entrance Exam. However, after a gap year and two unsuccessful attempts, she now finds herself utterly shattered and depressed.

Sadly, this narrative is not an isolated incident. As a School Principal, I encounter numerous similar accounts each year where students are put under this pressure of preparing for engineering and medical exams in India and made to enroll in #dummyschools at the expense of their mental well-being and holistic development. But Why ???

The answer lies in the dark reality of "dummy schools"—a term used to describe institutions where students bypass regular high school attendance in favour of intensive coaching for engineering and medical entrance exams in India and guess what majority of student's don't even qualify these exams due to excessive competition and lack of seats.

Dummy schools promise a shortcut to success, but at what cost? —the erosion of a child's personality and potential

As parents and professionals, we must recognize the profound impact of our choices on our children's future. While engineering and medicine may seem like the only viable career paths, the reality is far from it. There exists variety of emerging careers rooted in PCM and PCB that offer diverse opportunities for growth and fulfilment.

We have become masters at building our own careers and managing our ever growing LinkedIn, Facebook and Instagram followership, but amateurs at nurturing our own children's dreams. We push them down narrow paths dictated by societal expectations, blind to the diverse array of opportunities that lie beyond the confines of engineering and medicine.

While we celebrate our own successes, our children suffer from countless issues arising out of this dummy school system and intense pressure of cracking these (if i may say) STUPID exams that stifles their creativity, crushes their spirits, and suffocates their aspirations. We fail to realize that there are so many amazing career options of the future which do not require, my child or your child to go through this grind.

Yet, despite this reality, we continue to perpetuate the myth that success is synonymous with a degree in engineering or medicine. We fail to acknowledge the immense pressure and mental anguish our children endure in pursuit of these elusive dreams.

I am not immune to the backlash that may follow this article. Some may perceive it as confrontational or accusatory. But I am willing to bear that burden if it means sparking a much-needed conversation about the harmful consequences of our collective obsession with engineering and medicine in India.

Every year, I encounter countless students who struggle to reconcile their passions with the rigid expectations imposed upon them by their parents. It is time, we as parents and professionals take a stand and start spending time with our children in researching and exploring various other careers which provide growth potential may be even better than engineering and medicine.

Let us not fail our children by blindly following the trend. **Let us understand that workspace today demands skills and not just these two degrees and dummy schools do not provide or build any skills in our kids, rather steals them from beautiful memories and friendships they would have developed and in- turn developed their social skills by going to a regular school.** A regular school is not just a place of learning but also a place for development of friendships, personalities, value systems and whole lot more.

Open to your comments or feedback! But this is an experience. Please do not enrol your child to a dummy school.

(Concluded)

**Asha Prabhakar**  
(Principal)

Kindness, Resilience, Respect



**Copy to:**

Parents of Class IX & X  
Class Teachers IX and X  
HM (Sr.)/ VPL/ Academic Coordinator

