CHAPTER XII

CASE STUDIES

The study of the cases of failure, interruption and discontinuance presented in previous chapters has been done taking into consideration mainly the number of students who mentioned the same reason for similar problems, leaving aside the personal elements of each case. However, not all the apparently similar cases are identical. Two students of the same age, belonging to the same income group, who failed in the same examination and attributed their failure to the same cause may present other different circumstances such as change the case entirely.

The need for a more comprehensive study of the cases, of which mention was already made before, was felt from the start; and so it was considered fitting to select a number of them for deeper analysis through personal interviews. This is done in the present chapter in which the cases of nearly 150 students chosen at random from both the faculties are presented in the form of case studies.

In the case studies the pattern of the questionnaire has been followed. The personal data of the interviewees and those of his scholastic achievements are first entered followed by a summary of the reasons mentioned by the student.
for his particular problem. A summary of the interview, at times rather lengthy, follows and the case study closes with a comment. This comment is not a diagnosis, for which more data would be required, but rather a summary of the interviewer’s opinion of the whole case. In most of the cases the comment merely confirms what the interviewee had said of himself, but other times, on the evidence of the information gathered during the interview, this view of the interviewee is revised and even corrected.

No special order has been kept in presenting the case studies, except that those of the Faculty of Arts precede those of the Faculty of Commerce. The reason for failure, interruption or discontinuance of each student have already been tabulated in their respective places, but the peculiar circumstances of each case have not been mentioned before as illustrations of each of these reasons. The cases will speak for themselves.
Case No. 1

General Facts:

- Sex: Male
- Native Place: Urban
- Marital Status: Unmarried
- Family monthly income: Between Rs. 200 & 500
- Whether working or not: Yes

Scholastic Record:

- School: Urban
- Year of passing S. S. C.: 1953
- Number of attempts: Five
- Year of entry into college: 1954
- Age at time of entry: Twenty
- Faculty: Arts

Problem:

Five consecutive failures in the Inter Arts Examination.

Reasons for failure:

Defective educational system.

Subjects failed:

Logic, Economics, English.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

As mentioned above.

Interview:

X started off by saying that he had been very unlucky in his college career. He had failed five times in the Inter Arts Examination but the fault entirely lay with the University and its defective system of education. He admitted, however, that he was not a brilliant student and that in his private study he relied mostly on guides for he
lacked the time to refer to text books. Both he and his father shared the opinion that at least his steadiness — if not his ability — should be rewarded with graduation. Besides, he added, the country stands in a great need of a large number of graduates and the best way to obtain them is to make the degree accessible to as many young men as possible. On the other hand he thought that at present the degree of this University has no value and that therefore, admission to college should be given only to those students who secured at the S. S. C. Examination at least fifty per cent of the marks. In his case, however, since he had been trying for so many years, an exception should be made. Otherwise he was ready to appear as many times as necessary. In view of the difficulty in passing in all the subjects at the same time, he had decided to appear in a few of them at a time and so try to obtain an exemption, and this way, little by little - as he did in the S. S. C. Examination - pass the entire course in three or four years.

Besides the reasons mentioned, X also thought that his job was responsible for his failures. His father forced him to work after the second failure. But after a full day's work he feels tired to do any studying when he returns home. X's income is not absolutely needed, for the family owns a house and they have some money put by, but his father — foreseeing that the son would never graduate — wanted him to work now and so begin to earn his living. As a matter of fact he has discouraged the son from attempting the examination and wants this to be his last attempt.

Comment:

X is a clear case of inability for higher education. His incoherent reasoning, the conviction with which he defended his poor arguments and his numerous failures are evident proofs of his lack of ability.
Case No. 2

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Problem:

Discontinuance of studies after the first term of Senior B. A.

Reasons for discontinuance:

Marriage.

Interview:

X looked intelligent, self-confident and she was very cooperative. As the interview was conducted in the presence of her brother she was quite at ease from the beginning.

While still in school X wanted to become a doctor. However, since her Science marks at the S. S. C. were rather low, her father suggested that she take Arts instead. Now that she could not become a doctor she wanted at least to be a cultured mother and so be able to bring up her children better. After attending lectures in college X had to do a good deal of household work, still she did quite creditably during her college career crowning her First Year with a second class in the annual
examination. In Inter her marks were not so good for in addition to the household duties she contracted T. B. and was unable to study for some months. Still she managed to pass in the University Examination. During her junior year she fell in love with a college teacher. Although they belonged to different castes there was no opposition from either of the families and so they married during the second term of that very year. After marriage X still continued to attend college and even registered for her senior year. But towards the end of the first term she had to discontinue her studies. Now she feels that being a mother it is not proper for her to continue studying.

For the benefit of other lady students X suggested that college girls be relieved from household duties, if they are to do justice to their studies. And they should try by all means to complete their graduation before marriage. Nowadays this is quite easy, for girls can pass the S. S. C. at a very young age and so have ample opportunity to do their graduation in four years.

Comment:

X's case had been learned from her brother and what she said merely confirmed what was already known.
Case No. 3

General Facts:

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Problem:

Failure in F. Y. Arts once. Discontinuance of studies.

Reasons for failure:

Illness during the year.

Subjects failed:

English.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Defective teaching.

Reasons for discontinuance:

Financial problems. Forced by father to work in the fields.

Interview:

X is the eldest son of a low income farmer. Even during his school days he had to help his father
in the fields after his classes and on holidays. The fact that he is the first one among the members of his caste to complete his secondary education gave him a little ambition and so he wanted to pursue his education further by taking a college degree. But this met with very strong opposition from his father, all the other members of the family and even of the caste, who could not see the use of higher education to the son of a farmer. However, he managed to join Arts, the only faculty open to him on account of his low marks in the S. S. C. Examination. In order to pacify his father who was always insisting on his giving up studies and begin to work in the fields, he would return to the village by train everyday after lectures and work in the fields. He studied at night, while all went to sleep, by the light of a kerosene lamp. X felt that the strain of such a life, continued for many months broke his health, for two months before the examinations he was down with fever. This prevented him from making the last effort. Although he recovered in time for the examinations, he was not prepared, and did not want to appear for that time. However, his father would make capital of this chance and force him to give up. X decided to try his luck but failed in English.

Besides his illness, there was another factor in this failure, the teaching of subject was defective. X's failure was the opportunity the opposition was waiting for. They argued that he was wasting his father's money over a useless endeavour, and that after all a degree was not going to change his social position. X looked for a job in town so as to combine work and studies, and in order to run away from the opposition at home. But he could not find any suitable employment and since his father was in real need of financial help, he discontinued his studies, went back to the village and to his fields. X hopes that, if not he, at least his children will be able to have a good education if he can help it.

X feels it is every man's right to educate himself and perfect his nature without any opposition from either family or caste. Also he feels that this
right should be defended even by the Government if necessary.

Comment:

Illness just before the examinations for a man who could not find much time to study and had to fight against so many odds, would be enough reason for failure. Still more if he does not possess much intellectual ability as seems to be X's case. The reason for his discontinuance is but too common.
Case No. 4

General Facts:

Sex: Male
Native Place: Urban
Marital Status: Married
Family monthly income: Below Rs. 200
Whether working or not: Yes

Scholastic Record:

School: Urban
Year of passing S. S. C.: 1952
Number of attempts: One
Percentage: Forty eight
Year of entry into college: 1952
Age at time of entry: Seventeen
Faculty: Arts

Problem:

Failure in Inter Arts once. Interruption of studies for one year. Failure in B. A. as an external student. Graduation in eight years.

Reasons for failure:

Financial problems. Wrong choice of subjects.

Subjects failed:

Logic, History and English.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Logic too difficult. For English and History, lack of guidance.

Reasons for interruption:

Financial problems.

Interview:

X stays now with his mother and his young wife, whom he has to support. When he joined college,
his father, now deceased, was a mill worker. X desired to go to college in order to prepare himself for life. He would have preferred Science but the percentage obtained at the S. S. C. Examination did not guarantee a successful career in Science. Arts did not offer him any special difficulty; but in Intermediate Logic was too difficult for him and so he failed. After studying for one year more he passed out. Then his father had to retire as he was over age and X was forced to seek employment. He found it in the Survey Department. But this entailed leaving city very often and X had to give up all his hopes of pursuing his studies. However, after four years he obtained leave and appeared for his B. A. as an external student. For lack of guidance he had chosen the subjects blindly and could not find anybody to tell him what books should he refer to prepare for the examination. When he realised that he had not done certain parts of the syllabus it was too late; still he tried his luck, but failed in English and History. The following year he was able to pass his B. A. Now X would like to study further but he is very undecided as to what subjects to take.

Comment:

Although X did not appear very bright in his conversation, he seemed to belong to that type of students, who, without other problems like his own, would have graduated in a shorter time.
Case No. 5

General Facts:

- **Sex**: Male
- **Native place**: Urban
- **Marital status**: Married
- **Family monthly income**: Below Rs. 200
- **Whether working or not**: Yes

Scholastic Record:

- **School**: Urban
- **Year of passing S. S. C.**: 1952
- **Number of attempts**: One
- **Percentage**: Fifty six
- **Year of entry into college**: 1952
- **Age at time of entry**: Seventeen
- **Faculty**: Arts

Problem:

Failure in Inter Arts. Graduation in five years.

Reason for failure:


Interview:

X is a very charming person, open and cooperative. Although poor, he is happy in the company of his young wife and two children. His father died when he was very small and so his mother had to work in order to support her three children - of whom X is the second. Mother was employed at a very low pay and so X's life from the very beginning was one of poverty, suffering and privation. When he grew big enough to be able to work he combined both studies and work. He would accept any type of work from anybody who paid him, so he was engaged as a cooley to masons, carpenters, road builders, farm labourers, anything that might help increase the meagre income of his mother. Even while attending school he worked for the principal as peon in his free times.
When he completed his secondary education mother wanted to send him to work. But he had been very good in studies and all were of the opinion that X should study. As a matter of fact, in spite of so many difficulties he had passed his S. S. C. Examination with a percentage of 56; in view of which an uncle of his promised to finance his studies. Later on he received a half-freeship from some private fund. However, X felt that he should earn something and so he applied for a job in the Post Office. Feeling economically secure he thought he could already marry. But work and married life interfered with his studies and so he was unable to pass his F. Y. Examination. He could not recollect what subjects he had failed in, as he did not experience any special difficulty in any and his failure was entirely due to his inability to combine an eight-hours job with his studies. After this failure he was able to pass his B. A. year after year as a regular student. He even prepared for his M. A. and passed in three years.

Comment:

X's is the typical case of a student of good ability whose work and study could not be combined on account of economic problem.
Case No. 6

General Facts:

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Problem:

Failure in Inter Arts. Interruption of studies for two years. Inter Arts passed. Interruption of studies for another year. Now in Junior B. A.

Reasons for failure:

Poor eyesight. Illegible handwriting.

Subjects failed:

Hindi.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Dislike for the subject.

Interview:

X started off by saying that his eyesight is very poor, a fact that did not permit him to study much. This, together with his handwriting which he described as "atrocious", were the causes of his failure in Inter Arts. When asked what subject he
had failed in, he said that it was Hindi and that he had not taken that subject in school and, finding no interest in it, he had neglected it. But this neglect of Hindi led to a more general neglect of studies. He admitted spending many hours with his friends in the canteen even during the time of lectures and tutorials.

In the course of the interview X made several casual remarks about girl friends with whom he had been on intimate terms for quite a number of years. As for his interruption of studies X gave no clear explanation. He has now learnt the lesson, so he said, and is now preparing in earnest for his B. A.

Drawing from his experience X would suggest that colleges enforce attendance to all lectures and tutorials. Tests should be held regularly every months to force students to work all through the year. He also feels that the examination papers are stereotyped and that B. C. students are given too many facilities in obtaining freeships and in the use of library books, both of which facilities they misuse to the detriment of other students and of the intellectual standards of the colleges.

Comment:

X's poor eyesight and "atrocious" handwriting do not seem to explain everything. He has a very shabby appearance both in clothes and manners, and is as negligent of his outward demeanour as he seems to have been of his studies. His casual mention of numerous girl and boy friends seems to explain the real reason for his negligence in studies. Further questioning was not considered prudent. Besides he speaks in whispers and has a kind of a nervous laughter when he wants to be confidential, that make it very difficult to understand him. His case was finally tabulated as one of negligence in studies on account of friendships.
Case No. 7

General Facts:

- **Sex**: Male
- **Native place**: Urban
- **Marital status**: Unmarried
- **Family monthly income**: Between Rs. 200 & 500
- **Whether working or not**: No

Scholastic Record:

- **School**: Urban
- **Year of passing S. S. C.**: 1953
- **Number of attempts**: One
- **Percentage**: Fifty four
- **Age at time of entry**: Seventeen
- **Faculty**: Arts

Problem:

- Failure in Inter Arts. Graduation in five years.

Reasons for failure:

- Negligence in studies.

Subjects failed:

- Economics.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

- Same as above.

Interview:

X is the eldest of five children born to middle class parents. When completing his schooling X’s father wanted him to join a Science College. Although he had a percentage high enough for admission to Science, the principal thought that it was not sufficiently high to guarantee a first class in the Inter Science Examination, without which a Science degree was of no value. Even Commerce was ruled out for identical reasons and for the difficulties of the course of studies. Arts was the best for him to choose.
In college X experienced a strong personal attachment to the persons of some of the professors, and felt it very much that some of them were transferred too easily and frequently. Under the guidance of these professors he passed his examination in F. Y. without the least difficulty. Right from the beginning of his college career he was made a P.T. leader, but he thought this had nothing to do with his failure. The reason for it was that he had to take turns in supervising the building of a house his father had undertaken. This took too much of his free time and interest to the detriment of his studies. The subject of his failure was Economics but in his opinion it could have been any other subject. He liked both the subject and the teacher, of whom he was all praises. The building completed, X passed his Inter Arts and B. A.

Speaking from his own experience, X would suggest that college teachers be not so easily transferred from one institution to another and that those that are chosen be really competent and remain as permanent as possible. He cited some personal examples to prove that the interest of students for the subjects depends very largely on these two factors.

Comment:

There was nothing in X's conversation to arouse any suspicion as to the existence of other possible reasons for his failure.
Case No. 8

General Facts:

Sex: Male  
Native place: Urban  
Marital status: Unmarried  
Family monthly income: Between Rs. 200 & 500  
Whether working or not: No

Scholastic Record:

School: Urban  
Year of passing S. S. C.: 1950  
Number of attempts: Three  
Percentage: Forty eight  
Year of entry into college: 1952  
Age at time of entry: Twenty  
Faculty: Arts

Problem:

Absence from the Inter Arts and the B. A. Examinations. Discontinuance of studies.

Reasons for absence:

Family problems.

Reasons for discontinuance:

Family problems.

Interview:

X wanted to become an engineer. There were very few technicians at that time and admission to Science colleges was easy. As he put it, his marks in all subjects were 'very good'. During his First Year in college a number of family problems interfered with his studies; his mother died, his two younger sisters fell sick and he, the eldest son, had to lend a helping hand in solving the family crisis. When it was over, the head of the family - his grandfather - died and he had to go
to the village to look after the family property. There he spent two years and could not pursue his Science studies. On his return to town his father, seeing him already a grown-up man wanted him to give up his studies, work and earn his living. But X argued that in order to take over his father’s business he needed training in Economics. He tried to combine studies with helping his father, but could not study and did not feel prepared to appear for the Inter Arts Examination. The following year he passed out and registered for Junior B. A. In his senior year he attended few classes in the first term, and afraid that his terms would not be granted, he did not pay the fees for the second term. He still hopes he will one day eventually pass his B. A., M. A. and even Ph. D. but at present his family business keeps him too entangled to be able to give any thought to his studies. Moreover, he has to see to the education of his eight younger brothers and sisters, two of whom are now in college.

X feels that students in his circumstances should be given a chance to appear for the examinations anytime when ready, and that colleges should grant to those students their terms, as they have real and grave reasons for not attending lectures regularly. He is of the opinion that students work seriously only during the last months with the consequent nervousness and failure. This evil could be avoided if colleges held frequent tests during the year, the courses were not so lengthy, and guides were abolished.

Comment:

The family problems X had during his career may have aggravated his case but there seems to be at the bottom of it all a certain inability for college studies indicated by his failures in the S. S. C. and in college. His optimism in saying he had good results in the S. S. C. Examination seemed genuine, another indication of his poor ability.
Case No. 9

General Facts:

Sex: Male
Native place: Rural
Marital status: Unmarried
Family monthly income: Between Rs. 200 & 500
Whether working or not: No

Scholastic Record:

School: Urban
Year of passing S. S. C.: 1955
Number of attempts: One
Percentage: Second Class
Year of entry into college: 1956
Age at time of entry: Nineteen
Faculty: Arts

Problem:

Two consecutive failures in Inter Arts.

Reasons for failure:

Not known.

Subjects failed:

Logic.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Logic too difficult.

Interview:

X belongs to a middle class family. The financial position of the family is good enough to guarantee his continuance in college, in fact if he decided to enter college it was mainly because he could afford it and so could follow general current. He was so aimless in this regard that he dropped English from his S. S. C. syllabus in order to be
able to pass more easily. In its place he chose Hindi. But this was an impediment for his entrance into college, and so he had to appear for the S. S. C. Examination with English and exemption in four subjects.

In college X was the ordinarily diligent student, regular in his attendance to lectures, not much involved in extra-curricular activities, and although interested in sports, never taking part in tournaments. Thus he passed his F. Y. Examination easily. But in Inter Arts he failed in Logic. He found the subject difficult in spite of having worked at it very hard during the year and particularly at the time of the examinations. X passed out his Inter Arts Examination at the third attempt and is now reading for his Junior B. A.

Comment:

X could be considered a border-line case. His inability for college studies is not evident, but there are indications for this which come from his double failure in spite of his "hard work" and the admission that Logic was "too difficult" for him. None of the leads given in the interview could evidence the existence of other causes. His poor motivation might be the real reason for his poor achievement in college.
Case No. 10

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Problem:

Failure in Inter Arts.

Reasons for failure:

Refused leave for the preparation of the examination.

Subjects failed:

Economics.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Same as above.

Interview:

X said he had been a very clever student when in school. His great ambition was to become an engineer. He was very good in Mathematics and Science and in order to score high marks in the S. S. C. Examination he chose his subjects very carefully, leaving out the less scoring ones. But all his dreams vanished into thin air when, at
the moment of going to seek admission to college.

his father, up to that moment a wealthy businessman,
suffered a very heavy loss that forced X to seek
employment. As he could not study Science and work
at the same time, he chose Arts. X could study
little during the year as he had a full-time job
and his employers refused to grant him any leave
unless he was ready to forgo his pay also. In
consequence he failed in Inter Arts in Economics
but could have failed in any other subject just as
well. The following year he passed out and is now
reading for his B. A. and wants to appear for
B. Com. later on.

X was very critical of the examination question
papers. They are difficult, they look more like
puzzles than tests; for they sometimes exclude
important portions of the syllabus, while only
irrelevant questions are asked. This only confuses
students. He thinks that, although the University
standards of English are much lower than in previous
times, still examiners expect from present-day
students more than what they can give. The only
solution is to make English compulsory from the
first standard as was done before.

Comment:

Although X seems to overrate his intellectual
ability, he certainly looks cleverer than the
average Arts student. As there was no indication
of other possible reasons for failure and the one
given was considered sufficient, the case was
left at that.
Case No. 11

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<tr>
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</table>

Problem:

Discontinuance of studies after the first term of F. Y. Arts.

Reasons for discontinuance:

Financial problems. Need to work.

Interview:

When X went to college, his father owned a good farm very close to the city. The income was not too high, but good enough to support the family and enable him to go to college. He joined the college in the belief that higher education would open to him better prospects of life. But by the end of his first term in college the land was acquisitioned by the Government for a housing cooperative society. The compensation was very low and the family passed from middle class status to poverty. His father, together with the three elder sons, are now working as hired labourers in other farms in order to support the rest of the
children, up to ten, and enable them to at least complete their schooling.

Comment:

X was poorly dressed and it was evident he had engaged in hard manual work for some years now. Although he asked for help, he certainly did not look like having made up the whole story for the occasion.
Case No. 12

General Facts:

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Problem:

Two consecutive failures in Inter Arts. Two interruptions of studies.

Reasons for failure:

Personal and family problems. Poor memory.

Subjects failed:

Nearly all.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Same as above.

Reasons for interruption:

Family problems. Opposition.
Interview:

X is the only son of a very rich merchant. His father owns a number of shops in various places of India and his business is as successful as it could be. However, his parents have never given him the education their social status would demand. As a matter of fact they have always opposed his desire for higher education on the plea that no one in the family has ever studied, and that education is not so necessary after all for success in business. X likes all fine arts immensely; in particular he would enjoy playing musical instruments, but up to date he has never been allowed to do so. He finds great pleasure in reading literary books and contemplating works of art, yet he has never had a chance to do so to his own satisfaction. His parents have kept him to themselves for fear of losing their only child. He is never allowed to have friends or meet any outsiders in the house. Wherever he goes he has to be driven, or if ever he is allowed to go out of town to meet some relative, a wire is sent first to announce his arrival with the request to meet him at the station and see him safely to the new destination and a person will have to accompany him throughout the entire journey. In a word he has never been given a chance to do, or learn anything by himself. Although his parents are so rich, they lead a very frugal life. Everything is done at home to save money, from the grinding of wheat to the cooking of the last vegetable. The reason for this frugality is the principle they hold, that only those who actually earn the money have a right to spend it, and they do not earn anything as the whole business is run by a manager who controls it like a real boss.

No wonder X felt entirely isolated in college. He noticed he was different from all others, he made no friends, talked to no one, spent no money either in canteens or pictures. He attended regularly all lectures, listened, tried to learn but somehow he could not retain in his memory anything taught in class. He failed in most of the subjects of Inter Arts. Another factor that in his opinion influenced his failure at any rate the first one, was the sudden death of a neighbour. The person
was not known to him but the possibility of his own death haunted him day and night and he was unable to concentrate on his studies for months. To add to his already great difficulties, his parents have forced him now to go to one of their shops. There he has nothing to do, for the manager runs it. He just sits and dozes unable to study or do any serious reading. However, he still wants to continue studying as soon as he can, and has not given up the idea of graduating.

Comment:

X's was a pitiful case. He was over self-conscious and it was apparent he suffered much on account of the education received at home. The strange thing is that he got the courage to open his soul for the first time in his life, and that to a stranger, a thing that - by his own confession - brought immense relief.
Case No. 13

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Problem:

Interruption during the first year. Failure in Inter Arts. Discontinuance of studies.

Reasons for failure:

Not known.

Reasons for interruption:

Illness.

Subjects failed:

Logic.

Reasons for discontinuance:


Interview:

X is a very simple and shy person. Not daring to come alone for the interview, he brought along a
friend of his who knew English well. His lack of self-confidence was manifest in that his friend had to answer even the questions made in Gujarati, and only then he would pass some remark or other. X had obtained a rather low percentage in the S. S. C. Examination even though he had dropped out the most difficult subjects—Science, Mathematics and Arithmetic. Still he wanted to go to college, not in order to secure a job, but to educate himself better, for none of the members of his family had even completed his secondary education. After the completion of the first term X suffered an attack of fever that prevented him from attending college. The following year he passed his F. Y. Examination without difficulty, and so hoped he would equally succeed in Inter Arts. However, he failed in Logic by a few marks only and so was allowed to keep terms for Junior B. A. X could not find any special reason for his failure, as he had been an ordinary diligent student and all not in Logic specially difficult. When he wanted to register for Junior B. A. his father needed him to work in the fields as he could not pay all the labourers he needed. This was the end of X’s college studies and he does not hope he will never be able to continue them.

Comment:

X’s shyness was a great obstacle to a better insight into his problem. His failure by just a few marks and his scholastic record do not permit one to draw any conclusion as to his ability for college education.
**Case No. 14**

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### Problem:

Three consecutive failures in Inter Arts. Absence from the examination once. Discontinuance of studies.

### Reasons for failure:

Job. Family problems.

### Subjects failed:

Not remembered.

### Reasons for discontinuance:

Job. Degree no longer considered useful.

### Interview:

X's problem was not financial, for although his parents had died when he was still very young and he is the eldest child, they were all supported by the other members of the family. Yet on joining college, X felt that he should not expect to live on alms alone and so he sought employment in some
private firm. It was also his responsibility to look after the education of the younger brothers. All these problems prevented him from giving to his studies his undivided attention and although he passed in the First Year Examination and went up in Inter Arts. He said he could not recollect the subjects in which he failed, and after all, this detail was unimportant for the main difficulty did not lie in the subjects but in his job and the responsibility for the education of his brothers. Two other times he appeared for the examination and failed. The fourth year, after paying all the fees, he was afraid and absented himself from the examination. He was considering whether he should continue studying or not when he was given unexpectedly a promotion in his office. This was the decisive factor. Promotion after graduation was not so certain, it would take very long at the present rate, and then at the cost of thousands of rupees that could be better spent on his brothers.

Comment:

It would seem that there was no need for X to work as the family had not refused to support him or his brothers. It was a matter of prestige. In the circumstances this was a sufficient cause of failure and still more of discontinuance of studies. The fact that others could combine both studies and work is no reason why he should. All the same, the possibility of the existence of other causes cannot entirely be ruled out.
Case No. 15

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<tr>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td>Arts</td>
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Problem:

Failure in Inter Arts. Due for the B. A. Examination soon.

Reasons for failure:

Sister's marriage.

Subjects failed:

Economics and Psychology.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Same as above.

Interview:

X has managed to pass in all his examinations with the exception of the Inter Arts. There was no special reason for this failure, for although he is not clever, at least he studies diligently. He does not frequent canteens or cinema houses nor does he loiter about with friends. He has every facility for study at home.
However, towards the end of his Inter Arts he spent much of his time and attention in the family preparations for his sister's marriage. He felt that there was no special reason for failing in Economics and Psychology or any other subject, he just had not prepared any of them; but appeared for the examination in case he might be lucky and pass.

X would suggest that either the Hindu custom of celebrating marriage ceremonies at this particular time of the year be changed or that the university itself holds the final examinations at some other time. However, he feels that none of these two is likely to take place.

Comment:

Although X obtained a rather low percentage at the S. S. C. Examination, yet, given the effort he seems to be making, he may graduate in the near future. The reason given for failure was tabulated as neglect of studies.
Case No. 16

General Facts:

- Sex: Male
- Native place: Urban
- Marital status: Married
- Family monthly income: Below Rs. 200
- Whether working or not: Yes

Scholastic Record:

- School: Urban
- Number of attempts: Two
- Percentage: Fifty two
- Year of entry into college: 1956
- Age at time of entry: Twenty
- Faculty: Arts

Problem:

Two consecutive failures in Inter Arts. Interruption of studies for one year. Desires to appear again.

Reasons for failure:

- Refusal of leave to prepare for examinations.

Subjects failed:

- English, Logic and Economics.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

- Poor in English.

Interview:

X is the eldest of seven children. His father, a mill worker, has been able to send them to school because, belonging to the scheduled classes, he gets freeships for all. X chose Arts in preference to other faculties because of his natural liking for literature and because he had/offered Mathematics /not
for his S. S. C. and so could not take Science. X had no difficulty in passing out his First Year, but in Inter he was offered a good job and would not let the occasion slip. Now, his work entailed a good amount of mental work, and so he did not feel like studying when he returned home. At the time of the final examinations he was refused leave for the preparation although he was permitted to appear for all the papers. He thinks that if he had been given a short leave he might have done it. The subjects in which he failed were English at the first time; English, Logic and Economics at the second time.

X admitted that he had always been weak in English right from school, and had already failed in it in the S. S. C. while he obtained exemption in all the other subjects. After having failed in English in Inter, he concentrated so much in this subject that he neglected all the others and so failed not only in English but also in two more. He did not think that Economics and Logic offered any special difficulty, but since his time for preparing for the examinations was so limited he had to concentrate on his weakest point. Now X wants to accumulate leaves in order to be able to prepare for the examination well. He is eager to graduate because he will be given a promotion. On the other hand if he wants to do his studies well he would have to abandon his job, a thing he cannot do in the present economic situation of the family, for the free ships cover only the educational expenses.

Comment:

It cannot be said that X is a bright student. However, the main reasons for his problem seem to be financial difficulties, the exigencies of his job, and the refusal of leave.
Case No. 17

General Facts:

Sex: Male
Native place: Urban
Marital status: Married
Family monthly income: Between Rs. 200 & 500
Whether working or not: Yes

Scholastic Record:

School: Urban
Year of passing S. S. C.: 1954
Number of attempts: One
Percentage: Forty
Year of entry into college: 1954
Age at time of entry: Nineteen
Faculty: Arts

Problem:

Failure in Inter Arts. Graduation in five years.

Reasons for failure:

Negligence.

Subjects failed:

English.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Poor in English.

Interview:

X had already sent the questionnaire but was eager to give an interview. However, he was not very communicative and he did little more than answer the questions and that rather succinctly. In the questionnaire he had given as reason for his failure "negligence in studies", but now he tried to explain away the failure by blaming the examiners, attributing it to luck.
anything but his own negligence. He even said that the failure was something of a surprise to him, that his English was a little poor as he had studied through the medium of Gujarati but it was not so bad after all. From his conversation, however, it was obvious that his English was very poor, he made many mistakes and had to struggle for the right word very often. The leads given were unsuccessful. Only at the end of the interview, he said casually that for at least one month before the examination he had taken tuitions in English and still did not pass.

X was very critical of the examination system as a whole, and in particular he would like to find the examination papers less arbitrary, shorter and corrected more conscientiously. He would advocate for a more rational examination system in which the work of the student throughout the year was taken into consideration. As for the teachers, they are very good, he said, but, generally speaking, not very approachable.

Comment:

X is very difficult to appraise. On the one hand his English is very poor and he makes many and fundamental mistakes; but on the other hand his conversation is intelligent and seems to reveal the intelligence of at least an average student. Finally his graduation in five years seems to be another argument in his favour and an indication that in the questionnaire he had stated the real reason for his failure, neglect of studies.
Case No. 18

General Facts:

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Problem:

Failure in F. Y. Interruption for three years. Two failures in Inter Arts. Still studying.

Reasons for failure:

Work. Opposition from father.

Subjects failed:

English and Hindi.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Poor in English. Hindi neglected.

Reasons for interruption:

Work. Opposition from father.

Interview:

X was very sincere and cooperative. However, he was not very clear as to the details of his college career
and his statement had to be supplemented with the information taken from the college records. X had to face a very stiff opposition from his father. It started already in school and was already responsible for his three failures in the S. S. C. Examination, but it grew stronger when X wanted to go to college. Father's main argument was that a man of his age should already be earning his living. Not that the family stood in need of his income, it was a matter of principle. To pacify father X appeared finally as an external student. He failed in English. Coming from a school in which Gujarati was the medium of instruction his English had never been very good. When entering college he also found out that there was no continuity between the standard of English in school and college. There was a gap he could not bridge. After passing his F. Y. Examination at the second attempt X interrupted his studies. He could not cope with the demands of his work, and his studies, and there was always father's opposition. After these three years the opposition mellowed somewhat and X appeared for his Inter Arts Examination.

During the period of interruption his English had become somewhat rusty and he failed again in spite of the hard work he had been putting in. The following year he concentrated so much on English that he neglected Hindi and failed in both. He will try once more this year.

Comment:

The opposition from father would be quite a sufficient reason for failure. This would be all the more true during his college career, when he was also working. But it seems too much to say that his three failures in the S. S. C. Examination were also due to that. To this it should be added that X was a little reticent about them. It is not clear what the main reason for failure had been.
Case No. 19

General Facts:

Sex: Male
Native place: Urban
Marital status: Married
Family monthly income: Below Rs. 200
Whether working or not: Yes

Scholastic Record:

School: Urban
Year of passing 3. S. C.: 1953
Number of attempts: Five
Percentage: Forty nine
Year of entry into college: 1953
Age at time of entry: Twenty
Faculty: Arts

Problem:

Three consecutive failures in Inter Arts. Absence from the B. A. Examination.

Reasons for failure:

Family problems. Marriage.

Subjects failed:

Not remembered.

Interview:

X is a broken man. For the last few years he has suffered immensely. According to the traditional custom, he was married to a girl he had never seen before and for whom he developed a great dislike from the first time he saw her. To make matters worse, just after marriage, her parents deceived her, took her away and that was the last X saw his wife. Quarrels between both the families have gone on ever since. Every peaceful means has failed, mediations, approaches and promises. X is in such a confused state.
state of mind that he does not know any longer whose fault it is, or what to do next. He does not even know whether he wants his wife any longer. On the one hand he would like to divorce her, on the other he feels that being married they should live together. He wants advice, help.

Only after he had unburdened his soul of this problem could X say something about his college career. He wanted to become a teacher and this was the reason why he went to college. Given his state of mind, X was questioned prudently about the failures previous to his marriage, but he did not seem to pay much attention and returned to the same theme. The point was not pursued any longer.

Comment:

The reason mentioned by X would be quite sufficient to explain his failures. However, the fact that he failed in the S. S. C. Examination four times and once in college before his marriage may be an indication that there were also other reasons.
Case No. 20

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Problem:

Failure and absence from the Inter Arts Examination. Graduation in six years.

Reasons for failure and absence:


Subjects failed:

Logic.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Difficult subject. Poor in expression.

Interview:

X's ambition was to become a teacher and in order to prepare himself for his future career he desired to go to college. He chose Arts because he liked literature, and because the low percentage he obtained at the S. S. C. Examination would not guarantee success in other faculties. The Principal
of his school seemed to confirm his choice. Right from the beginning of his college career X had to take up a job. The only one available was a post in the night shift of a factory. He is the eldest of five children and his did not want him to study unless he also earned something. Early morning X had to rush from the factory to college without food. On his return home he had the first meal of the day, rested and tried to study in his small, crowded and noisy house. Still X was able to pass out his F. Y. Examination but failed in Inter Arts. The only subject in which he said he had failed was Logic. He had experienced some difficulty in the subject from the beginning, and lacked a certain facility in expression. The following year he did not feel prepared to appear for the examination and absented himself. In October there was a re-examination and X passed out. At this time the economic crisis of the family was aggravated by the long sickness and convalescence of his younger brother, but X was determined to study on and finally graduated in the course of six years. Now he wants to fulfill his dream of becoming a teacher and do his M. A. at the same time, when he finds a suitable job.

X would have liked to have met with more financial facilities and be able to study without the constant worry of having to pay his college fees out of a meagre income. He would have also welcome the existence of an institution where poor students could study. There should not be more than sixty students in each class in order to have discipline and a more personal attention to the students. He would have also liked to have more frequent tests during the year and a more rational system of examination, whereby the work done during the year was taken into account.

Comment:

X had been frank and there was no reason to suspect there was other cause of failure. The fact that, in spite of so many difficulties, he could eventually graduate seems to confirm this assumption.
Case No. 21

General Facts:

- Sex: Male
- Native place: Urban
- Marital status: Married
- Family monthly income: Between Rs. 200 & 500
- Whether working or not: Yes

Scholastic Record:

- School: Urban
- Year of passing S. S. C.: 1952
- Number of attempts: One
- Percentage: Forty one
- Year of entry into college: 1953
- Age at time of entry: Nineteen
- Faculty: Arts

Problem:

Three consecutive failures in Inter Arts. Discontinuance of studies.

Reasons for failure:


Subjects failed:

Sanskrit.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Same as above.

Reasons for discontinuance:


Interview:

X said he had always been such a good student that he expected to obtain very high marks in the S. S. C. Examination, specially in Sanskrit. But a little
before the examination he fell sick and so could obtain only a low percentage. After his illness and the effort for the examination he needed rest and for a full year stayed at home. Just then his father retired from work and, as the eldest son, he felt it was his duty to work and support the family. The job he could find was not very remunerative, but since his wife was also earning, he thought he would be able to go to college. The first year he was still able to attend morning classes. This, and the fact that the F. Y. Examination was at that time a college examination, made it easier for him to pass. But when he was due to start his Inter Arts his employers changed his shift and it was almost impossible for him to attend any lectures. His terms were granted but he failed; and precisely in Sanskrit. He could not understand this at the time; the only reason he could now find for his failure was his poor attendance to college and the lack of peace to study. Since circumstances did not change after his first failure he went on failing till he decided to discontinue his studies. At that time also his younger sister married and since father did not have money necessary to make the traditional expenses, he borrowed the sum of Rs.2000. It will take time to pay this debt and only then he will be able to consider the question of resuming his studies.

X sees no way out for people like himself. They are millions and no Government will be able to help them.

Comment:

X appears bright enough and his conversation is intelligent. The reasons he stated for his failure and discontinuance seem quite sufficient.
Case No. 22

General Facts:

Sex: Male  
Native place: Rural  
Marital status: Married  
Family monthly income: Below Rs 200  
Whether working or not: Yes

Scholastic Record:

School: Urban  
Year of passing S. S. C.: 1943  
Number of attempts: One  
Percentage: Fifty  
Year of entry into College: 1953  
Age at time of entry: Twenty three  
Faculty: Arts

Problem:

Admission cancelled in Senior B. A. Graduation in five years.

Reasons for retention:

Political activities.

Interview:

X is a person of very pleasant manners, very cultured, well read and a very good conversationalist. More than cooperative he was eager to share his ideas with others. He has a liking for History and in particular for Dialectical Materialism, which seems to satisfy him and to answer all the problems of life. His ideal is to become a lecturer in History and spread his ideas and, in the course of time, to graduate in Law in order to give legal support to them. Two problems have stood in the way of his graduating earlier. His father died a good number of years ago and left behind plenty of debts which X has to pay. For this reason, immediately after school, he took up a job and gave private...
tuitions to S. S. O. students. When the factory where his father had worked finally sanctioned a half freeship on his behalf he went to college. In college X was as bright and successful as he had been in the school. His more mature age helped him also to stand head and shoulders above his classmates and with their respect and sympathy everything went allright till his senior year. Then he engaged in political activities in connection with the Maha Gujarat movement and was imprisoned. He was suspended from his job, could not keep his terms and so was unable to appear for the examination. However, far from being sorry for his action he feels proud to have suffered something for his ideal.

X would suggest that colleges make more provision to provide help to working students, for they are much more conscious of their duty than the rich students and make the most of the facility given for education. He would also advise students to refer to as many books as possible and not only to the text books, or, still worse, to guides. It seems to him there is too much option in the B. A. Examination papers.

Comment:

X's case was crystal clear. Only political activities interfered with his studies and he was proud of it.
Case No. 23

General Facts:

Sex: Male
Native place: Urban
Marital status: Married
Family monthly income: Below Rs 200
Whether working or not: Yes

Scholastic Record:

School: Urban
Year of passing S. S. C.: 1951
Number of attempts: One
Percentage: Second Class
Year of entry into College: 1953
Age at time of entry: Twenty
Faculty: Arts

Problem:

Two failures in Inter Arts. One failure in B. A. Not yet appeared again.

Reasons for failure:

For Inter: political activities, leave refused.
For B. A.: No time to study. Leave refused.

Subjects failed:

Not remembered.

Interview:

X should actually be considered as a case of wastage in Engineering for he had previously joined that faculty. This fact, however, was unknown till the time of the interview. He would have made a good engineer, so he believed, for his marks in the S. S. C. Examination, and particularly in Mathematics and Science, were good but he had to discontinue because of the family finances. His help was needed and he found the job he still keeps now. Then he joined an Arts college, but he could
not study. At 10 a.m. he had to be at the office, and left it very late, many a time near midnight. And so although he could pass his F. Y. Examination he failed twice in the Inter Arts and in B. A. In the last examination he had failed in many subjects but said he did not find any of them particularly difficult, he failed only because he was refused leave to prepare for his examination. However, it was only at the very end of the interview that the real reason for his failures in Inter Arts was discovered. He had taken a very active part in politics, spent on them most of his free time and energy, was arrested and put in jail.

X was very critical of the B. C. students. In his opinion these students misuse the many facilities given to them both for study and work. In particular they waste the money of their scholarships while other poor students receive no help. He would like to have the B. A. Examination shortened. Offices should grant long leaves and so students would be able to prepare for their examinations.

Comment:

X, as it appears from his conversation, is clever enough to have completed his B. A. within a reasonable period of time. However, he was prevented by his political activities, which certainly did him no good. As for the refusal of leave for his examination, it could be a sufficient reason as he had no time to study.
Case No. 24

General Facts:

Sex
Native place
Marital status
Family monthly income
Whether working or not
Male
Urban
Unmarried
Between Rs 200 & 500
No

Scholastic Record:

School
Year of passing S. S. C.
Number of attempts
Percentage
Year of entry into College
Age at time of entry
Faculty
Urban
1952
Three
Fifty one
1952
Nineteen.
Arts

Problem:

Two consecutive failures in B. A. Twice absent from the examination.

Reasons for failure:

Not known.

Subjects failed:

English.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Poor in English.

Reasons for absence from the examination:

Fear of failure.

Interview:

X is very polite although somewhat affected both in his manners and still more in his English. His conversation is rather cultured, though at times
pedantic. He seemed to try to convey the impression of being very well read in all points but specially in Indian Philosophy, on which he gave a long lecture during his interview.

In his elaborate speech he said he is the son of a doctor, but, unlike his elder brother, he had never developed an inclination for medicine. His interests are higher. He likes literature, chiefly English literature, for which, and for the learning of foreign languages he claimed to have great ability. This gave him the desire to become a writer in both languages, Gujarati and English, but specially he wanted to excel as an English novelist. The first step towards this ideal would be to write first a novel in Gujarati and once he became well known in the country as a writer translate it into English and publish it in India. This would open to him the doors of England and all other English speaking countries. X was very much surprised to find out he failed in the very subject in which he thought he was so good. For fear of a further failure he has not dared to appear for the examination these last two years. Now he will attempt it once more. He feels that eventhough he was unable to clear this first hurdle, he would stand a good chance of becoming a famed English writer, for it is his opinion that failing in English in the university examination does not necessarily mean a person does not know the language.

X finds plenty of indiscipline in our colleges. This is only the fault of the students for they do not work at all. At the most twenty percent of them have any interest in studies and the rest of them desire only to enjoy to the utmost of free college life. But the problem of student indiscipline is insoluble; college students are no longer children and to try to control them would only mean to make them behave like children once more. College authorities should just leave things as they are.

Comment:

Whether X failed in English only or also in other subjects would not make any difference in the appraisal of his case. To listen for five minutes to the pedantic exposition of his absurd ideas is enough to realise what the real cause of his failure is.
General Facts:

**Sex**
Male

**Native place**
Urban

**Marital status**
Unmarried

**Family monthly income**
Above Rs 500

**Whether working or not**
No

Scholastic Record:

**School**
Urban

**Year of passing S. S. C.**
1956

**Number of attempts**
One

**Percentage**
Fifty six

**Year of entry into College**
1956

**Age at time of entry**
Nineteen

**Faculty**
Arts

Problem:

Absence from the B. A. Examination. Still studying.

Reasons for absence:

Illness at the time of the examination.

Interview:

X is the youngest of five brothers. His father and two of his brothers are working, and so the family can afford to pay for his college fees. They would not have been able, however, to finance his science career, which was his first choice. X expected to graduate in due course for he found Arts studies very easy and passed year after year without the least difficulty. But just a few months before his examination he fell sick with typhus, and although he had the time to prepare for the examination, he preferred to take it easy, rest and give the examination the following year. Now, in order to keep somehow busy he had taken up a job while waiting for the examination time.
X suggested that the University and affiliated college should devise means to make students work more earnestly during the year. The best would be to change the whole examination system so that the final results are an average or percentage of the marks obtained in the final examination and in the tests held throughout the year. Schools and colleges should give more guidance to students. English should still remain as medium of instruction or at least as a very important second language because the textbooks now available in Gujarati are few and very poor in all respects. Parents care only for the final results of their children without checking their progress. Finally students themselves should work the whole year round and not only the last two months. They should read or refer to other books besides textbooks and guides. X feels that about fifty percent of the students do not take any interest in their studies. And this is all the more true among the richer ones. Poor and needy students are the most diligent of all.

Comment:

There was no way to check the claims made by X, but there was no reason to doubt of his sincerity. His more than average intelligence was made evident by his conversation.
Case No. 26

General Facts:

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Problem:

Discontinuance of studies during Inter Arts.

Reasons for discontinuance:

Financial problems, Marriage, work.

Interview:

X is the second child of a formerly rich man. In the time of the British his father was in a high position, but with the advent of independence he lost both his wealth and status. That was about the time when X was born. His childhood and boyhood were spent in great need, all the more keenly felt because of the previous social position. From the time he was in high school X began to earn his living. For lack of other means he took to peddling. In order to avoid recognition he would dress well when going to school and change later in such a way that not even one of his class teachers could recognize him when he once casually tried to buy things from him. That way he could manage to support aging father, mother and two younger brothers who were also
studying. At the time of joining college he gave up his peddling and took up a job in a factory. He found that peddling did no longer pay as the restrictions imposed by the authorities were too strictly enforced. Now with his wages, and a couple of tuitions he gives to school boys he makes a decent living. X could not be regular in his attendance as the factory shifts changed every month. After passing the F. Y. Examination he became an external student, but discontinued his studies shortly after registering for Inter Arts. His job did not permit him to concentrate on studies, and he thought that graduation would not help him improve his financial condition. To this was added his marriage that took place at the time.

X was very critical of the present educational system and specially of college teachers. He feels that they do not extend their cooperation to the really poor, sc. respectable people who will not dare to beg, but are in more need than those who pass for poor. They would not expect money from others but kind help. He himself had been very generous in his poverty; even then he was in the direst need he gave free tuitions to other students, he handed over to a poorer student his peddling implements to find now that others do not help him in his need. Professors, he said, only care for those students who will ask for tuitions and pay well or to those who can do them favours.

Comment:

The financial difficulties in which X spent his boyhood and the years of his college career would be a sufficient reason for all his failures both in school and college. And although his conversation did not betray an evident lack of intelligence, this possibility should never be entirely ruled out.
Case No. 27

General Facts:

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Scholastic Record:

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<tr>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td>Arts</td>
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Problem:

Two consecutive failures in Inter Arts. Now in Junior B. A.

Reasons for failure:


Subjects failed:

English, Logic and Psychology.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Poor in English. Logic too difficult.

Interview:

X is a very sickly man. For years he suffers from digestive troubles and he feels weak and cannot concentrate on studies. But there was more. In his first year, he followed that general tendency to enjoy the freedom of the new life, he attended as few classes as he could, spent the day roaming about with his friends, went to see many pictures,
read novels during the rest of the day, always in the firm conviction that the F. Y. Examination need no preparation. Unfortunately for him he was right, he passed out and continued to waste his time in Inter Arts. This time he failed in three subjects. Besides his own negligence, X thinks that the unconcern his parents showed for his studies also contributed to his failure. They never inquired into his habits, his attendance to college and the preparation of his examination. This in turn was probably the effect of the constant quarrels between the various members of his joint family. As for the subjects failed, X said his English had always been very poor in school, but on coming to college he found out there was a great gap between the standards of the school and those of college. Logic was a difficult subject and his failure in Psychology was merely the effect of his general negligence. After his failure, X wanted to become more serious about his studies but in fact continued wasting his time and energies as before. Only after his second failure did he open his eyes and take studies with a little more sense of responsibility; he passed his Inter Arts Examination and is now earnestly preparing for his junior B. A.

X would hold parents responsible for the negligence of their children. Many are illiterate and so are easily deceived. Colleges also should be more strict in enforcing attendance and demanding work from the students by means of frequent examinations. Some of the professors know their subjects but do not know how to teach, and this is a ready excuse for students to absent themselves from the lectures. The tutorial system now introduced in some colleges is useful, but in practice it is conducted by inexperienced "fellows" and so are not taken seriously. Also the "fellows" cannot command the respect of the students.

Comment:
X's chief reason for failure seems to be his utter negligence of studies. However, his poor health, the constant quarrels at home and the lack of interest of his parents in his progress, seems to have contributed no little to this negligence.
Case No. 28

General Facts:

- **Sex**: Male
- **Native place**: Urban
- **Marital status**: Married
- **Family monthly income**: Between Rs 200 & 500
- **Whether working or not**: Yes

Scholastic Record:

- **School**: Urban
- **Year of passing S. S. C.**: 1956
- **Number of attempts**: One
- **Percentage**: Fifty two
- **Year of entry into College**: 1956
- **Age at time of entry**: Eighteen
- **Faculty**: Arts

Problem:

Withdrawal of the B. A. Examination form.

Reasons for withdrawal of form:

- Leave not granted for the Preliminary Examination.

Interview:

X is the eldest of two children. When he was still very young, father died leaving the family without any support. However, the financial problem did not become acute till his second year in college. He then had to take up a full time job. Although he could scarcely study, for he felt very tired after attending lectures in the morning and then going for work, he still managed to pass every year. Now, in his senior year he was not given leave for the Preliminary Examinations. X feels confident that he will be able to give his examination this year and pass.

X thinks that all students who think they are ready for the final examination should be given the form by the respective college.
Comment:

From the information available there is no way to confirm X's statement. His sincerity, however, seems to rule out any other possible reason for withdrawal.

Case No. 29

General Facts:

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<tr>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td>Arts</td>
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</table>

Problem:

Discontinuance of studies during F. Y. Arts.

Reasons for discontinuance:

Expired.

Interview:

Having received the invitation for the interview, X's brother appeared to give the following information about his college career. X had joined college, a young, strong and clever boy, the hope of the family. After a few months he felt ill and since he had a little persistent fever he was put in bed. He was suffering from T. B. and in less than six months he was dead. No more details about his college career could be remembered after so many years.
General Facts:

Sex: Female
Native place: Urban
Marital status: Unmarried
Family monthly income: Between Rs 200 & 500
Whether working or not: No

Scholastic Record:

School: Urban
Year of passing S. S. C.: 1955
Number of attempts: Two
Percentage: Forty five
Year of entry into College: 1955
Age at time of entry: Nineteen
Faculty: Arts

Problem:
Two consecutive failures in Inter Arts.

Reasons for failure:
Poor memory and neglect of studies.

Subjects failed:
English.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:
Defective teaching, poor in English.

Interview:
X wanted to go to college and graduate following the tradition established by her elder brothers and sisters all of whom were already graduates. She also felt that nowadays a girl has to be well educated if she wants a good proposal. The parents opposed her wishes but she finally managed to win their consent. Once in college, however, she did
not find studies as easy as she had anticipated. She discovered a strange phenomenon in her; while she read novels in large numbers and could remember all about them, somehow or other she could not retain in her memory the subjects taught in class. Analysing this a little more she found out that what she could remember of the novels was not names and other technical details but only the thread of the novel story. This lack of memory accounted for her two failures in Inter Arts. But her reading so many novels and the interest she was taking in music and other artistic activities took so much of her time that she neglected her studies. She passed her Inter Arts Examination at the third attempt and hopes now to graduate in due course. Explaining her failures, X said that she found that the teaching of English was not satisfactory. However, in the course of the interview she came to the conclusion that the main reason was not so much the teaching but the gap she found between the standards of English in school and those in college.

X thinks that there is still something defective in the teaching of English in colleges. Students are expected to acquire a certain degree of expression in this language. This is wrong in her opinion. English should be taught only as a second language to enable students to refer to other books. Only those students who desire to go abroad and enlarge the field of their studies should be taught English in the manner it is taught nowadays.

Comment:

What X considered a lack of memory could in general be said to be lack of ability for college studies. Her intelligent conversation, however, does not seem to confirm this assumption. Her failure could very well be due to a defective method in her studies or lack of guidance. Her interests in reading and music may also have had not a small share in her failure.
Case No. 31

General Facts:

- Sex: Male
- Native place: Urban
- Marital status: Married
- Family monthly income: Below Rs 200
- Whether working or not: Yes

Scholastic Record:

- School: Urban
- Number of attempts: One
- Percentage: Fifty six
- Year of entry into College: 1955
- Age at time of entry: Twenty two
- Faculty: Arts

Problem:

- Interruption of studies for three years after F. Y.

Reasons for interruption:

- Financial problems. Had to work.

Interview:

X came for advice. His life ambition had been to join the Police. As a preparatory step he wanted to join the N. C. C. and so find out if he would be able to subject himself to a life of regularity and faithfulness to duty. As soon as he was admitted to college he gave his name for the N. C. C. and from the first day he was the most regular and punctual of all the college cadets. After passing the F. Y. Examination his elder brother lost his job and he had to work. He found employment in the Telegraph office, a post he kept for three years. But since his assignment was outside the city he lost all opportunities to continue his studies. Meanwhile he was waiting for a promotion and a transfer that never came. Therefore he left that job and took another in the Government that
brought him back to town. Now he could finally prepare for the Inter Arts Examination. In the course of that year he was called by the Police for an interview as his application was still on the waiting list. He attended the interview, but was told to return after passing the Inter Arts Examination. Now X is at a loss what to do. His old liking for the Police Force is still very strong, but through his work in the Telegraph Department he had discovered a rare ability for mechanics until then unknown. Finally he has come to like also the job he is now doing in the Government Offices. As for remuneration, of the three prospective employments, the Police offers him more advantages, free quarters, a higher starting salary, other facilities plus a certain increment on seniority basis and personal merits. He only fears that if he were to change his mind after a few years of service in the Police he would then be too old to continue his college studies or learn a new trade.

X came to the conclusion that this interest for the police ranks highest and is the most deeply rooted; he trained himself for it for a longer period of time; the material advantages at present and the prospects of advancement on a near future seem also more certain. And as for future contingencies they can never be entirely ruled out from any career. By the end of the interview X seemed to have made up his mind to join the Police.

X tries to look at college education from the pragmatic point of view. He finds some subjects such as Logic, of no use. As for English he thinks that nowadays the standard in college is much too high for the ordinary student. The solution is either to raise the standard of English in the schools or to have good and abundant college text books in Gujarati. The middle-way system prevalent nowadays, cannot be continued any longer, it is very detrimental to the students.

Comment:

The fact that X came for advice and made a detailed exposition of his case seems to rule out any other possible cause of interruption.
Case No. 32

General Facts:

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<tr>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td>Arts</td>
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</table>

Problem:

Three failures in Inter Arts. Discontinuance of studies.

Reasons for failure:

Poor in English.

Reasons for discontinuance:


Interview:

X is very shy and seems to suffer from an inferiority complex, probably on account of low social status. He admitted that fact later on and said it had also something to do with his failure. But the main reason for his repeated failures both in school and college was English. He said he had always found it very difficult although he was very good in other vernacular languages such as Gujarati and Urdu - his mother tongue. His difficulty in English increased on his joining college; he found the standard of English in college was much too high for him. His classmates came across the same difficulty. After
failing thrice in Inter Arts X was discouraged and began to doubt of his ability to graduate eventually. And there was also his financial position. His father had died when he was very young and his elder brothers were all working in order to support the rest of the family, and he felt he had to contribute his share, too. However, he has been unable to find suitable employment anywhere. Good jobs are reserved for graduates. For the time being he has been giving tuitions to school boys while looking still for a more lucrative employment.

X finds that the system of teaching English is defective. Either the standard of English in the schools has to be raised or that of the Universities lowered. As it is there is now a gap between school and college that most students cannot bridge.

Comment:

X may have failed only in English and given up studies on this account. However, two failures in school and three in college, even though they may have happened in only one subject are indicative of some inability for studies. His shyness and whatever problem was lying behind, must have contributed also to his failure.
### General Facts:

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### Scholastic Record:

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<tr>
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<td>Arts</td>
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### Problems:

- Failure in Inter Arts. Graduation in five years.

### Reasons for failure:

- Sports. Personal Problems and Family Problems.

### Interview:

X is a very troubled young man and in need of some help. For more than three hours he told all his troubles in a continuous monologue that could have lasted much longer. His personal and familiar troubles - the reasons for his failure - started when he was still quite young. His father is a very wealthy merchant that has made plenty of money by his own efforts starting from scratch. He has a very strong character and of great determination. Naturally, he would expect his children to be at least what he is and has even expressed his desire that all become nothing less than "prime ministers or presidents". He has never understood, nor apparently loved, his children. Whenever their achievements did not match his expectation he resorted to punishments and humiliations of the
children in front of their relations and friends. Nor was physical punishment excluded from his educational methods. X, still very young, ran away from home several times reaching at times as far as Calcutta. Once he was even put in jail for a short time by the Police who found him roaming about aimlessly. He has been for his father a "problem child." In one of his flights from home he spent one full year as a teacher in a high school where, as he put it, he had been instrumental in raising to unprecedented heights the number of passes in the S. S. C. Examination.

Another factor contributing to his failure was his activity in the field of sports. Although of a short stature X is very strong in body and has been able to master almost all games, and has been awarded a good number of prizes in inter school and intercollege tournaments. This success in sports gave him a sense of compensation for his "failures" in pleasing his father.

A third main factor in his failure was the very strong attraction he has felt, ever since he can remember, for the opposite sex. He admitted that behind much of his efforts to excel in sports was the urge to please a particular girl student of his own school. This strong attraction puzzled him very much and he has never been able to account for it. On the one hand he sees that other young men are very much like himself. They have only one thing in their minds, sex, there is nothing that can arouse their interest accept sex; international events, the prospects of bright future, all these or other great ideals have no appeal for them. On the other hand he has suffered great disappointments in this respect. Three different girls have claimed his heart in successive periods and all three of them have turned him down at the last moment. He has now reached the conclusion that the hearts of women are deceptive. Yet he feels he cannot live without them. This mental torture has prevented him at times from getting any rest or nourishment. And from disappointment with girls he has come to be disappointed with humanity as a whole. He is by nature very generous. Once he gave shelter and help to a poor student, a very intimate friend of his, till he could pass his degree and find good
employment. Now this friend has never thanked him either in word or in deed. He does not even talk to him and acts as if he did not recognize him any longer. X has lost faith in man, in God, in religion in everything. He no longer visits the temple or says any prayer. His only reading is Psychology, novels and these of two types, sex novels and mysteries.

In spite of these troubles X has managed to pass his B. A. in Economics and is now trying for his B. Com. which he expects to pass easily. Of the subjects in which he failed and the special reasons for these failures nothing could be learned.

Comment:

The sincerity and earnestness with which X spoke left no doubt as to what the real reason for failure was.
Case No. 54

General Facts:

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Problem:

Appeared for the B. A. Examination externally.
Graduation in five years.

Reasons for appearing externally:

Financial problems. Worked as a teacher.

Interview:

X is a rather reserved although cooperative person. She comes from a family of low social status. The family income at the time when she joined college was not too low and besides the school and college expenses of all the children were covered by Government scholarships. But as the family grew larger, expenses multiplied and the parents were in need of more additional income, and so X worked as a teacher right from the beginning of her college studies. She liked that work, for she intended to become a permanent teacher after training. At the beginning of the junior year, X felt she would not be able to attend classes while teaching and decided to appear for the B. A. as an external student;
that way she would save the expenses of the college fees and be able to prepare for the examinations more at leisure. She passed in due course in the third class and is now doing the B. T. course and after her training she will resume her teaching.

It is X's opinion that most of the regular students who appear externally do so because of the same financial difficulties that she went through. It is these students who are more serious about their studies and on an average have a higher percentage of passes.

Comment:

Since X's scholastic record was good and her conversation intelligent and sincere, her statement was accepted without hesitation.
Case No. 35

General Facts:

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Problem:

Three consecutive failures in Inter Arts. Undecided.

Reasons for failure:

Family and personal problems.

Subjects failed:

Economics and Logic.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Lack of interest, defective teaching.

Interview:

X has had a very unfortunate life. She belongs to a family of successful merchants. Her own parents were well to do when she went to college and could easily afford to pay for her college education. She hoped that a degree would better her chances of a good match. All went well till her Inter Arts. Suddenly all the members of the family fell ill, father, mother, brother. She spent long hours...
nursing them, but all died one after the other after long and painful sickness. She was left alone in this world and had to leave her parental house and go to stay with her uncle. In her new home she has found love, care and she has been treated very well. But somehow she feels that it is not the same, her eldest cousin does not seem to show much appreciation of her. She is also worried because she is not so young and all her friends have been married for years and have children while she has not yet been able to find a good suitor. At present she helps in the household duties and would like to prepare for her examination, but all the troubles she went through still worry her, and what is worse the mere sight of the examination hall, where she has already failed three times, makes her very nervous. She wanted guidance and advice as to what to do in future for her constant nightmare is whether she will find a good husband or will have to remain a spinster for ever.

Comment:

It was difficult to appraise X's case completely. She was very shy and her case was found out by chance while taking the interview of her cousin. One thing seemed certain, her family and personal problems do not explain everything, for she had already failed twice in the S. S. C. before any of these problems arose.
Case No. 36

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Problem:
Failure in B. A. Graduation in five years.

Reasons for failure:
Illness at the time of the examination.

Subjects failed:
English.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:
Same as above.

Interview:
X came for the interview after the day's work. He looked tired and repeatedly manifested a desire to get it over soon. His father is a retired clerk now seventy two years old. X has to support him, his own wife and two children, with the meager salary of just over one hundred rupees. He therefore finds it hard to continue study combined with work. But what he feels more is that the society
in which he works does not seem to take any notice of the seniority or efficiency of its employees. He would have left it long ago had he found a job more remunerative and compatible with his studies. X said he had been a very good student both in high school and college. He only failed in the E. A. because a few months before the examination he suffered some trouble in the spine and was confined to bed. When the examination time came he had not yet fully recovered, but he insisted in appearing against the advice of the doctor. He felt pain throughout the examination period but he could still bear it. However, on the last day—the English paper—the pain was too much for him and he had to leave the hall. His failure in English, was due to no other reason. When it became known in the office that X had passed the B. A. the head of the office, who had always been opposed to the education of his staff, created a little trouble so that X did not dare to register for the M. A. at once. Now he has done so quietly, and once he passes he will leave his job and find a better one, most probably as a college teacher.

Comment:

X speaks correct and fluent English, a fact that seemed to confirm his statement. Two other facts remained unaccounted for, his failure in the S. S. C. and his passing the S. S. C. at such an advanced age. Prudence, however advised refraining from further questioning.
Case No. 37

General Facts:

Sex: Male
Native place: Urban
Marital status: Unmarried
Family monthly income: Above Rs 500
Whether working or not: No

Scholastic Record:

School: Urban
Year of passing S. S. C.: 1953
Number of attempts: One
Percentage: Forty five
Year of entry into college: 1955
Age at time of entry: Eighteen
Faculty: Arts

Problem:

Failures in F. Y. and Inter Arts. Graduation in six years.

Reasons for failure:

Other activities: Politics, Social life, Dramatics.

Subjects failed and reasons for failure:

Not remembered.

Interview:

X wanted guidance. He is now in his final year of counsel at bar but he finds he has abilities for other things also. For a time he was employed in a Government department. He was very successful in his job, and feels a certain attraction for it on account of the security and good remuneration it offers. On the other hand he dislikes this type of employment because it entails routine, and servitude, and he is very independent in thought and action. He likes politics and has sometimes
taken active part in them with a good amount of success. He made public speeches side by side with other great leaders and, judging from the results, he thinks he was a good match for them, young though he was. However, he feels the strongest attraction for the practice of law. His father is a very outstanding lawyer and for many years he was in the High Court in Bombay. X thinks that his father's name would help him very much in making a good start but he feels that nowadays there are very many lawyers and only the very prominent ones will succeed in obtaining a good position, and he visualises that during the first years of practice he will have to fight for his subsistence until he makes a name for himself. When he contrasts this instability of a lawyer with the security of a Government employee he wavers. But again he feels he has a nature and abilities for the practice of law; he belongs to an aristocratic family and already from his boyhood he was accustomed to deal with all kinds of people, he also has the ability to understand and solve their problems. Then he is interested in oratory; as a matter of fact he has belonged to several dramatic societies and has taken very important roles in them with great success. Casually X mentioned that these qualities and activities in which he has taken such an active part, public speaking, politics, dramatics and social life have influenced his failures both in F. Y. and Inter Arts, for he neglected studies completely to the extent of not even having opened his books till few days before the examination; and even now, in order to prepare for his examination, he has to leave his house and lock himself in another deserted building his father owns in other quarter of the town.

At the end of the interview X came to the conclusion that practice is what suits his nature and education best.

Comment:

X appeared very intelligent and sincere. From the way he stated his case it was obvious that the real reason for his failure was his neglect of studies on account of his multiple activities.
Case No. 38

General Facts:

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<tr>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td>Arts</td>
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Problem:

Failure in Inter Arts. Discontinuance after passing the following year.

Reasons for failure:

Marriage, Job, Financial problems.

Subjects failed and reasons for failure:

Not given.

Reasons for discontinuance:

Financial problems.

Interview:

X came for the interview unannounced and with the apparent intention of asking for some financial help. He said he lost his father when he was very young and his eldest brother had to work to support his aged mother. His younger sister is also employed and earns a little, but being married,
she cannot help them. The youngest brother is still in school. All the members of the family have an artistic temperament; he himself likes painting, music and in general all the fine arts. His great ambition was to become a famed painter and so make a living. But he has never had the opportunity to develop his talents. He then conceived the idea of graduating and serve in a high school as a drawing teacher in the hope that this job would provide him with the money and opportunities he needed. But all his hopes have been ruined. He was forced by his mother to marry when he was still in his first year in college, consequently he had to find a job as a teacher in a primary school to support his wife. He could not study and teach and so he failed in the examination. The following year he passed, a fact that gave him a little hope. However, marriage has spoiled his further artistic career; alone he would manage somehow to pull on but having to support his wife he cannot give up his job. In view of his financial position he has decided at least to establish himself as a primary teacher of drawing. For this purpose he has now given up his job and is now undergoing one year's training in drawing. Up to now a rich man of his village financed his studies, but suddenly, without giving any reason he has discontinued the help. This leaves X in a difficult position, as the training school has organized an artistic tour to be financed by the students and he is not in a position to go. He feels utterly disappointed in the sight of so many difficulties. Recently he contributed some portraits to an exhibition of paintings, but he feels that in Gujarat no one will take interest in artists. He cannot expect any help from anybody. His community is not so organized as others are, and members of other communities will not come to his aid for they already help their needy members. X, is now on the verge of despair.

X believes that there is a good amount of corruption in the distribution of freeships; many of them go to those who do not need them or do not make a good use of them. While people like himself who are in real need of help and would put it to a good use will never get it.
Comment:

From the data of his scholastic record and from his conversation X could be rated as an ordinary student who, if not otherwise impeded, would have been able to complete his college career in due time.

Case No. 39

General Facts:

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<tr>
<td>Faculty</td>
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Problem:

Failure in F. Y. Absence from the Inter Arts Examination. Failure in B. A. Not appeared again yet.

Reasons for failure:


Subjects failed and reasons for failure:

Not given.
Interview:

X proved a very poor interviewee. His replies were very vague. This was attributed in the beginning to lack of expression. The questions had to be repeated time and again till finally it was discovered he suffered from deafness. But even then his cooperation was still poor. However, the few following facts were obtained finally. X went to college following the general opinion that college is the next logical step after the S. S. C. He even wanted to go for Science, but was refused admission. During his first year in college he developed an acute deafness that prevented him from hearing well what was said in class and at the same time he felt too shy to use any auditive aid or even to move forward to the first benches. He would not dare to manifest this handicap to any of his companions or teachers and naturally enough he withdrew more and more from the company of men and became self-centred and sensitive. His interest and diligence in studies declined also very much and so he failed in the F. Y. Examination. He passed, however, the following year and joined the Inter Arts class. But his sensitiveness and his deafness far from decreasing were growing more acute. He absented himself from class very often and was still more retired than in his first year and did not dare to appear for the final examination. The following year he studied at home and passed out. His nervousness on account of his handicap was always on the increase and now it was transferred to the examinations. He failed once more. These last years he feels still more nervous and has not dared to appear for the examination though he hopes to pass one day.

Comment:

X appears to suffer very much on account of his deafness and its subsequent effects. Even at the end of the long interview he had not lost his shyness and reserve. It is difficult to say whether his deficient cooperation is the effect of his long suffering or of some lack of intelligence. A proof of his suspiciousness and simplicity was his candid asking after the interview what impression he had made.
Case No. 40

General Facts:

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Problem:

Interruption of studies during Inter Arts for four years and a half. Now in senior B. A.

Reasons of interruption:


Interview:

X is now an active member of a society founded for the help of poor and needy students. He thought it would be in the interest of both the society and the interviewer to be acquainted with each other's work and so the interview was arranged in the office of the society in the presence of several of the members. The interview was very informal and much of the conservation centred on the aims and purpose of the society and of student problems in general. Finally some scraps of information about X's college career were gathered, enough to get an idea about X's college career in particular.

The reasons that moved X to go to college were of
a complex nature. His father, a shop keeper, has to maintain a family of ten members of whom X is the eldest. It was thought advisable that he graduate and get a good job to help maintain the family. In X’s mind there were other unconscious motives too. He had been thrilled by the yarns senior college students used to spin about their mischief-making, the freedom prevalent in college life, the absence from lectures, the conversations in the canteens, the facility to meet girls without the restrictions of school and society, etc. For His choice of Arts in preference to Science or Commerce, in spite of the good results he had obtained in the S. S. C. there was a special reason namely, the fear he might have to work any day in order to help his father. In his first year of college X was a perfect replica of what he had heard others had been. He did not attend lectures, roamed about the town, made friends with both boys and girls and did not open a book, except novels, till the very end of the year. Only then he studied a little and luckily passed. Encouraged by this experience he continued in the same line the following year. By the second term his father forced him to work. Very soon after that he fell sick and suffered severe stomach-aches that did not permit him continue his studies. But he kept his job, for his father was in need of his salary. Once employed X was not very keen on continuing his studies. But now on the occasion of the foundation of this new society for students he has felt the need of graduating.

From his dealing with poorer students, X has learned that most students find nowadays education too expensive, specially textbooks. Colleges could, in his opinion, run stalls of second-hand, cheap textbooks. He believed that English is the greatest problem students meet on their arrival in college. The University standard of English is far too high for the ordinary freshman, because the standard of English in schools had come down while the textbooks in college are the same as were used many years before. The medium in college should be Gujarati, but he also feels that English needs a prominent place not only because at present the
textbooks written in Gujarati are very few and poor in every respect, but because of many of the reference books will never be translated into Gujarati. He also thinks that the examinations are only memory tests, and professors contribute to this evil by dictating notes in class and by publishing guides. Students do not attend class in the firm belief—confirmed by experience—that they will pass if they copy those notes from some good student and mug them up at the last moment. Finally colleges should exact attendance more strictly and force students somehow to work more during the year and train them in discipline.

Comment:

X was very frank and sincere and had made a good though informal exposition of his case.

Case No. 41

General Facts:

Sex
Native place
Marital status
Family monthly income
Whether working or not
Male
Urban
Unmarried
Between Rs 200 & 500
No

Scholastic Record:

School
Year of passing S. S. C.
Number of attempts
Percentage
Year of entry into college
Age at time of entry
Faculty
Urban
1956
One
Forty four
1956
Eighteen
Arts

Problem:

Failure in Inter Arts. Preparing for B. A.
Reasons for failure:

Family quarrels. Father wanted him to marry.

Subjects failed:

Hindi.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Weak foundation. Never studied it before.

Interview:

X had very little time at his disposal and so the interview was reduced to the most essential points. The only problem in X's college education was that his father, following the custom of his community, wanted him to marry when he was in Inter Arts. Now, X found this custom most inconvenient and refused to marry. Quarrels between father and son went on for the whole year. He could not concentrate on his studies, for the moment he reached home back from college his father was at it. And not only his father but all the relations and neighbours tried to break down his resistance. X, always argued that he was too young to marry, that he had no income of his own to support his wife and that if married he would not be able to continue his studies. Finally father yielded, but X had lost the year. The final examinations found him utterly unprepared. He was surprised to find out that he had failed only in Hindi. This was obvious in a way for he had never done Hindi before he went to college and so his Hindi was very poor.

Comment:

Time did not permit a better assessment of X's case. However, his sincerity seemed quite genuine from the fact that he was eager to give the interview in spite of not having much free time. He looked intelligent enough to be able to graduate in due course.
General Facts:

Sex: Male
Native place: Urban
Marital status: Unmarried
Family monthly income: Between Rs 200 & 500
Whether working or not: Yes

Scholastic Record:

School: Urban
Year of passing S. S. C.: 1955
Number of attempts: One
Percentage: Forty four
Year of entry into college: 1955
Age at time of entry: Twenty two
Faculty: Arts

Problem:

Discontinuance of studies during Inter Arts.

Reasons for discontinuance:

Good job. No need of graduation.

Interview:

X wanted a good employment and, since he was not in a hurry and there was no prospect at the time, he decided to join college and so spend the time in a useful manner. All the time he was on the lookout for a good opportunity and this came when he was doing his Inter Arts. An acquaintance of his offered him a good post as a typist in a firm he was starting. This was a full-time job and X did not have any time left for his studies. After some time, seeing that the post was made permanent and he would have easily have chances of advancement, X decided to discontinue studies. Shortly afterwards he married and has now no intention of graduating for he sees he has no need of a degree to earn his living.
Comment:

X’s case and his scholastic background were known through the friend who invited him and the interview did not reveal any other reasons for discontinuance.

Case No. 43

General Facts:

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Problem:

Absence from the B. A. Examination three times.

Reasons for absence:


Interview:

X showed himself very cooperative from the beginning. His poor English was no hindrance to the exposition of his case. The son of a village farmer, X, expected that graduation would open to him access to a good job. He would have desired to take Science, but for lack of guidance in school he dropped Mathematics
and all the Science subjects in order to secure a high percentage in the S. S. C. and with it admission to a Science college. Since no Science college would take him and his brother was already a Commerce student, he took Arts. In college he never experienced any difficulty whatsoever. Studies were easy enough, the change from village to city did not create any problem for him and X adapted himself to the new life without any difficulty. According to the custom of the caste X contracted marriage at the prescribed age; and since the ceremony coincided with the college examination for promotion to the senior class, he absented himself and had to produce a medical certificate to justify his absence—a thing, he said, very frequently done by students. During his senior year his elder brother—who up to the time had given him lodging and boarding in his own house—sent him out and refused to support him any longer. The cause of this sudden change could not be learned. In order to collect the necessary money to support his wife and pay for the rent of the one-room tenement he had rented, X gave tuitions to school boys preparing for the S. S. C. Examination. He managed to keep his terms by attending to the minimum number of lectures, and since he could not afford to purchase the textbooks he borrowed them from his friends. But when the examination time came he felt he was not ready and in spite of having been given the form he absented himself. Shortly after that he found a good job. This has changed his financial position; he has moved to more spacious quarters, has been able to purchase the necessary textbooks, and is preparing now in all earnest for the examination. There is only one difficulty. The firm where he is employed does not permit its employees to study. As a matter of fact he was for some time suspicious that the interviewer had been sent by the firm to make inquiries in this line. Now, in order to be able to prepare for the examination he intends not to take leave for three years, then three months before the final examinations he will take "sick leave" and appear. Once he has graduated the firm will not be able to take any measures against him, on the contrary, it will have to promote him according to rules.
X thinks that the attitude of his and other firms as regards student employees is very arbitrary. On the one hand they want graduates for the posts of more responsibility and on the other hand they will not allow their own employees to study and so obtain promotion. The Government should interfere in the matter to put an end to this abuse and should even positively help this class of students. It is also his opinion that students work hard only at the end of the year and that is the main cause of their poor performance in the examinations. To remedy this evil he would suggest that during the year frequent tests be taken by the colleges and that the junior B. A. Examination be taken by the university as it is done in junior B. Sc.

Comment:

From the scholastic data available and from X's conversation it seems reasonable to conclude that the only cause of his failure was the one stated.
Case No. 44

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Problem:

Absence from the B. A. Examination. Graduation in five years.

Reasons for absence from the examination:

Desire to secure first class results.

Interview:

The house in which X stays is small and poor. The interview was conducted in the only room which serves as dining room during the day and bedroom at night. X's father and elder brother were present and both took a leading part in the conversation while X himself remained rather shy and silent throughout. Father did not study beyond high school and then was employed as a clerk in a Government office. He has always lived in poverty and even now when his elder son is already earning he seems to be leading a very austere life; he still stays in the same house he occupied when he married, lacks all the modern facilities—electricity included, and said that poverty was a difficulty his sons
experienced also in their studies. For they have to help in the house, though this work falls entirely on the younger son, and at night they have to study by the light of a kerosene lamp. X, as well as his brother, had been first class students and X hoped to graduate in first class and so become a college professor of Sanskrit, his principal subject and the one in which he had always obtained very high marks. But because of the difficulties in the home he could not prepare well enough for a first class and decided to appear for the examination the following year. X, was very disappointed when he was given a second class. Now he would have to study further and this meant additional expenses.

Both the brothers had prepared beforehand a long list of suggestions. They criticized the examination system very strongly. They said that professors did not assess the papers objectively. Although this was mentioned chiefly to explain X's second class, they proved this contention by the results of an enquiry X's brother had conducted while in the teachers college. They suggested therefore that the present system of essay-type of questions be discontinued and a more objective type of question papers be introduced. The course in B. A. is very lengthy and the time given for each paper too short. In the examinations there are too many questions to test the memory of students and too few to test their intelligence. Personal guidance in college is almost non-existing. This could be avoided by reducing the number of students in each class and by introducing tutorials. Some of the professors are not well prepared and examiners have been known to give away the examination questions. They finally advocated for the teaching in college through the mother tongue, but they felt that English is still very necessary for college education and the lowering of standards in college is mainly due to the neglect of English.

**Comment:**

X's shyness, probably due to the presence of his father and brother, did not permit him to state
his own case by himself. The impression left by the visit was that X was forced to do all the household work while his brother was left free to study. This discrimination, more than the poverty in which the family lives, seems to be the reason for his inability to prepare well for the examination. And although the scholastic record does not permit to draw a definite conclusion, X seems to have overrated his ability to graduate in first class.

Case No. 45

General Facts:

- Sex: Female
- Native place: Urban
- Marital status: Married
- Family monthly income: Below Rs 200
- Whether working or not: No

Scholastic Record:

- School: Urban
- Year of passing S. S. C.: 1952
- Number of attempts: One
- Percentage: Forty six
- Year of entry into college: 1952
- Age at time of entry: Eighteen
- Faculty: Arts

Problem:

Interruption of studies for four years after F. Y. Passed Inter as an external student. Preparing to appear for B. A. also externally.

Reasons for interruption:

Marriage.

Interview:

X was engaged in her household duties when visited,
and the care of the children interrupted the inter-
view several times. Of her studies she said that 
when she completed her schooling she wanted to 
become a doctor. Her marks in Science would have 
opened to her the doors of any college, but as 
she wanted to marry she thought a liberal education 
would equip her better to bring up her children. 
At the end of her first year in college she fell 
in love with a young man of different religion. 
Her parents who are very broad-minded, did not 
object and so the marriage took place soon after 
her F. Y. Examination. The four years following 
her marriage were spent in looking after her 
children but all the time X wanted to resume her 
studies for she felt that the wife of a lawyer 
should be as educated as possible. Now, having 
already five children, X thinks she can freely con-
centrate on her studies. As a matter of fact 
she has already passed her Inter Arts Examination 
and intends to appear for the B. A. as an external 
student in due course.

X would advice young girls to try to complete their 
studies before marriage. Afterwards it becomes very 
difficult.

Comment:

X looked intelligent and there seemed to have been 
no other possible problem in the way of her studies. 
Her background was also known from her sister who 
had been interviewed previously.
Case No. 46.

General Facts:
- Sex: Male
- Native place: Urban
- Marital status: Unmarried
- Family monthly income: Above Rs 500
- Whether working or not: No

Scholastic Record:
- School: Urban
- Number of attempts: One
- Percentage: Fifty
- Year of entry into college: 1955
- Age at time of entry: Nineteen
- Faculty: Arts

Problem:
- Failure in Inter Arts. Graduation in five years.

Reasons for failure:
- Wrong choice of subjects.

Subjects failed:
- Additional English.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:
- English too difficult.

Interview:
X was met casually at a friend's place. He extended an invitation and the interview was fixed. On arrival X seemed different, he was no longer the natural and uninhibited man first met. His father wanted to be present at the interview and he carried on the conversation himself and gave X
very little chance to express himself. This authoritarian attitude of the father was all the more evident when X produced the questionnaire he had filled in beforehand. Father read it from beginning to end and strongly disagreed with the entry "reasons for failure: wrong choice of subject", for it had been at his suggestion that the son had chosen Additional English in preference to Urdu or other language more familiar to him. Father wanted him well trained in English as they depend very much on this language for their export-import business. He did not seem to take into account that a school boy who had studied through the medium of Gujarati was not in a position to take such a difficult subject when he had to struggle with a new medium of instruction.

Comment:

X seemed quite right in stating as the reason for his failure the wrong choice of subject. This reason in its turn was the effect of the overly authoritarian attitude of his father.
General Facts:

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Problem:

Failure in Inter Arts and B. A. Graduation in six years.

Reasons for failure:

Negligence in studies on account of business.

Subjects failed:

English and History in B. A.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

English difficult. History specially neglected.

Interview:

This interview was conducted in two different sessions and amidst the frequent interruptions of customers who kept on coming to the interviewee's office. The following fragments of his college education could finally gathered. X said he had been a clever student while in school, although...
he had never been very diligent in his studies, particularly in college. For him studies were a sort of a hobby. His main interest lay in business and in religious-philosophical subjects. As regards his religious interests he said he had read every possible book on Hinduism because for a time he even had his doubts about its truth and he went so far as to meet priests of other religions in search of light. This crisis was soon over. Then he went on reading and attending every talk or lecture given on Hinduism and he even claimed to have given some himself with success. He was so taken up by the religious feats of ascetics that for a time he contemplated leaving the world and going to the forest. Now he has come to the conclusion that it is better to live in the world for some time, make some money, and retire to the forest at a later age. His business took also a great amount of his attention. He took every opportunity that offered itself of buying and selling things and making some profit in the deal, thus he had been able to build a rather successful business of his own. With all this he did not have the time or the interest to attend college, he found the lectures very boring and uninteresting. He could read and assimilate in a few hours what the professors took days to explain. So, little by little his attendance grew more and more rare till he finally stopped going to college altogether. He could not remember what subjects he had failed in Inter Arts for he had neglected them all, but he passed the following year with a little more effort. The same happened in B. A., his neglect of studies led to his failure in English and History. English he had always found a difficult subject as he had studied through the medium of Gujarati and the standard expected of college students was too high for him. History was the subject which he considered easiest and needing less time to prepare. His overconfidence betrayed him.

Comment:

X seems to be the average type of student, who with a little effort, would have graduated in due course. The reasons he gave for his failure seemed quite genuine for although his English is not very good he reveals an average ability for college studies.
Case No. 48

General Facts:

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Problem:

Interruption of studies during senior B. A. Graduation in five years.

Reasons for interruption:

Illness.

Interview:

X was absent from the house and her father volunteered to supply all the details required for he said he was well acquainted with the daughter's problem. He is a successful practitioner in town. With the income from his practice he has been able to finance the education of his two daughters. The elder married after she obtained the Master's degree and his illusion is to see the younger daughter also well educated and married. He said the reasons he had for sending the two daughters to college was to secure a good match for them as a non-graduate girl nowadays is not likely to find a good husband. He has given the daughters every facility for their studies, no work at home, separate rooms where they
could read in peace without being disturbed by the numerous patients coming to his house. X had been a good student throughout her college career but in the senior year she fell victim to a very severe attack of dysentry that forced her to be in bed for some months. On account of her prolonged absence she was not granted the terms and felt besides too weak to study. It was then considered more advisable that she appear the following year. X passed the B. A. Examination in second class and is now doing her junior M. A.

Comment:

X's case was known already and her father's account only added some more details.

Case No. 49

General Facts:

- Sex: Female
- Native place: Urban
- Marital status: Unmarried
- Family monthly income: Between Rs 200 & 500
- Whether working or not: No

Scholastic Record:

- School: Urban
- Year of passing S. S. C.: 1956
- Number of attempts: One
- Percentage: Fifty two
- Year of entry into college: 1956
- Age at time of entry: Sixteen
- Faculty: Arts

Problem:

Discontinuance of studies during first year.

Reasons for discontinuance:

Transfer to Science.
Interview:

X, together with the other girls of her S. S. C. class, decided to study Arts. She was too young to know what she wanted. She had joined an Arts and Science College and by talking with the girls in the Science section she realised her percentage was higher than that of some of them. After consulting her teachers she changed her faculty. Although she joined the Science class almost in the second term she easily made up for the lost time and passed every year and graduated in Science in four years. Now she is doing her junior M. Sc. and plans to join the staff of a college.

Comment:

X's case was very simple and could scarcely be considered as one of wastage for if she did not graduate in Arts she did so in Science, considered always as more difficult than Arts.
Case No. 50

General Facts:

Sex: Female
Native place: Urban
Marital status: Married
Family monthly income: Between Rs 200 & 500
Whether working or not: No

Scholastic Record:

School: Urban
Year of passing S. S. C.: 1952
Number of attempts: One
Percentage: Forty nine
Year of entry into college: 1952
Age at time of entry: Seventeen
Faculty: Arts

Problem:

Discontinuance after first year.

Reasons for discontinuance:


Interview:

X had sent in the questionnaire duly filled and said she was willing to give the interview. However, on reaching the house the husband said that he would have no objection to a stranger's entering his house, but he stays with his own parents and being of a very orthodox Hindu tradition they might object. He knew all the details of her wife's history and would give them as she herself would.

When X passed her S. S. C. and showed a desire to go to college, her parents objected. However, the girl felt that she could easily graduate and she should do so because her future husband was then...
about to graduate in Medicine. Since the parents could not convince her they refused to pay the college fees for the second term. If the husband wanted her to be educated it should be at his own expense, they argued. But the husband's parents also refused to give money for they had three other daughters to educate and could not pay so many college fees. The husband himself would have liked to finance her education but had no source of income. X left college, married after the husband's graduation and went to live with him and again the problem of her graduation came up. But her eyes - which had never been strong - began to give her trouble, she was loosing sight very fast, and so the idea of her graduation was finally given up.

Comment:

The details given by X's husband agreed entirely with what she had written in the questionnaire. Besides the circumstances were such that there seemed to be no doubt as to the sincerity and truthfulness of the statements.
General Facts:

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Problem:

Failure in F. Y. Interruption for one year. Interruption again in the middle of Inter Arts. Not yet appeared.

Reasons for failure:


Subjects failed:

Not remembered.

Reasons for interruption:

Business. Marriage.

Interview:

X has been helping his father to run the business these last fifteen years. He stands in no need of a college degree in order to make a living but he desired to study to be more cultured and so run the business more efficiently. His first desire
was to study Commerce, but as the time-table of it coincided with his office hours he decided for Arts. During his first year in college he did not study much for he used to spend time of classes with his friends in the canteen and going for pictures. In the end he failed. After failure he did not attend college for three years but helped his father in running the business. After marriage he decided to continue his studies and passed the F. Y. Examination. But during the Inter Arts year he again interrupted his studies. The curfews imposed on the city on account of the Maha Gujarat movement prevented him from attending to his office duty for some time. This had paralysed the business, the work accumulated and X could not find time for his studies. Now he says he wants to appear for Inter Arts, but does not sound very determined.

Comment:

X is actually the one who runs the business with his father taking a second place as adviser. It is quite likely that his interest in the business was the only reason for his interruption and for his failures in the S. S. C. as well as for the gap between passing the S. S. C. and his entrance into college. He was frank enough to admit his negligence in the first year and no other reason could be found out.
Case No. 52

General Facts:

Sex: Male
Native place: Urban
Marital status: Married
Family monthly income: Above Rs 500
Whether working or not: Yes

Scholastic Record:

School: Urban
Year of passing S. S. C.: 1951
Number of attempts: Two
Percentage: Fifty
Year of entry into college: 1952
Age at time of entry: Nineteen
Faculty: Arts

Problem:

Failure in Inter Arts. Graduation in five years.

Reasons for failure:

Other activities. Attendance at religious ceremony.

Subjects failed:

Economics.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Same as above.

Interview:

'X had become the intimate friend of a classmate of his, a member of a scheduled class. Both had the ideal of helping in the uplift of the low classes of India. Both would graduate in Arts, obtain a teacher’s training and go to some rural school to work among the villagers. This meant a great
sacrifice for X, because he said he would have liked to graduate in Science or Commerce, and besides he would have to give up the comforts of city life and of middle class society. In college both friends kept alive the ideal of social service and worked diligently to prepare themselves for it. X's failure in Economics in Inter Arts was only the effect of his having to attend a family religious ceremony precisely at the time of the preparation of the examinations. After passing the following year, he married and took up a job. He was forced to change his college on this account and could not devote much time to his studies. During his senior year he was not granted leave to prepare the examination and so could not secure the class he hoped for.

X thinks that colleges should hold frequent examinations during the year in order to force students to work more. They should also make the college premises available to those students who have not a convenient place to study at home. Scholarships should also be justly distributed; some of them go now to undeserving hands. There are very many students in college who cannot derive any profit from their studies. Colleges should be more selective in the admission of candidates so as to keep away the undesirable ones and so be in a position to give more personal attention to the students. Personal attention could take the form of some sort of "practicals" like assigning certain books for reading and criticism, essays, discussions on various topics and so on. He considers English still very important, and although he does not feel it should be the medium of instruction, it should, however, be studied more thoroughly so that students can refer to the various books prescribed.

Comment:

From the data of his scholastic record, X does not seem to be so clever as he said he was. However, the reasons he gave to explain his failure would be quite sufficient. His unwillingness to mention the type of religious ceremony he had to attend to, could be interpreted more as mere mere shyness to expose himself to ridicule than a cover of a deeper reason for failure.
Case No. 33

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<td>Age at time of entry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td>Arts</td>
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Problem:

Failure in B. A. Interruption of studies after failure.

Reasons for failure:


Subjects failed:

Economics.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Same as above.

Reasons for interruption:

Fear of another failure.

Interview:

This interview was conducted in the presence of X’s father who led the conversation. He has had to suffer very much these last years. His relatives
were very rich businessmen. They owned several cars and houses and enjoyed all the comforts they could. But on account of some family problem— which he did not explain—he found himself involved in a court suite and the money that should have come to him all these years is being used in paying the court fees. The result is that, although still rich by right, he has had to rent a poor house and live economically away from the other members of the family. His court expenses have gone so high of late, that his two daughters and one son have been forced to work in order to help somehow the economy of the house and finance their education.

X's failure in studies has been due to this family problem only. She said she had been quite a good student all her life, liked the subjects—even Economics, in which she had failed—but because of the sufferings of the whole family and her own work, she was unable to concentrate on her studies. The following year, out of fear of another possible failure she absented herself from the examination and for the same reason she did not even fill the form last year. But now, she and her father are of the opinion that she should make an effort and try to pass next March.

Looking at the B. A. course from the practical point of view X's father suggested that the syllabus should be changed so as to prepare a graduate in Arts for a job. As it is, the new graduates acquire a certain amount of theoretical knowledge of no value for practical life. One example was the tedious memorising of endless Sanskrit slokas. If the degree is necessary for a job let the students learn something useful for that job.

Comment:

Both X's scholastic record and her conversation seemed to indicate that her difficulty did not lay in the line of aptitude for studies. The family problem as exposed by her father would be a sufficient reason for her failure and interruption of studies.
Case No. 54

General Facts:

- Sex: Male
- Native Place: Urban
- Marital status: Married
- Family monthly income: Below Rs 200
- Whether working or not: Yes

Scholastic Record:

- School: Urban
- Year of passing S. S. C.: 1952
- Number of attempts: One
- Percentage: Forty nine
- Year of entry into college: 1952
- Age at time of entry: Twenty two
- Faculty: Arts

Problem:

Failure in Inter Arts. Graduation in five years.

Reasons for failure:

Family problems. Refusal of leave from work.

Subjects failed:

Logic. Sanskrit.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

No interest in Sanskrit.

Interview:

X belongs to a scheduled caste. His ideal in life is to devote himself to the social and educational uplift of his community, most of whose members are illiterate. He is the first one in his community to graduate and he wants to use his influence and his degrees – he is an LL. B. – for the benefit of his own people. With these ideals he joined
college. He would have preferred to take Science or Commerce. But the fees were too high and also he wanted to work while in college. During the first months in college he experienced a little difficulty on account of the change of medium of instruction. But very soon he got used to English. While still in the beginning of his college career his father died and he had to take up a job. The responsibility of the whole family and the refusal of leave for the preparation of his examination were responsible for his failure in Inter Arts in Logic and Sanskrit. He admitted not having ever been interested in Sanskrit, which he considered useless. But he did not know how to account for his failure in Logic for he neither found the subject especially difficult at that time nor in his subsequent studies in Law.

X would like some points of college education improved. He thinks students do not get enough personal attention. This is due to the fact that the number of students is by far too large when compared to the small numbers of professors. Schools should also give guidance to those students who want to go to college. University examination fees are too high for most of the students. The junior B. A. Examination could become a university examination in order to make students work throughout the year and also to lessen the burden of the senior year. Most of the students, he said, find the syllabus for the final examination much too lengthy.

Comment:

Responsibility for the family and refusal of leave to prepare the examination seem to be sufficient reasons for X's failure. They could also explain his two failures in LL. B. One in the junior and the other in the senior class. For the rest X speaks well and intelligently and seems to be the average type of student.
Case No. 55

General Facts:

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Scholastic Record:

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</table>

Problem:

Absence from the examination of Inter Arts. Failure in Inter Arts. Interruption of studies for two years. Preparing for B. A.

Reasons for absence and failure:

Personal and family problems.

Subjects failed:

History.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Dislike and neglect of the subject.

Reasons for interruption:

Work. Failure. Lack of interest in studies.

Interview:

When X went to college he had no definite aim in view, but a general desire for education although
the idea of securing a good position in life was not entirely out of his mind. His mother would have had him become a doctor. But his marks in all subjects were so low that not only Science but even Commerce were out of the question. To this it was added his natural inclination for languages. His first year in college was uneventful, but in Inter he became engaged at the inspiration of his mother. He was very unhappy about it all chiefly because he did not feel any liking for the girl, probably on account of the prejudices built by his friends. To make matters worse his mother died at that time and he had to take full responsibility for the family as he had lost his father many years before. These problems led to his neglect of studies, absence from the examination and failure. Although he had neglected all the subjects, History was the one in which he had made less effort because of a certain dislike he had always felt for it. After passing in his Inter Arts Examination at the second attempt X took a job, lost interest in studies and interrupted them for two years. But now he desires to complete his graduation and is already reading for junior B. A.

X thinks that if college students fail in large numbers it is because they do not work sufficiently throughout the year. This could be remedied by holding frequent tests and by making the junior B. A. Examination a university examination in a similar way as is done in junior B. Sc. He would also like to see the teaching in college improved. Many times it is not efficient and practical, and some of the teachers seem to reach classes unprepared.

Comment:
The scholastic record shows that X passed his S. S. C. Examination at the second attempt and then he obtained only forty percent of the marks. His conversation also reveals a certain lack of intellectual ability. His failure could possibly be due to this.
Case No. 56

General Facts:

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Scholastic Record:

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<td>Arts</td>
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</table>

Problem:

Failure in F. Y. Graduation as external student in seven years.

Reasons for failure:

Confusion in answering the papers.

Subjects failed:

History.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Same as above.

Reasons for interruption of studies:

Work.

Interview:

X began by producing a large number of certificates of achievements in the field of sports and athletics.
obtained in inter school tournaments and other competitions. But his achievements in studies did not match those in the field of sports. After leaving his village he took a job in the Municipality and rented a house where he lives with his wife and children. His married life had not interfered with his studies for, as he said, his wife "is illiterate and very submissive". However, he failed in the first year examination. The only reason for this failure was that in the History paper he got confused. The question asked was about ancient Rome and out of nervousness he wrote about ancient Egypt. After repeating the examination and passing his Inter Arts X became a permanent employee and decided to abandon studies, he had no need of them. Nearly four years later a friend of his registered in the university as an external student and filled also the form for X. This gave him a desire to make a little effort and try his luck. He sent wife and children to the village, took sick leave and studied thirty-nine days at the average of sixteen hours a day, and gave the examination. He was thrilled when he obtained a second class.

Comment:

On the basis of X's scholastic record and his conversation his success in the examinations looks like a stroke of luck. However, he may be brighter than he looks and then his failure could be the effect of his interest in sports.
Case No. 57

General Facts:

- Sex: Male
- Native place: Urban
- Marital status: Unmarried
- Family monthly income: Above Rs 500
- Whether working or not: Yes

Scholastic Record:

- School: Urban
- Number of attempts: One
- Percentage: Sixty six
- Year of entry into college: 1954
- Age at time of entry: Seventeen
- Faculty: Arts

Problem:

- Interruption of studies at the end of F. Y.
- Failure in Inter Arts. Discontinuance of studies.

Reasons for interruption:

- Illness in the family.

Reasons for failure:

- Lack of guidance. Refusal of leave to study.

Subjects failed:

- Hindi and Logic.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

- Hindi: not done before. Logic: too difficult for external students.

Interview:

X had joined the Arts section late in the year just before the terminal examination. The reason for this was that he had taken Science first,
but due to the critical condition of his father, who suffered from a heart trouble, he had to give up his idea of becoming an engineer. He reasoned that if his father died he would not be able to pursue his Science studies, for father was the only source of income and the savings he had put by would not carry him till graduation in engineering. When father finally expired at the end of the year X took up a job and interrupted his studies. The following year he passed the F. Y. Examination as an external student but in Inter he failed in both Logic and Hindi. He said his failure in Logic was due to the fact that the subject cannot be studied privately. And Hindi was a new subject altogether, for in the hope of becoming an engineer he did not take it in school. But the main reason for this failure was that his employers did not grant him the leave he wanted to prepare his examination. Failure was the last straw for his giving up Arts. For quite some time he had been losing faith in the usefulness of the Arts degree as a preparation for a job and had heard in the meantime of a short diploma course in Banking, he would take this, find a job and then do his B. Com.

Speaking about college education and its deficiencies X said there are a number of subjects that have absolutely no bearing on practical life, for instance Sanskrit. He added that those responsible for setting the syllabus for B. A. should take into consideration those subjects that were not offered by school students and make some provision for an alternative choice.

Comment:

X seems to be quite a gifted man. He gave the history of his case in a short time, very much to the point and without being questioned in anything. His attitude towards Arts education is biased by his financial condition and other problems. The reason for his discontinuance, if considered from his practical and personal point of view, is quite justified.
Case No. 58

General Facts:

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Scholastic Record:

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Problem:

Failure in F. Y. and Inter Arts. Graduation in six years.

Reasons for failure:

Slow in writing. Illness.

Subjects failed:

Civics, Gujarati and Economics.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:


Interview:

X is very thin and sickly-looking. He is shy and nervous, gesticulates very much during the conversation and has some difficulty of diction. He began the interview by saying that he never knew his mother, she died while giving him birth. When he grew older, he had to take charge of the servants and the house in general; his father, a businessman,
was out the whole day, his sister married and left them, and his brother was too busy with his studies. However, these responsibilities did not prevent him from studying diligently. In desiring to go to college he was not prompted by any occupational reason. His family is well educated and he thought it but natural to graduate. In school he was interested in languages more than in any other subject, although he could also score high marks in Science. He was therefore surprised when in F. Y. he failed in Gujarati. The only reason he could find to account for this failure was his weak and sickly nature which makes him very slow in writing, so much so that he can never complete any question paper. That year he also failed in Civics. Besides his difficulty in writing there was another reason for this failure. He found the subject difficult and could not get to like it. The following year he made up for these two failures. In Inter, however, he failed again. This time the subject was Economics. Throughout the second term he had been bed-ridden and so could neither attend college nor prepare the examination. There was no other reason that can be specially given for failure in this subject. In October he passed. In the B. A. Examination, he failed in English by a few marks because he was still slow in writing and had to leave out some questions. However, his marks in Sanskrit were so good that he was condoned and passed out in second class.

X is of the opinion that our examination system fosters cramming and laziness. Those students who have either the physical health or the intellectual ability to be able to make an effort at the last moment stand a good chance of passing easily although they may have done nothing for the rest of the year; while there are at times good students who fail. More tests during the year would put an end to this. The frequent changes of medium of instruction in college do students no good. He also thinks that the change from English to Gujarati in the University has been too rapid, this should not have been done until good and abundant books were available. In any case the study of English should be intensified in high school. He found very helpful the tutorial system that was introduced in his college in his time, and he attributes the failure of many students to the absence of personal
attention. Professors, however, cannot possibly give individual attention to large number of students. X had an opportunity to see for himself the effects of more personal attention and guidance when in B. A. he took Sanskrit special and so he was in a small and selected group.

Comment:

In spite of his defects in speech and his physical weakness X, gave the impression of being quite intelligent. He talked slowly and deliberately and when asked a question he paused a little to reflect before answering. His case seemed to have been exposed with great sincerity and objectivity.

Case No. 59

General Facts:

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Scholastic Record:

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<td>Twenty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty</td>
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Problem:

Failure in Inter Arts and B. A.

Reasons for failure:

Family problems. Personal problems. Leave not granted by employer.
Subjects failed:


Reasons for failure in these subjects:


Interview:

X is very shy and he admitted to have suffered much on this account while in college. The reasons for this shyness are various. His father is a farmer, although well off enough to pay for the education of his children. He himself did most of his high school studies in the village and came to a school in town only for the S. S. C. year. His mother died when he was still very young. This had made him feel very lonely in life, and a little hungry for affection. In the first college he attended, X did not feel happy at all, the professors were good and generally approachable but not enough for his shy and affective nature. When he changed his college at the end of the first year things improved a little, but he still felt a little lonely. These feelings contributed, in his opinion, to his failure in Inter Arts. When in his senior year, X engaged as a clerk in a private firm in order to help finance his studies and those of his younger sisters, still in school. He asked the employer for leave to prepare for the examination but the leave was refused. This refusal was responsible for his failure in B. A. for during the year he did not study as he would come from the office very tired and always hoped to obtain leave in the end.

Both in Inter and B. A. X had failed in English. The standard of English in the village was too low and he has not yet been able to make up for this deficiency. X failed also in Hindi in Inter Arts. He had neglected this subject because of its similarity with Gujarati and he was confident he would pass without effort. His failure in Economics and Statistics in B. A. was due only due to the fact that he was not given leave to prepare his examination.
Comment:

X's sensitive nature, of which he gave ample proof during the interview, seems to have been the main reason for his problem. His conversation seemed also to indicate a less than average intelligence.

Case No. 60

General Facts:

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Scholastic Record:

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Problem:

Two failures in B. A.

Reasons for failure:

Marriage.

Subjects failed:

English.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Confusion in answering the examination question papers.
Interview:

X is the second of four children and the first one from his village ever to reach the degree class. The desire to acquire more education and eventually obtain a good employment moved him to go to college. He claimed to have been always a very good student and to have always come first in class, although he had done his primary education in the village. His strong point was Mathematics and Science. Therefore, he could not understand how he was given only 27 marks in the Algebra paper, when his Mathematics teacher - to whom he had shown after the examination the question paper and his answers - calculated his marks would be somewhere in the seventies. He wanted to ask for a retotalling of the marks, but the teacher, did not think it advisable. On his second attempt he was given the marks he had expected, over seventy. But his first failure prevented him from being admitted to any Science college. This was a great disappointment for X. After his P. Y. Arts, he went to other college drawn by a sign of attention given to him by one of the new teachers. He was very happy in this new institution and passed year after year till senior B. A. During his senior year his father insisted on his marriage. There was a tussle for the whole year between father and son, but finally X, yielded on account of the great pressure brought to bear on him by his father and also in order to put an end to the family troubles and quarrels that his opposition created. His marriage almost coincided with his final examinations and X could not prepare them. Still, confident that his natural ability might help him, he decided to try his luck. He was surprised to find out he had failed only in English. There was no special reason for his failing in this subject, he said, for his English was not so poor after all. In his second attempt he failed in English once more. For this second failure he could find only one reason, that had got mixed up in answering the papers.

Comment:

It is difficult to find out the real reason for X's repeated failure in English. Judging from his scholastic record and from his conversation it seems he should have been able to pass his B. A. Examination. His English is better than that of other students who passed out and he appears to be an average student.
Case No. 61

General Facts:

Sex Male
Native place Rural
Marital status Married
Family monthly income Below Rs 200
Whether working or not Yes

Scholastic Record:

School Rural
Year of passing S. S. C. 1952
Number of attempts One
Percentage Forty six
Year of entry into college 1952
Age at time of entry Nineteen
Faculty Arts

Problem:

Failure in Inter Arts. Two failures in B. A. Graduation in seven years.

Reasons for failure:


Subjects failed:

Economics.

Interview:

X belongs to the so called backward classes. This fact has affected him very much and he feels on this account a great inferiority complex. On the other hand the desire to react to his feelings led him to go for higher education. He wanted to become a teacher and so to uplift his community. The reason for his failures was in a way his family economic and social condition, he said. Being poor he had to work in order to study. He had joined a college that opened very early in the
morning but that happened far from his house, and since he could not afford any means of transportation he had to walk the whole distance at the cost of time and energy. This effort broke his health in his first year in college. However, he still passed out. In Inter Arts he fell in love with a girl of a different community. This aroused the opposition of the family and quarrels ensued; he failed. The following year he passed and registered for B. A. Towards the end of the senior year his father died, and this was the reason for his first failure in B. A. He failed once more the following year and he said it was because of a dispute that arose in the office. He could not control his sensitive nature and the effects of that dispute influenced him so much that he could not prepare his examination in peace. X had failed every time in Economics, but he could not find any special reasons except those already given.

X was grateful to the Government for the Scholarship he has been receiving these last years but he would have needed more help than that. He would welcome the erection of day study homes for the poor. Colleges, he suggested, should change the system of admission and students should have a personal interview with the Principal or some other person appointed by him. Finally, the choice of careers students should be guided both by schools and colleges.

Comment:

By far the most important reason for X's failure seems to be his sensitive and touchy nature, probably the effect of his social background.
Case No. 62

General Facts:
- Sex: Male
- Native place: Urban
- Marital status: Unmarried
- Family monthly income: Between Rs 200 & 500
- Whether working or not: Yes

Scholastic Record:
- School: Urban
- Year of passing S. S. C.: 1951
- Number of attempts: One
- Percentage: Fifty five
- Year of entry into college: 1953
- Age at time of entry: Twenty
- Faculty: Arts

Problem:
- Failure in F. Y. Absence from the examination.
- Discontinuance of studies.

Reasons for failure and absence:
- Full-time work.

Reasons for discontinuance:
- Financial problems. Opposition of the firm to his studies.

Interview:
X wanted to become a doctor and he would have easily obtained admission to any Science college at that time. However, he was forced by circumstances to change his mind. His family would have found it difficult to bear the expenses of a Science degree, and then a very few days before the S. S. C. Examination his father died. Now he had to work and if he wanted to go to college he had to join Arts. It was very difficult for X to work and study, he had no energy left in him after attending classes.
in the morning and working the rest of the day, and so he failed the very first year. The following year as he did not feel prepared he did not even appear for the examination, although he had already paid the fees. At that time the financial situation of the family worsened on account of the marriage of his two elder brothers and the death of his brother-in-law which forced his sister to return to the parental home with her children. In view of this situation X decided to give up studies and not to risk his job, for the firm in which he works forbids its employees to study under penalty of dismissal.

X would like firms not to lay so much emphasis on graduation. And if they prefer graduates for the more responsible posts, they should give facilities to their own employees for graduation. He would also welcome the introduction in this university of the three-year course.

Comment:

X does not strike as being very intelligent, however judging by his scholastic record he seems to be an average student. The difficulties he encountered would, in themselves, be sufficient to explain his failure and discontinuance.
Case No. 62

General Facts:

Sex: Male  
Native place: Urban  
Marital status: Unmarried  
Family monthly income: Below Rs 200  
Whether working or not: No

Scholastic Record:

School: Urban  
Year of passing S. S. C.: 1952  
Number of attempts: One  
Percentage: Fifty two  
Year of entry into college: 1952  
Age at time of entry: Seventeen  
Faculty: Arts

Problem:

Interruption of studies in the middle of senior B. A. Graduation in seven years.

Reasons for interruption:

Financial problems. Father's opposition.

Interview:

Like many other young boys, X dreamed of becoming a doctor. But several factors came in the way of this dream. First of them was the family finances. His father is a mill-worker and has to maintain a large family with a low income. He himself being the eldest child, might any day have to take the responsibility of supporting mother, brother and sister since father is aging. Second is the general opposition of his father to higher education, as he himself is almost illiterate and does not see the need of education to earn one's living. For him boy children are future sources of income as bread-earners and girls to be "exchanged" for the highest possible sum of money at the time of their marriage. Father's opposition increased
as X advanced further in his studies and by the time he was in senior E. A. it had reached its climax. In order to prevent his father from withdrawing his younger sisters from school, X had to leave college and engage as clerk in a mill. Quietly he prepared the examination and gave it when ready as an external student.

X experienced other minor difficulties in college. On account of his financial difficulties and low social status he felt a sort of inferiority complex. Hearing rich students talk of their expensive amusements and travels during the vacations, while he could not afford even the most necessary things made him very sad and lonely. And since he could not take part in these conversations he made no friends and went straight home after lectures. He also found that professors were not as helpful as he would have liked them to be partly on account of his shyness to approach them and partly on account of their own lack of readiness to be available to students.

After graduation X has met with a great disappointment. He expected his degree would open to him every door but he has remained in the same post in which he was before. Even the promotion he has received now was due to him on basis of seniority not because of his graduation. Nevertheless he thinks that the education he has received is not useless. He will even try to pass his LL. B. and become a pleader.

X thinks there are very many students like himself who either have to discontinue their studies or cannot complete them in four years. If the Government were to give scholarships not according to the absolute income but according to the real financial position of each one, these students, most of them very earnest, would not have to go through the difficulties they undergo nowadays. Colleges and universities should also do something to help them prepare their classes and examinations in the college premises. The examination system needs also revision. Its main defect is that students can pass and even obtain a class by guess work. The choice offered by the university in the
examinations is by far too generous. The result is that many students omit important chapters, pass the examination but do not master the subjects at all. Finally he would suggest the reduction of numbers in each class by means of a stricter selective system of admissions and the introduction of tests during the year valid for the final results. But he thinks all these means will be of no use unless a more religious and spiritual atmosphere is fostered in colleges and universities. Daily prayer meetings before classes would help to this end.

Comment:

X was not at home when first visited and his father made no bones of his attitude towards higher studies and his son's "craziness" for graduation. The poverty of the family was evident so that X's statement merely confirmed what was already known.

Case No. 64

General Facts:

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Scholastic Record:

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Problem:

Failure in Inter Arts. Preparing for B. A.
Reasons for failure:
Marriage. Family and hostel problems.

Subjects failed:
Economics.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:
A difficult subject.

Interview:
According to the customs of his community X had to marry when he was seventeen of age. He was still in school at the time, and his father without asking his opinion brought him a girl of his own choice. This was the beginning of his troubles. He felt still too young to marry and he was sure his studies would suffer; much better to wait till he graduated and had a good job in hand. But his father would not listen and brought the girl home. X ran away and stayed for a time with some relatives and friends of his. He could not live in peace at home. Every day his father insisted on his marrying and brought in all the arguments he could, the disgrace of the family in front of all the members of the community, the affronts he had suffer wherever he went and so on. Finally X consented to marry for the sake of peace; but once married he refused to stay with his wife, and sent her to her relatives. The case was taken to court and when questioned by the magistrate X avoided being fined saying that he wanted the girl for his lawful wife, only he did not wish to live with her so long as he was a student. X had not been able to study during the year and so failed in Economics in the Inter Arts Examination. The following year he was more successful partly because, the wife’s relatives having come to a compromise, he had divorced the girl. This gave him such a relief that not only he could study better but even his health improved visibly.

Another problem had also contributed partially to his failure. X was staying in a hostel run by his own community. Because of his personality he was unanimously elected secretary and wanted to use
his authority and influence to eradicate some old fashioned customs introduced by the management and resented by the students. This resulted in a quarrel between him, as representative of the students, and the management that lasted the whole year long. Now that all these problems are over X expects to be able to graduate soon.

Comment:

X's conversation is quite intelligent, although his English is rather poor. Yet judging from the data in the scholastic record there are reasons to believe that his marriage and the quarrels he referred to were not the only causes of his failure.

Case No. 65

General Facts:

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Problem:

Absence from the B. A. Examination twice. Graduation in six years.

Reasons for absence:

Work. Fear of a low percentage.
Interview:

X made a difficult interviewee. He demanded an explanation regarding the nature and purpose of the enquiry before answering any question. But even afterwards he was reserved and somewhat on the defensive. The reason for this reticence was discovered later on. He was under the impression that he was speaking with the principal of a college and he had come with the intention of applying for a lecturership; and so he was trying to lay more emphasis on his qualities and achievements than on the difficulties experienced during his college career and the reasons for his absence from the examination.

He had joined college with the intention of becoming one day a professor. He liked literature and in particular Gujarati literature. However, in the course of his college studies the field of his interest changed to History. And now he would like to obtain a lecturership in this subject. He had postponed his examination because he had not been able to prepare for it well enough to obtain a first class. X is the eldest of seven children and ever since he joined college he had been on the lookout for a good job, for his father earned little and was aging rapidly. A job was offered to him just a few months before the final B. A. Examination and he would not miss the chance. For two years he postponed his examination in the hope of preparing it well, but seeing that time passed and he could not find the time to study, he decided to appear and obtained a second class.

X would have welcomed some financial assistance either from the Government or from other sources; however, he feels that his case was such that with the present regulations for scholarships, he and many others like him will have to continue unaided. He also said that students are selected when entering college but once in it, they neglect studies and do not work till the last moment before the examinations. Many professors use now the method of dictating notes. This makes students lazy for they will not work till the notes are out. He would suggest the introduction of frequent tests.
during the year. The present system pertaining to examinations, he added, is not an appraisal of the work done during the whole year but only of the ability of the students to write much—good or bad—in the shortest possible time. He would also suggest as a means of improving discipline in colleges more conscientiousness and competence on the part of college teachers.

Comment:

How far X stated in all sincerity the real reason for his absence from the examination is doubtful, given the attitude he took from the beginning and his intention of making a good impression. He certainly seems to be the type of students who should have been able to pass the B. A. at the first attempt. However, the reasons he gave would be sufficient to explain his delay.
Case No. 66

General Facts:

Sex
Male
Native place
Urban
Marital status
Married
Family monthly income
Between Rs 200 & 500
Whether working or not
Yes

Scholastic Record:

School
Urban
Year of passing S. S. C.
1952
Number of attempts
Five
Percentage
Forty eight
Year of entry into college
1952
Age at time of entry
Twenty six
Faculty
Arts

Problem:

Two failures in Inter Arts. Discontinuance of studies.

Reasons for failure:


Subjects failed:

Logic.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

No interest. Negligence.

Reasons for discontinuance:

Social activities. Failure.

Interview:

X claimed to have engaged in political activities for the last twenty years. He was still very young, and rather unaware of what politics were in reality,
when he would organize gangs of boys who took active part in whatever the party members wanted them to. When he grew old enough he was admitted into the party, became one of the most active members and took part in every kind of political activities, meetings, manifestations, strikes or other kinds of disturbances. At present he is the president of the party in his locality and a member of welfare organizations. He is very popular among the people and they come to him for whatever problems they have to solve. All these activities claimed the best of his time and energies to the detriment of his performance in studies. He had to appear five times for the S. S. C. Examination and even then his percentage was not high. In college his activities took still more of his time and then he was already a married man, so that his studies were completely abandoned. After two failures in Inter Arts he realized that his chances of ever passing his B. A. were getting thinner and thinner. On the other hand the experience he gained has taught him that the more educated he is the better he will influence people and he would even desire to obtain a degree in Law. But for the present he has given up the idea of continuing studies. He feels too old to go back to his books.

X thinks that today's students are very indisciplined. Out of the many solutions that are proposed to remedy this, the best would be to force all the students to undergo military training. The Government, together with this training of their minds, should also build up their bodies giving them nourishing food.

Comment:

Apart from the fact that the activities X engaged in suit more an agitator than a political leader, his whole appearance is not very impressive from the intellectual point of view. However, they along would be sufficient to explain his failure.
Case No. 67

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Scholastic Record:

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<td>Arts</td>
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Problem:

Discontinuance of studies during Inter Arts.

Reasons for discontinuance:

Work.

Interview:

X is the eldest of three children and belongs to a scheduled class. He shared the opinion prevalent among the members of these classes that education will be the solution of all their problems and that graduation will facilitate the obtaining of a good job. X, however, was ready to forgo his graduation if a good job came his way. As a matter of fact he had applied to several agencies and institutions. He was doing his normal course of studies and had already passed his F. Y. Examination when he was called for an interview for a post in the Railway. Although there were many other applicants and some of them were better qualified than himself, X believes he was given precedence because, he had studied in school through the medium of English. His assignment implied
transfer to another city and many hours of mental work. Under these conditions he discontinued his studies for good although he would like to be a graduate in order to be able to educate the child he has now by his young wife.

Comment:

X's case was already known and no further questioning was considered necessary.

Case No. 68

General Facts:

Sex  Female
Native place  Urban
Marital status  Unmarried
Family monthly income  Above Rs 500
Whether working or not  No

Scholastic Record:

School  Urban
Year of passing S. S. C.  1955
Number of attempts  One
Percentage  Forty seven
Year of entry into college  1955
Age at time of entry  Twenty
Faculty  Arts

Problem:

Failure in Inter Arts. Graduation in five years.

Reasons for failure and subjects failed:

Not known.

Interview:

X was very shy during the interview and did almost nothing but to answer in monosyllables. About her studies she said she had always been a good student
both in school and college. That was the reason why she could not account for her failure. It is true that during her free times she used to do some little business of her own. Her father is a businessman and the whole family shares the spirit of business. But she thought that her activities were a pleasant hobby and never interfered with her studies. Other leads offered did not show any other possible explanation of her failure and X was not very cooperative regarding the subjects failed the point was dropped out. After this failure X appeared the following year and passed out year after year till she graduated in Arts in five years.

Comment:

Given the few data at hand and X's attitude towards the interview, it is very difficult to appraise the real reason for her failure, which most probably was not of an academic nature.

Case No. 69

General Facts:

- Sex: Female
- Native place: Urban
- Marital status: Unmarried
- Family monthly income: Between Rs 200 & 500
- Whether working or not: No

Scholastic Record:

- School: Urban
- Number of attempts: One
- Percentage: Fifty one
- Year of entry into college: 1955
- Age at time of entry: Sixteen
- Faculty: Arts

Problem:

Absence from the Inter Arts Examination. Graduation in five years.
Reasons for absence:

Illness.

Interview:

X wanted to graduate both for the sake of education and as a means of preparing herself better for life. She has been a good student and enjoyed studies generally. During her college days she took interest in sports and for a time she also had a little romance with one of her classmates. However, neither of these two things interfered with her studies. The reason for her absence from the examination Inter Arts was a series of severe headaches she suffered from and which prevented her from studying during the months previous to the examination. Doctors could not diagnose the cause of these headaches, but she thought it more prudent to absent herself from the examination for that year. The following year she passed out without the least difficulty. After her graduation X has been employed in a school although neither she nor her family stand in need of her present income. The main reason for her teaching is the desire to acquire a new experience and to be occupied in a profitable manner before her marriage.

Comment:

X was known from other sources to be a creditable student and to have been ill before the examinations.
Case No. 70

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Scholastic Record:

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Problem:

Failure in B. Com. after B. A.

Reasons for failure:

Negligence of studies.

Subjects failed:

Accountancy.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Lack of interest. Difficult subject.

Interview:

X considered himself a good student. He had great ambitions when he joined college; he desired to graduate from the London School of Economics and then settle somewhere outside India, for instance in the United States. For this reason he chose Arts in preference to Commerce and also because he disliked Accountancy. He expected to be able to graduate more easily in Commerce after his B. A.
In financing his education he has had no difficulties for he belonged to the scheduled classes and gets a Government scholarship every year. During his second year in college his father insisted on his marrying the girl to whom he had been betrothed when small. But X foresaw that marriage would be the end of this studies, and besides he wanted an educated partner. In order to avoid the pressure of the family he ran away to Bombay to some relatives' where he stayed for a few days till he received assurance from his father that he would not be molested. In spite of this difficulty he managed to complete his B. A. in four years. After this he appeared for B. Com. but failed in Accountancy. He had always disliked this subject and so did not study it well. The following year he passed out and registered for the M. A. in Economics and now is trying to find some scholarship for his admission to the London School of Economics.

X had come chiefly because he thought he had valuable suggestions for the improvement of education. He thinks that students have a wrong attitude towards studies. The only thing they want is the degree, not knowledge. Therefore they work only the last few weeks before the examinations. It is not all their own fault for they do not find in college the personal attention and care they would require, as there are too many students in each class and professors would not be able, were they ready, to pay individual attention to them. To make things worse the professors do not foster a friendly attitude towards students, these recoil and never approach the teachers. X would also suggest that colleges supply books to the poor students who cannot purchase them. There are some students who obtain admission to good colleges more through influence than through their own merits. Backward and Scheduled class students should be given preference, for the others will always somehow or other manage to get into college or to engage tutors. However he would suggest that some selection of B. C. students be made, for many enter college and then leave half way for no reason. From his experience in college he found that rich students are as a rule very selfish and will never extend a helping hand to those in need of either material or intellectual assistance.
Comment:

X having passed his B. A. in four years is outside the field of the enquiry. His conversation is intelligent and although he does not seem to be the type of student who will secure admission to the London School of Economics, he certainly seems able to obtain a good employment. His suggestions are interesting.

Case No. 71

General Facts:

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Problem:

Failure in Inter Arts. Graduation in five years.

Reasons for failure:

Not known.

Subjects failed:

Hindi.

Interview:

X is now a teacher in a college and was very eager to have the interview in order to exchange ideas.
about student problems and their solutions. She has among her relatives a university professor and the family as a whole is quite cultured. It was natural for her to feel attraction for higher education and for the teaching profession in particular. Both in school and college X had been a good student. In the S. S. C. she obtained a second class and expected to obtain the same in the B. A. Examination, which she eventually did, though not at the first attempt. Although she was interested in all subjects, and found them all relatively easy, X felt a special inclination for Hindi. Just a few months before her Inter Arts Examination, she had passed the Kovid in second class and was therefore surprised when she found out she had failed in Hindi.

Speaking about the difficulties of the students, X said that as for the girls the reason for their being sent to college is a practical one. Their parents have not become aware of the need of education, but an educated girl, and if possible a graduate, will be more likely to have a good proposal. If the prospective match happens to come their way at any time during the girl's studies, she is married at once and studies are discontinued. This, in her experience, accounts for the largest number of withdrawals among girls. Another large percentage of withdrawals is due to the little choice of subjects in areas, where there are few colleges. Parents are reluctant to send their daughters to other towns or cities where they could continue their studies and the girls have either to take subjects they loathe or discontinue their studies. She also thinks that professors should be able to answer any difficulty on the spur of the moment. If they do not do so, students either forget their difficulties or brood over them and so pay no attention to the rest of the lecture; or what is even worse they think professors are unable to answer their difficulties. She also said that the so-much-made-of students' indiscipline is to a large extent the fault of the professors themselves, for they come to class unprepared, students are quick to notice it and trouble follows. Other times the professors themselves tell the students they are not prepared and so they dismiss the class after a short time.
These irregularities on the part of the professors are bound to have a bad influence on the students. More personal contact between students and professors should be established. For this the introduction of tutorials would be very helpful. Most of the professors could easily afford to do that as they have every week some free periods. Incidentally this example of self-sacrifice on the part of the professors would finally influence the students.

Comment:

X looks intelligent and her scholastic record seems to confirm this assumption. Her failure may very well have been the effect of those errors that sometimes happen in the examination.
Case No. 72

General Facts:

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Problem:

Two failures and withdrawal of the examination form in Inter Arts.

Reasons for failure:

Not known.

Subjects failed:

Hindi and Economics.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Hindi not done in school. Economics: not given help by teachers.

Interview:

X is a very good sportsman. His interview contributed little to deepen the knowledge already possessed, for he is very shy and answered to the questions in almost monosyllables. His father is very poor and has to support seven children of whom
X is the eldest. X has never been good in studies but has an excellent record of performances in the field of games and athletics. His hope was to make a future for himself by obtaining a good employment on the grounds of his physical prowess. For this very reason he joined college and the institution gladly accepted him in the hope of gaining credit through him. But X has failed to make any headway in studies. He passed in the first year examination only because at that time it was held by the college. But in Inter he failed twice, and once seeing how unprepared he was, the college itself refused to give him the examination form. Although X did not say it in so many words he has neglected his studies. First, he has no natural ability or attraction for them; second, his activities in sports not only in inter-college tournaments and inter-university competitions, have taken much of his time; then there is a great defect in X's character; he had no will-power. Probably influenced by the fact that he comes from a very poor family and so for entertainments and other expenses he had to depend on his admirers, the fact is that he followed blindly their opinion, in everything, studies included. At no time had he applied himself seriously to his studies. Very many times, although he was not busy in the field preparing his competitions, he absented himself from college, probably in the hope that the college, who wanted him there by all means, would in the long run promote him or give him the examination form and finally pass him out. Speaking about the subjects in which he had failed X said that when he was in school Hindi was not compulsory and now he finds it very difficult to follow the course being as he is very weak in the foundations of the language. As for Economics, he said the reason for his failure was that the professors did not help him as he expected.

Comment:

X is a clear case of inability for college studies, he did not have a proper motivation when he joined college, and once in it he proved very negligent of his work. The educational institution in which he is may also share some of the responsibility for admitting him so eagerly.
General Facts:

- **Sex**: Male
- **Native place**: Urban
- **Marital status**: Unmarried
- **Family monthly income**: Below Rs 200
- **Whether working or not**: No

Scholastic Record:

- **School**: Urban
- **Year of passing S. S. C.**: 1956
- **Number of attempts**: One
- **Percentage**: Forty four
- **Year of entry into college**: 1956
- **Age at time of entry**: Sixteen
- **Faculty**: Arts

Problem:

Failure in Inter Arts. Preparing for B. A.

Reasons for failure:

Negligence in studies.

Subjects failed:

English.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Change of medium. Poor in English.

Interview:

X is the third of five children of a primary school teacher about to retire from service. All throughout his college career he had been looking for employment, but did not succeed in finding a good and permanent job anywhere. All he could do was to give tuitions to school boys and to engage as a temporary and untrained clerk in some private
concern. Now that his elder sister is employed in a high school as a teacher, the economic situation of the family has improved somewhat. He himself expects to graduate and then look for employment, and, if given the opportunity, to graduate also in Law and Commerce. But the main reason for his failure in Inter Arts was his utter negligence in studies. He used to be absent from practically all lectures and do anything except studying. His books were opened for the first time a little before the examinations. When the results were out he was rather surprised to see he had failed only in one subject, English. He attributed this particular failure to his deficient knowledge of the language, for he had been taught in school through the medium of Gujarati and his English was not yet good enough, although better than that of many other similar students.

Comment:

The fact that X was able to study in college through the medium of English is an indication of his rather good ability for studies. And throughout the interview he gave signs of a more than ordinary intelligence. His negligence in studies seems to be the main reason for his failure.
Case No. 74

General Facts:

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Problem:

One failure in F. Y. and two in Inter Arts. Interruption of studies for one year.

Reasons for failure:

Financial problems. Poor in studies.

Subjects failed:

English, Economics, Logic.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:


Reasons for interruption:

Work.

Interview:

X is now the father of a child and with the small salary he earns he has to maintain also his aging...
father. Because of these financial difficulties he already had to postpone his entrance into college for two years as he could not pay the fees or buy the necessary textbooks. He spent those two years looking for employment. Finally he found work as a coolie and felt confident he would be able to pay college fees. In college, due to his precarious financial position he felt a very strong inferiority complex seeing how many of the students could spend plenty of money in amusements and other things while he did not even have the money for the most essential expenditures. Another thing worried him still more, while others could learn things in a short time and apparently with little effort, he spend long hours at work and achieved little. He did not know how to account for this difference. His feeling of inferiority became stronger after his first failure in F. Y. Very few students are unable to clear this first hurdle, at the time a college examination, and to be one of these few made him feel very small. After passing his F. Y. Examination at the second attempt X failed twice in Inter Arts. The same reasons were responsible for these failures. He failed in English which had always been his stumbling block in college. He had studied through the medium of Gujarati and found there was a great gap between the standard of English required in school and that in college. Economics was a difficult subject and Logic very abstract. After these two failures X obtained a permanent full-time job, and for a full year he was unable to attend college. Now he feels he will be able to study and pass, all the more since the Principal of the college has permitted him to attend classes although he is an ex-student.

X is of the opinion that poor students should be given plenty of opportunities and financial assistance. In particular he feels that repeaters should not be discriminated against as regards assignment of scholarships and other awards. They should be helped all the more because many of them need a degree for promotion as in his case.

Comment:

X's case is of evident inability for higher education. This proved both by his record and his own confession. His financial problems may have only made the case more acute.
Case No. 75

General Facts:

Sex: Male
Native place: Rural
Marital status: Unmarried
Family monthly income: Below Rs 200
Whether working or not: No

Scholastic Record:

School: Urban
Year of passing S. S. C.: 1955
Number of attempts: One
Percentage: Fifty two
Year of entry into college: 1955
Age at time of entry: Twenty one
Faculty: Arts

Problem:

Transfer of residence. Graduation in four years.

Reasons for transfer:

Financial difficulties.

Interview:

X belongs to a caste of shepherds. His father is poor and has to do hard work in the little farm he owns and which provides support to the family consisting of wife and three children of whom X is the youngest. Since X had proved to be an extraordinary student by local standards, it was decided that he should go to college to obtain a good education and become a professional man. He is the first one in his native place ever to go to college and so he feels the pride and responsibility of being in a position to raise the standard of both his family and community. It was also decided that for a boy of such promises the best education available locally would not be enough, and so he was sent to the city. In college X proved to be a
very diligent student. City life did not spoil him. He led his own life, studied and mixed very little with the other students. At the end of the first year it was found out that the expenditure of being in town was too much for the meager resources of his father, and so he returned home in order to help in the fields.

At home X found it more difficult to study than in the city for in addition to the work in the fields he had to cycle every day fifty miles in order to attend college. However, in spite of so many odds he majored in English and even obtained a prize having secured the highest marks in English in the centre.

X wanted to give the lie to all those students who blame their financial difficulties for their failure in studies. He believed that all those who complain either of the educational system or of the examinations, do so in order to cover up their own lack of determination or of interest. He admitted however, that part of his success may have been due to the fact that he received more personal attention than the others because he was the only student of English in his college.

Comment:

X certainly has the interest and determination of which he was so proud. But this would not explain entirely his success in studies. His ability, as revealed by his conversation seems to be more than average.
Case No. 76

General Facts:

- Sex: Male
- Native place: Urban
- Marital status: Married
- Family monthly income: Between Rs 200 & 500
- Whether working or not: Yes

Scholastic Record:

- School: Urban
- Number of attempts: One
- Year of entry into college: 1954
- Percentage: Forty six
- Faculty: Arts

Problem:

- Failure and absence in B. A. Not yet appeared.

Reasons for failure:

- Work.

Subjects failed:

- Economics.

Reasons for absence from the examination:

- Marriage. Leave from work not granted.

Interview:

X is the eldest of five brothers and sisters. He lives in a joint family with his wife, parents and grandparents. Most of the members of the family were present at the interview and took some part in it rendering it very informal. The family belongs to the middle class, but they are sufficiently well off to pay for the education of all the children, some of whom are still in school and other in college.
During the whole of his studies X had passed out in all the examinations, although not always with credit. His failure in the B. A. caught him by surprise. In college he had never missed a single lecture, if he could help it, he studied at home with diligence and had even abstained from all other extracurricular activities such as sports and cultural competitions. The only reason he could find for his failure was his work as typist in a mill. All throughout his college career he had been looking for a good job and when it came his way finally, he was in the senior class but did not want to miss the opportunity. His work in the office permitted him to attend college, but not to study at home with the intensity he should. The examinations found him unprepared. The following year he could have re-appeared but had to marry as he had reached the age prescribed by the customs of his community. The following year he absented himself from the examination once more but could not give any reason for it. He was, however, confident that he would amply make up for his failure and absences next March. As for his failure in Economics, he could see no especial reason to explain it. He liked the subject and although he found it difficult yet he would have never expected to fail.

Comment:

X’s scholastic record and his conversation seem to prove that the case was objectively exposed. But he did not appear to be as determined to graduate as he said he was. Apparently his job and his responsibilities as a married man have diminished his desire to study.
Case No. 77

General Facts:

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Problem:

Failure in the B. A. Graduation in five years.

Reasons for failure:

Illness at the time of the examination.

Subjects failed:

English.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Same as above.

Interview:

X was a little reluctant to give the interview for he had already passed his B. A. Examination and felt that he was outside the field of enquiry. He was very proud of both the college he had attended and his achievements in it. Already in school he had been a creditable student and continued to be so also in college. This gave him a great confidence of success in the last
examination, in fact the expectation was for a class. However, a few days before the examination he suffered a fit of fever and although not feeling very strong, he still managed to appear for all the papers. On the day of the English paper his fever rose high and when trying to write the answer he found his hands were shaking. Seeing that in this condition he would not be able to answer correctly he left the hall and went home. The following year he passed out without any difficulty and later did his B. Com. Like most of the students graduating in Arts and then going for B. Com. he failed in Accountancy in spite of having been permitted to attend the Inter Commerce classes. It is X's suggestion that colleges of Commerce conduct special classes for this type of students. He was also very critical of the university's policy of introducing Gujarati as medium of instruction. He thinks this has contributed very positively to lowering the standards of the university. Formerly students could refer to many other books besides their textbooks, now they do not know enough English to do so; and to make things worse the textbooks in vernacular are very few and of poor quality.

Comment:

For lack of other sources of information X's statement was taken as sufficient explanation of his reasons for failure.
Case No. 78

General Facts:

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Problem:

Failure in F. Y. Commerce. Transfer to Arts.
Graduation in Arts in four years. Preparing for B. Com.

Reasons for failure:

Negligence in studies.

Subjects failed:

Geography and Accountancy.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Geography too detailed. Accountancy too difficult.

Interview:

X wanted to become a successful businessman like his father. His choice of Commerce was also conditioned by his desire to follow the example of his classmates who considered Science too difficult and had joined the Faculty of Commerce.
He admitted he was too young to be able to make a proper choice of career. In college X became very negligent in his studies. He attended the first periods of the day until the attendance was taken and then he would run out at the first chance with some of his friends. For the rest of the day they went about the city, saw pictures, spent long hours in canteens and hotels and in visiting friends. Thus the whole year was wasted. When he started preparing the examinations he found out that he could not cope with the details of Geography and the difficulties of Accountancy and so failed in these two subjects. After his failure, seeing that very many students cannot complete the course of Commerce, he decided to change over to Arts. He would take Economics for his B. A. and then attempt B. Com. once more, after graduation. He was more successful in Arts than he had been in Commerce, graduating in four years. Now he is preparing for the B. Com. while helping his father in the running of the business which he expects, one day, to take over.

X thinks that there is, in college, a large number of students who either are not fit for higher education or if fit, they do not take any interest in their studies. Little personal attention is given to the students; and he would suggest that both junior B. A. and B. Com. examinations be conducted by the university as is done in Science. This will reduce the length of the courses and enable students to prepare their examinations with less effort and better results.

Comment:

X was too young to make a proper choice of faculty and to make a good use of the freedom of college life. Like many other students he seemed to be more fit for Arts than for Commerce.
Case No. 79

General Facts:

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Problem:

Failure in Inter Com. Interruption of studies for two years. Change over to Arts. Preparing for B. A.

Subjects failed:

Commercial Correspondence.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Illness. Fear of examination.

Reasons for interruption:

Illness.

Reasons for discontinuance of Commerce:

Fear of failure. Change of medium by the university.
Interview:

X's family runs a successful business in cotton and he wanted to study Commerce in order to prepare himself to help in the business following the example of his elder brother. His relatives and friends approved of his choice. In college he studied with ordinary diligence and passed in F. Y. Com. Examination. But towards the end of Intermediate he suffered acute stomachaches and could not study much; the doctor advised him not to appear for the examination but he wanted to try his luck. He failed in Commercial Correspondence. Although the main reason for this failure was his illness, he admitted he was a little afraid of the subject and of the examinations generally, but he thought there was no special reason for his failure in Correspondence. Seeing that his health did not improve, and following the advice of doctors, and relatives, X interrupted his studies for two years. Meanwhile the University changed the medium of instruction from English to Gujarati. This and the fear of not being able to catch up with his studies after such a long interruption made him decide to switch over to Arts. He joined Inter Arts class and after passing out in the same he chose Economics for his principal subject with a view to appearing for B. Com. after graduation. At present he is doing his senior B. A. and is confident he will pass out at the first attempt and even get a class.

X and his brothers, present at the interview, had a long list of suggestions to make. There are many students of low income who cannot complete their studies because of financial difficulties. In order to help these students both Government and educational institutions should either long-term loans or lower the college fees. Higher education has become a fashion nowadays, colleges admit candidates indiscriminately and some of the students thus admitted, especially those of very rich families, do not take any interest in their studies and set a bad example to the others. Colleges should pay more personal attention to students by means of tutorials and a more selective
method of admissions. The enforcement of discipline as it is done in some colleges has a very good and lasting effect on the students. They themselves are afterwards grateful for this strictness. X thinks that the medium of instruction in college should be English, at least as long as good textbooks in Gujarati are not available. He believes that the change of medium of instruction into Gujarati has done more evil than good to the formation of the new graduates. Examinations nowadays are only memory tests, and, professors are partly to blame because they publish guides, knowing the laziness of students who will rely on these guides in the preparation of their examinations. In order to prevent this he would suggest the introduction of quarterly examinations and that the marks obtained in these examinations have an influence in the final results. He also feels that too many students fail both in F. Y. and I. Com. because the standards of these two examinations are too high. He would suggest the introduction of a university examination at the end of the senior B. Com.

Comment:

X was very sincere and made a good exposition of his case. However, his conversation did not seem to reveal much intellectual ability.
Case No. 80

General Facts:

- **Sex**: Male
- **Native place**: Urban
- **Marital status**: Unmarried
- **Family monthly income**: Between Rs 200 & 500
- **Whether working or not**: No

Scholastic Record:

- **School**: Urban
- **Year of passing S. S. C.**: 1955
- **Number of attempts**: One
- **Percentage**: Fifty six
- **Year of entry into college**: 1955
- **Age at time of entry**: Eighteen
- **Faculty**: Commerce

Problem:

Change of university after Intermediate. Graduation in four years.

Reasons for the change:

Desire for higher standards in English.

Interview:

X had secured very good marks in the S. S. C. Examination. His highest marks were in Mathematics. This good result and the fact that his father is a merchant influenced his choice of faculty. After passing his Inter Com. he grew a little dissatisfied with the standard of the Gujarat University and specially that in English. He needed a better command of English and so decided to go to Bombay to continue his studies. There he graduated in four years and now wants to graduate in Law also. This he will do in this university while taking part in the running of business.

X found the standards of this university much lower than those of Bombay. Students here rely entirely on guides and professors encourage this tendency by
publishing them. The introduction of tutorials in the university could remedy this evil as well as the reduction in numbers through a more strict system of admissions. He criticised both Government and private concerns for laying too much emphasis on degrees and less on personal qualities and abilities. X said he had come to know of the defects of the Gujarat University when he went to Bombay. One was the change of medium of instruction from English into Gujarati. This was done because students could no longer follow the lectures. But now they cannot read even the reference books. To remedy this new evil, professors prepare guides or dictate notes in the class. Since many of these professors are also the paper setters questions are asked from these notes and guides only. The consequence is that students graduate but know nothing of the subjects in which they pass.

Graduation so easily obtained opens the way to employment both in Government and some private concerns who pay more attention to examination results than to personal qualities and ability of the applicant. He added that there is a rather high percentage of unfit students in our colleges, and since the numbers are high in each class, professors cannot pay individual attention to these students. Introduction of tutorials would remedy this evil to a great extent. There are very few cultural activities in the colleges of Gujarat University and this seems to be one of the factors that contribute to the low standards in the university. He admits that some students do waste much time and energy in those activities, but in general they have a good influence in the general education of the students.
General Facts:

Sex: Male
Native place: Urban
Marital status: Unmarried
Family monthly income: Over Rs. 500
Whether working or not: No

Scholastic Record:

School: Urban
Year of passing S. S. C.: 1956
Number of attempts: One
Percentage: Forty one
Year of entry into college: 1955
Age at time of entry: Seventeen
Faculty: Commerce

Problem:

Two failures in I. Com. Change over to Arts. Now in junior B. A.

Reason for failure:

Grouping of subjects.

Subjects failed:

Commercial Correspondence.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Same as above.

Reasons for discontinuance of Commerce:

Found Commerce course to be difficult.

Interview:

X is the second son of a merchant. Except for his eldest brother, the rest of the children have gone
or eventually go on for higher education. He himself would have preferred Science to Commerce or Arts for his ambition was to become an engineer. However, his marks in the S. S. C. Examination were too low. The reason for this unexpected lack of success in the S. S. C. was that he had been down with fever just before the examinations and could not prepare them to his satisfaction. He wanted to wait for the next chance, but his people forced him to appear anyway. In joining the Faculty of Commerce he thought he had made a good choice because he had always secured high marks in Mathematics throughout his school studies, and also because, being the son of a merchant, he could gain some knowledge for the administration of the business. During his first two years in Commerce X studied with sufficient interest and attended classes regularly and so his two failures in I. Com. took him a little surprised. He ran short of few marks in the total of the group of Commercial Correspondence. There was no special reason to account for this failure. He did not find the subject particularly difficult, nor could he find any other reason except the system of grouping the subjects which raised the marks required to pass above the marks needed to pass in the individual subjects. The following year in view of his previous failures he engaged a tutor in Correspondence. Still he failed. This discouraged X very much and he decided to change over to Arts, as others had done, and appear for B. Com. after B. A. His father did not approve of this change, he would have liked to see his son a graduate in Commerce, but he had to submit to the inevitable. Now X is doing his junior B. A. after passing the Inter Examination at the first attempt.

X criticised very much the system of grouping subjects. He said it served one purpose only i.e. to deceive the students. They know that the passing marks are thirty five and they try to reach that, only to find that actually they still require more marks to pass. He would also like the final results to reflect the work done during the year.
Comment:

X's marks in Mathematics may have been as high as he said. However, his achievement in college did not seem to confirm it. He appears to be one of the many students who attempt Commerce without considering their ability.

Case No. 82

General Facts:

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Problem:

Failure in I. Com. Absent twice from the B. Com. Examination.

Reasons for failure:

Political activities.

Subjects failed:

English.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Poor in English.
Reasons for absence from the examination:

Felt unprepared on account of change of medium.
Financial difficulties. Work.

Interview:

On deciding to go to college X was forced to take Commerce. He would have much preferred Science had he but offered Mathematics in the S. S. C. He disliked Arts, particularly Sanskrit and poetry. X's father has a low income with which he has to support a family of nine. Their house is a small one and situated in a very congested area even without electricity, hence not a good one for a concentrated study. His absences from the examination were also the effect of the worsening of the family finances; on account of this he had to seek permanent employment and could not pay attention to his studies. Many a time X had to absent himself from college in order to lend a helping hand to the needs of the house. All these circumstances may have contributed to his failure in Inter Commerce. But the real reason was that at the time when he should have been preparing for his examination he took a very active part in some political activities connected with the elections. English was the subject in which he failed. His knowledge of this language was poor for he had done his secondary education through the medium of Gujarati and he had started to study English only in Std. VIII. The following year, however, after due preparation he passed out and registered for B. Com. During that year he felt he should help pay the expenses of his education and so he took up a job as a clerk. But after a few months he realised he would not be able to do justice to the demands of both, work and study, and gave up his job. When the time for his senior B. Com. Examination came he felt he was not prepared. At that time they had changed the medium of instruction and he was afraid he would not be able to answer the papers in Gujarati after having done all his studies in English. He said that a good number of students in his class experienced the same difficulty.
X was very bitter against the policies of the university. He said they seemed to be experimenting on the students rather than trying to help them. No other reason seemed to explain the numerous changes of medium and of textbooks. Tutorials should be introduced in all colleges. He said it is the desire of many students that the junior B. Com. Examination should be taken by the university so that students may have more chances of passing the final examination having to prepare a shorter syllabus.

Comment:

X had failed only in English while most of the failures in Commerce occur in more difficult subjects like Accountancy. Judging him from this fact, from his scholastic record and from his manner of speaking, he seems to be an ordinary student who may eventually graduate without much difficulty.
Case No. 83

General Facts:

Sex: Male
Native place: Urban
Marital status: Unmarried
Family monthly income: Between Rs 200 & 500
Whether working or not: No

Scholastic Record:

School: Urban
Year of passing S. S. C.: 1954
Number of attempts: One
Percentage: Fifty two
Year of entry into college: 1954
Age at time of entry: Seventeen
Faculty: Commerce

Interview:

X said he had graduated in four years but wanted to contribute some suggestions to improve the educational system. Although higher education has to be different from secondary education, some of the methods used in schools could also be introduced in college in order to help students to work more. In particular, attendance at all periods should be more strictly enforced. The progress of the students should be followed by means of frequent tests and examinations. In the final results the marks of the tests held during the year should be taken into consideration. The teaching of Commercial subjects should be made more practical by the introduction of some field work, something in the line of the practicals held in Science. These "practicals" could take the form of visiting offices, banks or other such business centres. For lack of a more practical teaching graduates have to start learning when leaving college. And if more professors are not available, at least candidates should be more strictly selected.
Examinations should not be mere memory tests, as at present, but rather measure the students' intelligence and achievements. The syllabus is too lengthy, and so it should be divided into two portions as done in the B. Sc. Thus the junior B. Com. Examination would become a university examination. The tutorial system, if already existing, should be improved, so that it becomes a real help to students. In some institutions it has become a mere formality. Colleges should keep the libraries open the whole day long and students should be allowed to study in them, for even those who enjoy the privilege of an ample house have too many distractions that prevent them from doing any serious work. Exemptions should be given to any student who passes in a subject, and only the examination of the subject failed should be repeated. The present system forces students to split their attention and forces. Professors fail sometimes to give personal attention to the students who seek it. All make promises in class at the beginning of the year but when approached by the students they never seem to have the time. Many of the teachers do not use pedagogical methods. All university and college professors should undergo a course on education before being permitted to teach; especially those who teach commercial subjects which are dry and abstract. Accountancy is one of these subjects. It is usually taught by chartered accountants, but these teachers know far too much for an undergraduate and do not have the time to answer questions in private. Retired Chartered Accountants might prove better teachers.

Comment:

There was no evidence to prove the statement that X had completed his Commerce studies in four years. His conversation and the remarks he made certainly denoted a more than ordinary student, although some of the suggestions sounded a little idealistic.
Case No. 84

General Facts:

Sex: Male
Native place: Urban
Marital status: Unmarried
Family monthly income: Below Rs 200
Whether working or not: No

Scholastic Record:

School: Urban
Year of passing S. S. C.: 1954
Number of attempts: One
Percentage: Forty three
Year of entry into college: 1954
Age at time of entry: Nineteen
Faculty: Commerce

Problem:

Failure in F. Y. Com. Discontinuance of studies.

Reasons for failure:

Financial problems.

Subjects failed:

English.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Poor in spelling. College standards too high.

Reasons for discontinuance:

Failure and financial problems.

Interview:

X has no father and the whole family consisting of his mother, two sisters and two brothers - depends on him for their subsistence. When he was about to appear for his S. S. C. Examination, he fell
sick and so was prevented from making the last minute effort and obtaining a higher percentage. He was however determined to study and seek good employment and so be able to help the family. He decided for Commerce because he thought he would have a better chance of obtaining a good job, as even Science graduates are required to know something of business administration in order to be gainfully employed. He was sorry that in choice of his career he could consult no one as the only people who could do so, his teachers, were of no assistance to him in this point. The financial difficulties of the family increased at this period. His sickness had drained the family savings, and he was constantly worried about it. Trying to find a solution to this problem he could not study, and was torn between continuing his studies and seeking some employment. After his failure in F. Y. Com. he decided to give up his studies. All his four younger brothers and sisters were still in school and he would not possibly be able to pay their fees and his own with no fixed income. Soon his sisters would be of marriageable age and he would have to arrange for their marriage and incur the necessary expenditure. He himself was very weak since his illness and so would not be in a position to work, study and run the family. As for his failure in English, he explained it by saying he had been very poor in spellings. The standard of English required of him in college was far too high for what he had learned in school. After discontinuing his studies X engaged as a clerk in a mill where he now works.

X would have welcomed some financial help either from the Government or from other sources, however, he felt that the money he needed both for his studies and the affairs of the family, was more than what any scholarship would provide. He found that some of the rich students did not study at all and led the others along their way. One of the things that contributed to this lack of interest in studies was the elections. Some students wasted more time and money on this occasion than they could afford.
Comment:

X is certainly very thin and weak. It is difficult to prove that the family has financial problems although there are some indications. He stays in a poor quarter of the city, the house, although their own, is also poor and old and the general impression is not of abundance.

Case No. 85

General Facts:

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Scholastic Record:

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<td>Percentage</td>
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<td>Age at time of entry</td>
<td>Nineteen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td>Commerce</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Problem:

Two failures in I. Com. One in B. Com.

Reasons for failure:

Illness. Nervousness during the examination.

Subjects failed:

In I. Com. Accountancy. In B. Com. Group II.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Same as above.
408

Interview:

•

X feels very discouraged about his studies. When
he passed in S. S. C-,. Examination he desired to
take Commerce in order to become like his uncle
a successful Chartered Accountant and, at the same
time to train himself for the running of the
family business. He thought he was making a good
choice because his narks in Mathenatics were high
and his uncle encouraged him 'with the promise of
help in his -studies. ■ At his first failure in
Accountancy he felt very depressed. • It was his
pet subject, he had been expecting good results
In it and now, while all his-friends and neighbours
were graduates, he alone, the son of a merchant
and the nephew of a good Chartered Accountant,
could not even pass his first university examina­
tion! There was, however, a reason for his
.failure. For several months he had been suffering
from a chronic cold that' resulted In a sinusitis
which gave him constant and severe headaches.
-These headaches troubled him so much that he could
not study lor more than half an hour at a stretch.
His capacity for work was thus reduced and he
'c.ould not prepare for the examination. His second
failure aggravated his nervousness' and inferiority
complex in front of the other students of his
vicinity. When he finally,passed out in his third
attempt he felt more confident he would eventually
graduate. But all his troubles arose again when
he failed to obtain the necessary marks required
for graduation, although he had passed in all the
•Individual subjects.' His headaches do not yet
permit him to study intensely, this makes him
nervous and uneasy and his nervousness increases
■his sense of frustration and in turn -the very
headaches. He feels he is nearing a nervous break­
down. After the interview, much of.which was spent
■in trying to build up again his confidence, he
seemed to feel more confident, and he said he
would approach the examination ¥/irh more peace.
X; together with his friends a senior B. Sc.
student, proposed several suggestions. There are
too many students in each class and so the
professors cannot give them all a more personal
attention. Slumbers should be reduced by means


of a more strict selection of applicants. The change of medium has done harm to many students, X included. Long lists of terms and expressions have to be learnt anew. The textbooks so far published in Gujarati are very few and poor in quality. With the lowering the standard of English in both school and colleges, students can no longer refer to the best books which are still in English. Textbooks are changed so frequently that students who fail one year have to prepare almost a new course for the re-examination. As for the examinations, they are mere memory tests. The B. Com. course is by far too lengthy, if the junior B. Com. Examination was taken by the university, students would work more, master the subjects better and pass more easily. There should also be more tests during the year, but the results of these tests should influence somehow the final results. Students who fail in one subject in B. Com. should be allowed to keep terms for the junior M. Com. as is done in the undergraduate level. It is the common complaint of Commerce students that the teaching is too abstract. There should be more of practical exercises so as to prepare the students for their future jobs.

Comment:

X does look nervous and worried and during the interview he gave signs of fatigue. Yet, although his conversation does not lead to any clear conclusion, his scholastic record may be an indication that he is not as bright as he thinks.
Case No. 86

General Facts:

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Scholastic Record:

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<td>Faculty</td>
<td>Commerce</td>
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</table>

Problem:

To consecutive failures in I. Com. Not yet appeared.

Reasons for failure:


Subjects failed:

Economics and Commercial Correspondence.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Commercial Correspondence is difficult and defectively taught. Economics: overconfidence.

Interview:

X is one of the twenty members of a joint family. They stay in one of the noisiest quarters of the city. Within a radius of few yards there are seven radio sets that seem to compete with each
other in playing loud. The outside noises and the disturbances coming from the younger members of family would be enough to disturb him in his studies and to account for his failures. But the most important reason, at least in one occasion, was his marriage. According to the tradition his father wanted him to marry when he reached the customary age, but he refused to do so in order to be able to study better. For a full year he managed to postpone his marriage but at the cost of his studies. He married the following year. At that time also he took up a job, chiefly because he had plenty of extra time. In his second attempt there was an additional reason for his failure, on reaching the examination hall and reading the question papers he got nervous. None of the questions he expected and had prepared for was asked, and those that were asked were framed in a queer way. Every time he had failed in Commercial Correspondence. This subject was very difficult for him, and he thought that the teacher did not explain things properly. As for Economics, he had always liked the subject and felt confident of passing without any difficulty, but he was mistaken. When the time came for him to appear for the third time he felt panicky at the prospect of another failure and so did not even fill the form. He has now made up his mind to appear this time.

Only towards the end of the interview and in a casual manner X mentioned he had an inclination for Arts and in particular for literature both Indian and English, although he admitted he was not very good in English grammar.

Comment:

X did not impress much as a good Commerce student. The reasons he gave for his failure may have contributed something or much to it; however, his scholastic record and his very conversation seem to indicate that Commerce was not meant for him.
General Facts:

Sex
Native place
Marital status
Family monthly income
Whether working or not

Male
Urban
Unmarried
Above Rs 500
No

Scholastic Record:

School
Year of passing S. S. C.
Number of attempts
Percentage
Year of entry into college
Age at time of entry
Faculty

Urban
1954
Three
Fifty one
1955
Seventeen
Commerce

Problem:

Failures in F. Y. Com. and B. Com.

Reasons for failure:

Neglect of studies on account of sports and other activities.

Subjects failed:

English.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

English difficult.

Interview:

X is the second son of a wealthy merchant. His house is large and luxurious. In the beginning X was a little reserved regarding the details of his college career. When he passed his S. S. C. he considered it natural to go to college, all the members of the family had done so and he was
too young to marry or take part in the family business. His intention was to take Science, but his marks in these subjects were rather low. However, in Mathematics he had secured a First Class, and so he felt confident he would be able to graduate in Commerce. This degree would also prepare him to take part in the family business when the time came. Of his first failure in F. Y. Com., X said that he found the teaching rather defective. However, in the course of the interview he admitted that he rarely attended the classes and devoted himself to all kinds of extracurricular activities, elocution competitions, dramas, sports, etc. etc. He could not even recollect what subjects he had failed in F. Y. After this failure X felt shy to go to the same college and changed to another. There, for the first two years, he took studies a little more seriously and passed out I. Com. at the first attempt. In junior B. Com. he grew again negligent in his studies and took part in as many activities as he could. He even said that some of the members of the teaching staff encouraged him to take part in these activities as he was rather successful in them and brought credit to the college. His attendance was not very regular, as he had been made to understand that his promotion to the senior class would not offer any difficulty. In the senior class X did not take studies seriously as he had done before. In addition to this he frequently went about during class hours and spent time and money with his classmates. This led to his failure in B. Com., which he again tried to explain away by blaming the teaching methods. He was specially critical of the English teacher, the subject in which he failed. Now he is preparing for his second attempt as an ex-student.

X vaguely agreed that the following points could be suggested. Colleges are at times too lenient in indulging the weaknesses of the students. Daily attendance at all lectures should be made compulsory. More care of the progress of students should be taken by means of tutorials or other helps. Numbers in each class should be reduced. X strongly suggested that some changes should be introduced in the examination system like making the junior B. Com.
examination a university examination and not having more than one paper per day in the final B. Com. Examination.

Comment:

X seems to confirm the remark made by many students that the rich among them do not take much interest in their studies because they do not stand in need of employment while their conduct prevents them from being diligent. His failures in college, and probably even those in the school, are due to these factors, negligence of studies through abundance of means to procure himself amusement.

Case No. 88

General Facts:

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Scholastic Record:

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<td>Seventeen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td>Commerce</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Problem:

Graduation in six years and half after failing twice.
Reasons for failure:

Family problems.

Subjects failed:

Accountancy.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Defective teaching.

Interview:

X seemed a little reticent in giving the details of his college career in spite of his original eagerness to attend the interview. He had always desired to graduate in Science for he liked the Science subjects and had scored high marks in the S. S. C. Examination. He was therefore confident of success, but here he met with great opposition from the members of his family. He is the youngest of five brothers and his father, already old and given to religious activities, has no real authority in the family. As a matter of fact father is never consulted in family affairs; all decisions are made by the elder brothers. X wanted to study Science and had already been granted admission to a Science college but his brothers deliberately postponed giving him the necessary money to pay his college fees till it was too late and admission was cancelled. However, he was still in time for admission for Commerce. On account of the tension between him and his brothers he did most of his studying in the houses of his friends and so could pass year after year without much difficulty. But when X was in his senior year his brothers insisted on his marriage. X refused to marry before the completion of his studies which was close at hand. There followed endless quarrels and disputes that made his life impossible. When father should have taken these matters in hand he was the whole day at his prayers. X fell sick on account of all this and to this day he has not yet married. After graduation he sought employment as a salesman in a firm and is now trying to build some savings in order to marry and separate himself from his
brothers. X believes that there is plenty of indiscipline in our colleges and that one of the main sources is the fact that in most schools there is no co-education. If the boys that come to college have been in these schools, they are eager to meet girls and so they go from college to college thus creating disturbance. He thinks that discipline should be enforced by all means. But in a humane way, fines and other drastic measures are resented by students. He feels that students work only at the last moment and that these could be avoided by introducing frequent tests during the year. He also suggests that the B. Com. syllabus be divided into two portions as it is done in Science, and a university examination be held at the end of the junior year.

Comment:

X seems to have a deep problem that troubles him and which he finds difficult to manifest. Given his sensitive nature, this seems to be the real reason for his failure.
Case No. 89

General Facts:

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Scholastic Record:

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<td>Commerce</td>
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Problem:

Three consecutive failures in B. Com. Discontinuance.

Reasons for failure:

Illness. Family problems.

Subjects failed:

Accountancy, English, Merchantile Law, Principles of Economics.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Defective teaching.

Interview:

X is in charge of the family affairs since his father's death, some months ago; and he said this was the reason for his failure in B. Com. Since he could not study, his marks were very low in most of the subjects, failed in some of them
and in all the groups. Besides these general reasons for failure, there was another for failing in these subjects and it was the defective method of teaching that his professors had. He also found most of the subjects dry and uninteresting and the teachers did not seem to take any trouble to make them attractive and interesting. Outside class professors were unapproachable, there seemed to be a wall between them and the students, and no apparent effort was made to break it. If asked any question they appeared to resent being disturbed. Questioned why he had chosen commerce in preference to other faculties, X answered that he had done his schooling in a commercial school and it was but natural that he should go for Commerce. As for his discontinuance of studies, X said that the reason for it was only the death of his father. He would have gone on trying but now he felt that with the responsibilities of the family he could not possibly do so.

Comment:

X had been a little reticent to speak about his failures. And as for the reasons he first gave, the interview revealed nothing about his illness, and his father's death occurred only after his third failure in B. Com. The supposedly defective teaching appeared to be a cover for his own deficiency and lack of aptitude for higher studies manifested by his conversation and his poor English.
Case No. 90

General Facts:

Sex: Male
Native place: Urban
Marital status: Unmarried
Family monthly income: Between Rs 200 & 500
Whether working or not: No

Scholastic Record:

School: Urban
Year of passing S. S. C.: 1953
Number of attempts: One
Percentage: Forty
Year of entry into college: 1953
Age at time of entry: Seventeen
Faculty: Commerce

Problem:

Failures in I. Com. and B. Com. Graduation in five and half years.

Reasons for failure:

Negligence in studies.

Subjects failed:

Accountancy.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Grouping of subjects.

Interview:

X did not have any serious problem. His failure in I. Com. was due entirely to his own negligence. Being young when he joined college, he did not apply himself seriously to his studies, but wasted his time and energies in amusements and in the company of friends. In F. Y. he passed in spite
of his negligence. He could not remember the subjects in which he had failed; he had no difficulties in any, he just neglected them all. His failure in B. Com., he said, was due to the system of grouping subjects. He had worked well but ran short of few marks in the total of Accountancy. The following October he appeared again and passed out. Now, after graduation he had found a job, and considers that the labour gone through during his graduation was not entirely useless. X would have the system of grouping subjects eliminated. In subjects in which there are several papers, each separate examiner may consider the student fit for promotion or graduation and yet in the total of the different papers he may fail. He would also suggest to schools and colleges to offer guidance to the students in the choice of their careers. Finally he said that education has come down very much chiefly because some of the examiners are easily bribed by rich students.

Comment:

X was probably too young to have made a good use of the freedom of college life as his negligence in studies proves. The fact that he could graduate within a reasonable time shows that he was an ordinary student.
Case No. 91

General Facts:

Sex: Male
Native place: Rural
Marital status: Unmarried
Family monthly income: Below Rs 200
Whether working or not: Yes

Scholastic Record:

School: Urban
Year of passing S. S. C.: 1952
Number of attempts: Two
Percentage: Fifty two
Year of entry into college: 1953
Age at time of entry: Eighteen
Faculty: Commerce

Problem:


Reasons for failure:

In I. Com.: Negligence of studies; Other activities; Sports, friends. In B. Com.: Refusal of leave.

Subjects failed:

Modern Economic Development.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Difficult subject.

Interview:

X entertained no illusions about his intellectual ability when he desired to go to college. But he expected to obtain admission to college only on his merits as a good cricketer. On the same grounds he hoped to graduate and obtain a job. Another reason for his applying for admission
to college was the fact that all his elder brothers and sisters were graduates and some of them already employed as teachers. During his first and second year in college, X did not study at all, he spent the day on the cricket field or in the canteen with his friends. This led to his failure in I. Com. After so many years he remembers the number of subjects he failed in; besides he considered this unimportant for he had not studied at all. At the second attempt X passed out and enrolled for the B. Com. class. Here again he continued to play cricket and waste his time as he had done before his first failure, and when the time for the final examination came he was utterly unprepared. He did not appear for the examination. Instead he sought employment as a teacher in a neighbouring high school. The management of the school has never granted him leave to prepare his examinations and this has been the reason for his not appearing these last two years. This year, however, forced by the pressure of the members of his family he appeared for the examination but failed in Modern Economic Development. This subject was too difficult for him and he could not remember all the details required for the examination. He said his only consolation was that he was not the only one to find it difficult, even good students considered it as one of the most difficult subjects.

Comment:

From his own confession X was negligent in studies. Besides, his conversation reveals also a certain amount of lack of aptitude for college studies of right motivation and interest. He does not seem to be likely ever to graduate.
Case No. 92

General Facts:

Sex: Male
Native place: Urban
Marital status: Unmarried
Family monthly income: Between Rs 200 & 500
Whether working or not: No

Scholastic Record:

School: Urban
Year of passing S. S. C.: 1954
Number of attempts: One
Percentage: Ninety nine
Year of entry into college: 1954
Age at time of entry: Nineteen
Faculty: Commerce

Problem:

Three failures in I. Com. Discontinuance of studies.

Reasons for failure:

Wrong choice forced by father. Lack of aptitude for and interest in Commerce studies.

Subjects failed:

Economics, Accountancy.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Lack of interest.

Reasons for discontinuance:

Repeated failure, Lack of interest.

Interview:

X had done his schooling in a technical school and so he developed a keen interest in the technical subjects. His great ambition was to become a
spinning and weaving master after his S. S. C. Examination and then seek employment. However, on passing the S. S. C. and manifesting his desire to his father, he met with very stiff opposition. Both his father and other relatives could not imagine "the son of a respectable family" rubbing shoulders with workers and other people of the lower classes. He was forced to choose a more "respectable" career. He tried Science but no college would take him. His marks in Mathematics were much too low. From the first lecture he attended in Commerce, he developed a deep dislike for the whole career, but there was nothing he could do. At the end of the first year he passed more through influence than anything else, but in Intermediate he failed miserably. He would have given up studies there and then, but his father would have none of it. Only after three consecutive failures did his father's opposition mellow down. X could then go for his technical training if he wanted. But by that time he felt disappointed and bitter against his father who through sheer stubbornness had wrecked his future. For two years X has done nothing, he just whiles away his time in the company of his friends unable to make any effort to study or learn anything. Lately one of his friends has tried to persuade him to at least graduate in Arts, but again he feels too disappointed and thinks that he will not be able to do this much as he has no inclination for Arts either. X feels that if he had been given some guidance by the school to show him his abilities, he would have been able to fight out his case with his father, as it is he could not argue with him, for all he could say was he did not like to study what he had been told to. He also thinks that there are too many young men like himself who have their future ruined for the lack of guidance and by the insistence of their parents in making them study what they do not like and ruin their future.

Comment:

The fact that X was forced to take commercial subjects in spite of his deep dislike for them would be sufficient reason for his failures. Whether besides lacking interest he also lacks ability for Commerce, is not possible to ascertain with the data available.
Case No. 93

General Facts:

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Scholastic Record:

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<tr>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td>Commerce</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Problem:

Three consecutive failures in I. Com. Discontinuance of studies.

Reasons for failure:

Family problems.

Subjects failed:

Economics.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Grouping system.

Reasons for discontinuance:

No need for degree.

Interview:

X had very lonely childhood and boyhood. He never knew his mother and his father died when he was
five years old. He then became the legal owner of very large properties, factories and houses in town, but all was run by the Government during his minority. When he passed his S. S. C. he decided to go to college and since he had no one from whom to take advice he decided by himself for Commerce in order to prepare himself for the management of his properties. At the beginning of his college studies he married and a little after passing his F. Y. Examination he acquired majority of age. From that moment he began to take very active part in his affairs going daily to the office and visiting the other properties regularly. This led to his neglect of studies and failure in Inter Commerce. Since his business did not permit him to devote more time to his studies, he failed a second and a third time, in spite of having engaged a tutor. This tutor happened to be appointed examiner and X arranged for a sum of money to help him correct the Economics paper better. On receiving the money the tutor raised the sum stipulated, and since the new amount was not forthcoming X failed by a few marks. After his third failure, X began to doubt the usefulness of a degree. Whatever knowledge he required for the administration of his properties and business, he had already acquired through study, experience and the help of his employees. Mere graduation was not going to help him anyway and would take too long at the present rate. He discontinued studies there and then.

X said he could mention other names of students who had been promised promotion by their private tutors on condition they advanced a sum of money. The practice is spreading. More and more professors are only concerned with making money and not with education, they teach in college halfheartedly, for their main source of income is private tuitions and examinations. These malpractices have lowered the value of the university degree. He found the tutorial system good in theory but not so much in practice, for the tutors, being different from the professors and lacking in experience, more than helping the young students, they create confusion in their minds.
The reasons for failure and discontinuance X gave seem true and sufficient. X’s conversation is intelligent and there seems to be no reason to suspect that the cause of his failure and discontinuance was different from the one he mentioned.

Case No. 94

General Facts:

Sex: Male
Native place: Rural
Marital status: Unmarried
Family monthly income: Below Rs. 200
Whether working or not: Yes

Scholastic Record:

School: Urban
Year of passing S. S. C.: 1953
Number of attempts: Two
Percentage: Fifty three
Year of entry into college: 1953
Age at time of entry: Nineteen
Faculty: Commerce

Problem:

Two failures in I. Com. one in B. Com. Not yet graduated.

Reasons for failure:

Financial and Family problems.

Subjects failed:

Commercial Correspondence.
Case No. 94

General Facts:

Sex Male
Native place Rural
Marital status Unmarried
Family monthly income Below Rs 200
Whether working or not Yes

Scholastic Record:

School Urban
Year of passing S. S. C. 1953
Number of attempts Two
Percentage Fifty three
Year of entry into college 1953
Age at time of entry Nineteen
Faculty Commerce

Problem:


Reasons for failure:

Financial and Family problems.

Subjects failed:

Commercial Correspondence.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Lack of interest.

Interview:

X is a native of Southern India. His elder brother had a good job in town and he came to stay with him some years ago. Their parents had been dead many years and X had no one to support him but his brother who earned a good salary and could easily pay X's college fees after meeting the expenses of his own family. During his second year in college
X's brother lost his job, for some reason he did not mention, and whatever savings they had were spent after the younger child who fell sick and was in hospital for two full years. Not only the savings went but with them all their property, radio, furniture and everything that could fetch some money. Soon they were unable to pay the rent of the spacious house they lived in and had to rent a one-room tenement without even electricity. X has a very sensitive nature and this crisis of the family affected him deeply. For nights on end he would not be able to close his eyes, brooding over their misfortune and trying to think of a possible solution. He himself found employment in a mill as a coolie and on his return home he had to prepare the food for the rest of the family while the others were in the hospital looking after the child. At this time also he was the victim of an unjust aggression, and he was under the impression that some members of his own religion, priests in particular, were to blame because they had not taken steps to prevent the aggression and refused assistance when asked for it. For years together he could not even talk to any priest. On account of all these problems X could not study with the interest and attention he should and failed. The subject failed every time Commercial Correspondence, and the reason was that he was very good in Mathematics and had always liked the subject, but at the same time he had developed a deep dislike for other subjects specially languages. At the third attempt X passed out his I. Com. and enrolled for B. Com. In his senior year he was granted by the mill a scholarship on condition he worked extra hours; he did so but he could scarcely find out time to study and attend college eventhough he cut down his night sleep to three hours. In the final examination he failed in almost all the subjects. Now he hopes to graduate this year.

Regarding the examination system X said that there is too much insistence on memory. Students are examined only on their capacity to remember details not on their ability to reason and apply to new circumstances the principles learnt in class. He thinks it is arbitrary to enforce on all students the medium of Gujarati disregarding their mother
tongue. This measure will result in a division of India, for neither will people of other states be able to come to Gujarat for studies or business, nor will Gujaratis be able to go elsewhere in India.

Comment:

X gave in his conversation very clear signs of a very sensitive nature and even of some lack of balance in his character. It would be interesting to study whether the financial problems his brother suffered were also due to some similar cause. In any case X's character seems to be the main reason for his poor performance in college and not so much the other reasons mentioned.

Case No. 95

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Problem:

Two failures in I. Com. Discontinuance of studies.
Reasons for failure:
Not accounted for.

Subjects failed:
Accountancy and Hindi.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:
Hindi a new subject. Accountancy: Failed in total.

Reasons for discontinuance:
Discouragement after failure.

Interview:
X is the son of a high school teacher. His father used to coach the children specially in Mathematics, for he had the hope of seeing them one day engineers and well employed. But X failed once in the S. S. C. This failure did not permit him to take Science, but it was thought that Commerce was a good choice as the boy was supposed to be good in Mathematics. When X failed in Accountancy both father and son were very disappointed for Accountancy was his strong point. As a matter of fact, in the bank in which he is now employed X is called to solve all the difficult cases others cannot solve. How a boy like this could fail in Accountancy was inexplicable. There must be necessarily something wrong in the educational system, either in the teaching or in the examinations themselves. Both the times X ran short of very few marks; he passed in the individual papers but failed to secure the minimum of marks for passing in the total. Regarding his failure in Hindi, X said that he had not studied this language in school, as it was optional at that time. Now in college he had to study an advanced course when he was very weak in the fundamentals of grammar.

X’s father would suggest that the college teaching, specially that of practical subjects like Commerce, be less theoretical. There is now a gap between
the knowledge students acquire in college and what they require for practical life; and a young man may be very good in practice while failing in theoretical knowledge. His son is a living example of this disparity.

Comment:

X did not have much of chance to expose his own case. All the questions were answered by his father who did not miss a chance to praise the son to such an extent that it seemed he was trying to prevent the boy from talking and revealing his real qualities. In the few sentences X managed to get in there was no apparent sign of his "extraordinary qualities".

Case No. 96

General Facts:

Sex
Male

Native place
Urban

Marital status
Unmarried

Family monthly income
Between Rs 200 & 500

Whether working or not
No

Scholastic Record:

School
Urban

Year of passing S. S. C.
1953

Number of attempts
One

Percentage
Third class

Year of entry into college
1953

Age at time of entry
Nineteen

Faculty
Commerce

Problem:

Discontinuance of studies after the first term of Inter Commerce.
Reasons for discontinuance:

Financial problems. Family problems.

Interview:

X comes from a backward family. Most of its members are illiterate and he is the first one ever to have completed his secondary education. Since he considered himself to be a good student, he decided to go for higher education and so raise the standard of the family, of his own community and in his own measure of the country itself. But all the members of his family opposed his plans from the very beginning. Only his father did somehow support him and give him encouragement. For the S. S. C. he did not offer Sanskrit or Persian on account of their difficulty. As a consequence he could not go for Arts in spite of feeling a strong attraction. The only faculty open to him was Commerce. Although X was not a very diligent student during his first year in college, he still passed out in the final examination. But at the beginning of Inter Commerce the opposition of the family to his studies increased day by day. His father, on account of the pressure brought to bear on him by the other members of the family, refused to pay his college fees. But X found out a scholarship in his community and so was able to enrol for the first term. At that time the finances began to experience a decline. He has a shop and while in college he had to entrust its running to a brother of his and an employee. Sales went down very fast and instead of making money they were running the shop almost at a loss. In view of this and the constant and increasing disputes in the family on occasion of this studies, X decided to interrupt them for a time. Now after some years of interruption, he has decided to remain as he is. He will try that his children at least have the chance of a better education and so his dream of seeing his family and community in a better position may one day become a reality.

X finds that the greatest deficiency in our educational system is a lack of guidance both in school
and college. He believes that the Government should do something in order to provide students the information required to choose the faculty most suited to them and so help them prevent making the mistake he himself had made.

Comment:

X does not impress as a gifted student. The lack of education and culture of his whole community is quite noticeable in his manners. However, if the atmosphere in the family had been more favourable he might have been able to complete his studies.

Case No. 97

General Facts:

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Problem:

Four consecutive failures in B. Com. Discontinuance of studies.
Reasons for one failure:
Marriage. Other failures unaccounted for.

Subjects failed:
Accountancy and Economics.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:
Unknown.

Reasons for discontinuance:
Repeated failure. Degree not needed.

Interview:
X's father has been running a shop in the centre of the city these last twenty years and he has been most successful in his business. X wanted to prepare himself to run the shop when his time came, as he is the eldest child. As a matter of fact he used to go to the shop in his spare times and so gained experience while still studying. He took for granted his ability for Commerce in view of his dislike for the other faculties of Arts and Science. X passed out in every examination till his B. Con. According to the custom of his community he married just before the final examination. He believed that this factor influenced his failure, but the other three that followed could not be accounted for. Specially he could not understand why he failed in Accountancy, since he liked the subject and had been used to keep accounts in the shop for a good number of years now. The same happened with his failure in Economics, he had always liked the subject and found it only reasonably difficult. After having attempted the examination four times, X thought he had had more than a fair try. He was not in need of the degree as his future is well secured. And as for knowledge and experience, he would not gain more by merely passing in the examination. This made him desire to give up further attempts.
In the line of suggestions X was very poor. He only said that colleges and universities should provide students with more facilities and attractive surroundings, such as fans in the classrooms, beautiful and well kept gardens and other such things.

Comment:

X does not give the impression of being a student of good ability. His English is rather good but his conversation is not very intelligent. As for his failures, his marriage just before his first attempt may have been an influencing cause. But the main reason for this and chiefly for the other failures seems to be a certain lack of ability for higher studies. His interest in the business may have easily distracted him from his studies in spite of his statement to the contrary.
General Facts:

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Problem:


Reasons for failure:

Negligence in studies, other activities. Wrong choice of faculty. Private reasons.

Subjects failed:

Geography and Accountancy.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Not known.

Reasons for changing over to Arts:

Failure.

Reasons for absence from the Examination:

Financial problems. Family problems.
Interview:

X is the eldest child of a once well to do merchant. When he completed his schooling and decided to go to college, he did not know what faculty to choose. He felt equal ability for them all although his interests lay more in the line of History, Geography and languages – even now his hobby is reading books on all these subjects. But father made the decision for him, he wanted the son to be trained in business administration and decided he would take up a degree in Commerce. X, like most students of his age, was negligent of his studies in the beginning, he engaged himself in all kinds of extracurricular activities and when the examination came he was not prepared and failed. He, however, thought that the cause of his failure – as well as that of many other students – was the fact that one of the professors had told the class that a certain portion of the syllabus would not be asked in the examination – a thing that did not eventually come true. After this failure X decided to take Arts and appear for the B. Com. Examination later after graduation in Arts. At that time his father fell ill and the savings of many years were spent on doctors and medicines. For a long time he could not attend to his office work and X was forced to take charge of the family affairs. This distracted him from his studies, but he still managed to graduate in four years. At the death of his father, the business collapsed and X had to find employment in a bank. He was very disappointed when the other members of the family, whom his father had so generously helped in their needs spending on them plenty of money did not come to their help now. This has broken him completely and he feels now very lonely and diffident. For two years he has not felt prepared to appear for his B. Com. Examination seeing the need of his mother and younger brothers and sisters. But he hopes to appear soon.

X thinks that both colleges and Government should increase the number of scholarships in order to help more poor and deserving students. He would also be in favour of morning colleges both for Commerce and Science. This would enable students to make the best of the morning hours, the best
for study. Working students, however, should not be given admission to these colleges, as it is done now, for they cannot possibly combine their work with the hard study required in Commerce and Science. He believes that students do not work hard enough, due to the small number of examinations held during the year and the lack of tutorials in some of the colleges.

Comment:

X was too young to make a good use of the freedom of college life. This appears to be the root of his negligence in studies. Given his interest for the Arts subjects his choice of Commerce instead of Arts was apparently wrong. As for the reasons for his absence from the B. Com. Examination these last two years, the family and financial problems would be a more than sufficient reason. X appears to have been quite sincere in his statement of his problem.
Case No. 99

General Facts:

- Sex: Male
- Native place: Urban
- Marital status: Married
- Family monthly income: Between Rs 200 & 500
- Whether working or not: Yes

Scholastic Record:

- School: Urban
- Year of passing S. S. C.: 1952
- Number of attempts: One
- Percentage: Forty seven
- Year of entry into college: 1952
- Age at time of entry: Nineteen
- Faculty: Commerce

Problem:

Failure in F. Y. Com. and I. Com. once. Interruption of studies for one year. One failure in B. Com. absence from the examination ever since.

Reasons for failure:


Subjects failed:

- Civics, Accountancy, Modern Economic Development.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

- Intrinsic difficulty.

Reasons for interruption of studies:

- Father's death.
Interview:

X is the eldest of five children of a successful merchant. On the advice of a relative of his, a college teacher, he chose Commerce on account of the better prospects his degree offers. X was pleased with this advice for he also liked Mathematics and he had obtained good marks in this subject throughout his school studies. But Commerce was not so easy as it had seemed to him at first sight. Being young he followed the current of his friends and spent the time in canteens and in cinema houses instead of attending lectures and studying. He neglected especially Civics and Accountancy because he found them difficult and so failed in them. After his failure he worked a little more diligently and yet he failed once more in Accountancy. The subject was too much for him. The following year since he had plenty of free time, he took up a job while preparing for his second attempt. After passing the Inter Commerce Examination X changed his job for a more permanent and better one. This, together with the worries following his father's death and the preparations for his coming marriage, prevented him from enrolling again. After resuming his studies one year later X failed once in B. Com. The reason for this failure was that his employers refused to grant him leave for the preparation of the examination. He had failed in almost every subject, especially in Accountancy and M. E. D. He had always been weak in Accountancy; and M. E. D. turned out difficult because of the large number of details to memorise. Now X has lost a little his interest in studies, but will try again.

X thinks that students would study more if frequent examinations were introduced. He has reached that conclusion after seeing the good effects of this system in his younger brothers still in College.

Comment:

X does not seem to be a bright student. His conversation is not very intelligent. He appears to have little interest in studies probably because he does not need the degree to make a living.
Case No. 100

General Facts:

- Sex: Male
- Native place: Urban
- Marital status: Unmarried
- Family monthly income: Below Rs 200
- Whether working or not: No

Scholastic Record:

- School: Urban
- Year of passing S. S. C.: 1952
- Number of attempts: One
- Percentage: Fifty five
- Year of entry into college: 1952
- Age at time of entry: Seventeen
- Faculty: Commerce

Problem:

Two failures in Inter Com. Interruption of studies for four years. Change over to Arts. Doing junior B. A.

Reasons for failure:

Family and Financial problems.

Subjects failed:

Accountancy.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Same as above.

Reasons for interruption of studies:

Financial problems. Failure.

Reasons for change to Arts:

Difficulty of the Commerce course. Desire to graduate in Arts to obtain promotion.
Interview:

X is a student of Psychology and came to the interview in the hope of meeting a psychologist. When found out that the enquiry was not strictly psychological he showed open disappointment. From then on he was a little impatient and suspicious although co-operative enough. X said that when he was in the school the class teacher took the whole class to visit a Bank. The order, silence and spirit of work of the institution impressed him so much that he decided there and then to become a banker when he grew, and from that day he studied Arithmetic and Mathematics with great zest in order to prepare himself for the future. The good results he obtained in these two subjects in the school and the S. S. C. Examinations encouraged him very much, but when he failed twice in Accountancy his disappointment knew no limits. The reason for these two failures was, he thought, the financial problem through which his family passed at that time. The family consists of eight members and the salary of the father is very low. As the children grew the expenses have also increased and he himself felt the need of seeking employment. The first job that came his way was precisely that of clerk in a bank. This gave him immense joy, for he thought he was going to see the realisation of his life ambition. In the bank where he is employed there is nothing of that order and spirit of work that impressed him so much as a boy. Instead he found jealousy, distrust and a low income. He is kept among the last ranks of the employees, in spite of his manifest ability, only because he is not a graduate. Now his only desire is to graduate in Arts and so have a chance to prosper and remain in the same job, for after all he still likes banking.

X is dissatisfied with the present system of distribution of Government scholarships. A low income is a very arbitrary criterium, depending on the size of the family, as it does. Educational institutions should give middle class students like himself, more help, not so much financial assistance, but facilities for education and more personal attention.
At present little personal attention is given because there are too many students in each class. There should be more freedom also, of choice of subjects and a tendency to give less importance to the final examination and more to the terminal examinations and other tests. Finally firms should not give employment or promotion merely on the basis of college degrees but on personal merit.

Comment:

X appears to be the type of ordinary student. However, he might have overestimated himself a little and his supposed ability for Arithmetic and Mathematics may have been more the result of his enthusiasm than of his natural capacity. But the financial problems of the family and his need for an employment have surely a part to play in his lack of success in studies.
Case No. 101

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Scholastic Record:

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>Forty six</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year of entry into college</td>
<td>1952</td>
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<td>Age at time of entry</td>
<td>Twenty one</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td>Commerce</td>
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</table>

Problem:

Failure in F. Y. Com. Interruption of studies for one year. Change over to Arts. Three failures in B. A. Still trying.

Reasons for failure:

Financial problems.

Subjects failed:

English, Accountancy and Economics.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Same as above.

Reasons for interruption and change over to Arts:

Interview:

X wanted to give the interview at his own residence in order to give educationists a chance to obtain first hand information of the living conditions of low class students. X's house consists of one small room and a tiny verandah attached to it. There he stays with his wife and three small children, his aging parents and his younger brother and sister. The furniture has to be shifted every night to make room for all to sleep. The area is noisy and congested and since there is no privacy of any kind. Everybody disturbs his neighbours and is disturbed by them in turn. Relatives and visitors keep on coming day and night. In these conditions X has tried to study these last years. The financial condition of the family, never good, became worse when X joined college. His mother had to discontinue her work on account of her age. This stopped the only source of income for his father who had long retired from work. With great difficulty X managed to continue studying that year, but failed at the end. The following year he sought employment and did not attend college. Seeing that the financial problems would not improve, and that he would not be able to continue his studies of Commerce while employed, he joined an Arts college. He wanted to educate himself and also expected to obtain a promotion if he graduated. During his entire career in Arts X passed out in all the examinations, but failed three times in succession in B. A. In addition to his financial and social problems that made it difficult for him to study, his employers did not grant him more leave than that strictly necessary to appear for the examination papers and so he failed. But he has not given up the idea of graduating.

X would have benefited if facilities to study would have been available either in University or the college itself. College libraries or other halls should be made available to students, at least for the last two months before the final examinations. In our colleges there is either too many students or too few professors. Tutorials and more frequent examinations during the year
should be introduced and the final results should be the average of the marks obtained throughout the year.

Comment:

X seems to be very much affected by his low social status. This has naturally its influence in his general education and consequently in his fitness for education. Apart from the financial difficulties he encountered X does not seem to be meant for college, still less for Commerce.

Case No. 102

General Facts:

Sex Male
Native place Urban
Marital status Married
Family monthly income Above Rs 500
Whether working or not Yes

Scholastic Record:

School Urban
Year of passing S. S. C. 1952
Number of attempts Three
Percentage Fifty
Year of entry into college 1952
Age at time of entry Eighteen
Faculty Commerce

Problem:

Failure in F. Y. Com. Graduation in five years.

Reasons for failure:

Personal and Family problems.
Subjects failed:

All subjects.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Same as above.

Interview:

X started off by saying that he suffered very much from an inferiority complex due to mainly the way in which he had been brought up by his father who has a strong and domineering character and will not permit his children to deflect from the norm he had preconceived for their formation. For his father has never been an object of love but of fear and a person whose orders have to be accepted unquestionably. To make matters worse he had spent his childhood in his grandmother's house and when brought back home at the age of twelve he felt like a stranger. X's father did not object to X's going for higher education, but did not want him to take Science but Commerce, for the reason X would have to take charge of the business and needed training. X was very unhappy during his first year in college. He felt again like a stranger and transferred to his new superiors the fear and submission he had for his father. He was not permitted to take part in any extracurricular activities but was told to concentrate on studies. However X did neither and failed. This failure and even those in the S. S. C. Examination were the result of the overly authoritarian attitude of his father. Strange enough his father did not get angry on account of his inability to pass in the final examination. This gave X a little encouragement and the following year, overcoming his feelings, he passed out. As a part of X's education father wanted him to find employment, not that he needed money, but because he wanted the boy to finance his own education. With this experience and with his marriage that followed, X gained very much in the eyes of his father and in those of the whole family. Every year he felt more and more confident of himself became also
more independent of his father and finally was able to graduate in Commerce in five years.

**Comment:**

X may not be a very bright student but his conversation gives indication that he belongs to the group of ordinary students. Also the fact that he graduated in five years seems to be an indication that he was fit to be educated on higher level. His trouble, as he himself said, seems to have been the education received as a young boy.

**Case No. 102**

**General Facts:**

<table>
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<th>Sex</th>
<th>Male</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Native place</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marital status</td>
<td>Unmarried</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family monthly income</td>
<td>Below Rs 200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Whether working or not</td>
<td>No</td>
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**Scholastic Record:**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year of passing S. S. C.</td>
<td>1952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of attempts</td>
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<td>Percentage</td>
<td>Forty five</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year of entry into college</td>
<td>1952</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age at time of entry</td>
<td>Sixteen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td>Commerce</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Problem:**

Discontinuance of studies after passing F. Y. Com.

**Reasons for discontinuance:**

Illness. Forced to marry.
Interview:

X was very embarrassed when visited. He was unprepared, the house was very shabby and probably the very problem that had caused his discontinuance made him feel awkward. And so, although cooperative, he was rather taciturn and gave short answers to what was asked for him.

X felt a strong attraction for Mathematics and decided to take Commerce after his S. S. C. But his father did not want to hear of his son going to college and so refused to pay the college fees. Yet X managed somehow to pay his way through his first year of college and passed out his final examination. At that time his father began to insist on his marrying the girl he had brought for him. X disliked her from the first, her appearance was very poor, she was utterly uneducated and he sensed at once that neither of the two had any attraction for each other. The opposition of his father to his education and the pressure for his marriage occasioned severe stomachaches that forced him to discontinue his studies. The following year X married that very girl in order to have some kind of peace in the house. After a short stay of few months together, in which none of them was happy, X managed to send the girl to her native place under some pretext or other and sending word to her parents to keep her. After two years of separation he obtained a legal certificate of divorce. Shortly afterwards he heard that she had burnt herself to death. From that day X is a broken man for he feels her death is due somewhat to him and he does not feel like doing anything else in life. At present he stays with his mother whom he supports with the salary he earns.

Comment:

X's case, sorrowful as it is, was a more than sufficient reason for his discontinuance of studies. He appeared very sincere throughout and there was no need to question him any further.
Case No. 104

General Facts:

Sex
Native place
Marital status
Family monthly income
Whether working or not

Male
Urban
Unmarried
Below Rs 200
No

Scholastic Record:

School
Year of passing S. S. C.
Number of attempts
Percentage
Year of entry into college
Age at time of entry
Faculty

Urban
1952
One
Fifty five
1952
Seventeen
Commerce

Problem:

Failure in B. Com. Graduation in four years and a half.

Reasons for failure:

Other activities. No guidance. Hard paper.

Subjects failed:

Principles of Economics.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

No guidance.

Interview:

X was a little suspicious in the beginning lest the information he gave be used against him or against the good name of the country’s educational system. But once this initial difficulty was overcome he was very cooperative.
In deciding to study X was partly led by the modern attitude towards higher education and partly by the desire to prepare himself for a good employment for he had developped from his young days a liking for salesmanship, and for the cotton industry. During his first year though though he did not study very hard, yet he did not neglect his studies entirely and so he passed out every year till B. Com. In senior B. Com. he put his trust in guides and when he saw that the questions asked in the examination were different from those he had prepared, he grew nervous and wrote anything that came to his mind. But by far the main reason for his failure was the marriage of his sister that took place just a little before the examination. He was utterly distracted during those days and did not study at all. But since he had been a good student throughout his career he made up for his failure the following October examination. Now he has found a good job and would like to pursue his studies, but the firm in which he works would dismiss him immediately if he did so.

X was very critical of the Government's attitude towards graduation. It should no longer be a prerequisite for employment but rather the personal merits and qualities of the candidates. Even colleges should have their own entrance examinations and should not rely only on the S. S. C. results, for many of the students who pass the S. S. C. are not fit for college education. Colleges should give more personal attention to their students. When he was in the class of Economics of Cotton he could see very clearly the effects of this personal attention, for the number of students who attended the course was very small. The present examination system is not an objective tests of the work done during the year. More tests should be had throughout the year and final results should be an average of all these tests. He also feels that corruption is creeping in the educational system; more and more undeserving students manage to bribe their way to the degree while other good students cannot pass. With the spread of education to all the social classes, the number of students from lower classes has increased. These students
should be helped more efficiently to prevent their discontinuing studies for lack of material means. Schools and colleges should undertake to provide guidance to all students, because their parents, many of whom are uneducated, are unable to guide them or are not interested in the progress of their children.

Comment:

Having no other sources of information except his conversation and the scholastic record, it is not possible to come to any definite conclusion about X's case. However the general impression was good.

Case No. 105

General Facts:

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Scholastic Record:

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<td>Age at time of entry</td>
<td>Sixteen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td>Commerce</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Problem:

Failure in B. Com. Graduation in four years and a half.
Reasons for failure:
Not known.

Subjects failed:
Accountancy.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:
Ran short of few marks.

Interview:

X wanted to graduate in order to prepare himself for a good job, and as he did not have either ability for nor interest in Science he chose Commerce. Although he had done his school studies through the medium of Gujarati, yet he did not experience any special difficulty when joining college. Very soon he was used to the new medium, as he had began the study of English from the First Standard. He could not account for his failure in B. Com. for although, like most students, he had not been very regular in the beginning of his college career, yet by the end he had become more serious. He ran short of very few marks in the total of Accountancy, but he had never experienced any special difficulty in the subject. As a matter of fact in the next re-examination he passed fully.

X would suggest that Commerce professors be more interesting in their lectures. As it is, the subjects are very dry of themselves and the teachers do nothing to dispel this dryness. New professors are especially lacking in interest. The languages textbooks are in need of change, they are not adapted to the needs of Commerce students. Geography, the stumbling block of most of the F. Y. Com. students should be either entirely suppressed or wholly revised. Students considering it useless do not pay any attention in class nor show any interest. X is under the impression that there is a large number of "useless" students in the first year. For lack of guidance matriculates flock to the Commerce colleges after being refused
admission in Science only to find that the course is too difficult. They fail and give up studies. Colleges should do something to prevent this leakage. He would also like professors to be more helpful to the students.

X was convinced that the introduction of Gujarati as the only medium of instruction was the cause of the low standard now prevailing in the university. There is no need to introduce English as the medium of instruction in the schools but students should reach college with a working knowledge of English enough to understand textbooks and reference books.

Comment:

Although X was rather shy in the beginning and not very communicative, he seemed sincere and to have stated the truth about his case.
General Facts:

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Scholastic Record:

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<td>Faculty</td>
<td>Commerce</td>
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Problem:

Failure in B. Com. Graduation in four years and a half.

Reasons for failure:

Illness at the time of the examination.

Subjects failed:

Principles of Economics and M. E. D.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Same as above.

Interview:

X said that right from school he had been a good student. He could not find any reason for his failure, the first and last in his life, except the little attack of fever he suffered just a few days before the examinations began. There was
nothing wrong with him, he just ran a little temperature, and strange enough, the fever disappeared as it had come, once the examinations were over. However, he did not think it was due to nervousness or some other psychic cause, for he felt quite prepared and confident. Later on, however, in the course of the interview, he mentioned he had noticed a steady decline in his performance in studies. In School he had been a first class student and passed out his S. S. C. Examination in first class, but then in F. Y. Com. he just missed the first class by a few marks, obtained a low second class in Inter Com. and finally failed in B. Com. He thought that this decline was due to the choice of Accountancy, which turned out to be more difficult than he had anticipated, and in order to concentrate on it he had neglected a little the other subjects. Now that he had passed out fully and was drawing a good salary he did not feel the choice had been wrong.

For the benefit of future students X would like to suggest some changes in the university’s educational system. Most of the B. Com. students find the course too lengthy and in comparison the time allotted to each paper too short. They would be glad to see the introduction of a university examination at the end of the junior year. He thinks the question papers are sometimes tricky and lay emphasis on less important points. This makes students do a good amount of guess work in the preparation of the examinations instead of concentrating on the main points of each subject. More tests should be held throughout the year and the marks given in them should influence the final results.

Comment:

It is difficult to say whether X’s fever was not due to fear of the examination in spite of his statement to the contrary. On the other hand, he speaks well, was able to graduate soon enough, has now a good job and is going for further studies at the Company’s expenses. All this seems to indicate that he is a man of good ability.
Case No. 107

General Facts:

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Scholastic Record:

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<td>Percentage</td>
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<td>Year of entry into college</td>
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<td>Age at time of entry</td>
<td>Twenty two</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td>Commerce</td>
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Problem:

Transfer to Arts after few months in F. Y. Com.
Failure in F. Y. Arts. Desire to appear for Inter Arts as an external student.

Reasons for discontinuance of Commerce:

Political activities.

Reasons for failure in F. Y. Arts:

Appeared as an external student.

Subjects failed:

Hindi.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Not studied in school.

Interview:

X’s father had died when he was still very small. In order to support the family his three elder...
brothers had to leave school and go to work. Being the youngest X was the only one who could afford to go to college. He had joined a Science college, but being offered a good job he discontinued his studies. Then after three years he found out he had extra time and decided to take a degree in Commerce. After few months, on the occasion of the Maha Gujarat disturbances - in which he took a very active part - he discontinued Commerce. The following year he wanted to resume his studies but felt too old to start Commerce all over again. And there was his job which he did not want to lose. He sought admission to Arts but was refused because he had not offered Sanskrit in the S. S. C. Examination. After appearing again for the S. S. C. with Sanskrit, he enrolled in an Arts College. Here another difficulty stood on his way. His hours of duty were changed and he could not attend any college. He appeared as an external student but because he had not done Hindi in school and could not find anybody to help him, he failed in this subject. He passed out, however, the following year and now wants to prepare for the Inter Examination. But this year he will not be able to appear because the office in which he is employed will hold its own examinations in March. But X is in no hurry to graduate, as he has taken studies as a hobby.

Comment:

X appeared very frank and sincere throughout the interview and there was no reason to doubt the truthfulness of his statement.
Case No. 108

General Facts:

Sex
Native place
Marital status
Family monthly income
Whether working or not
Male
Urban
Unmarried
Between Rs 200 & 500
No

Scholastic Record:

School
Year of passing S. S. C.
Number of attempts
Percentage
Year of entry into college
Age at time of entry
Faculty
Urban
1956
Two
Forty nine
1956
Eighteen
Commerce

Problem:

Failure in I. Com. Interruption of studies for two years. Preparing for I. Com.

Reasons for failure:

Family problems. Father's opposition.

Subjects failed and reason for failure:

Not remembered.

Interview:

X is the second son of a very well-to-do engineer. Strange enough his father has been very strongly opposed to the education of his children. With great difficulty they were sent to school by mother but father refused point blank to finance their college education. The reason for this opposition does not seem to be financial for he has the money. He just does not want to spend it. Even his mother gets a very meager allowance for the house expenses, but she managed to put,
by some money out of which she paid for the education of her children. Now X is able to continue his college studies on account of the additional help he receives from his elder brother, already married and well settled in business. This attitude of his father has given X much suffering and has been the cause of his failures in school and college. As he grew X became more aware of the difference between his father’s attitude and that of the parents of other students who were given more freedom of action and were permitted to spend more money. He never dared to make friends or even mix with his classmates. In order to be able to pay his college fees, he tried to find employment in various places, but he said he had been refused admission once his father’s name was mentioned. They would not understand why the son of much a prominent and prosperous person should look for employment. They suspected something was wrong somewhere and turned him out. All the work he was able to find was giving tuitions to school students. X is very discouraged and does not know what to do. If he does not graduate he will not find a good job, and without a job he does not feel he will be able to continue his studies.

Comment:

X’s story sounds somewhat strange. However, he seemed sincere and there was no apparent reason for his building up such a tall story. It was not possible to find out whether there was any other reason for his father’s stinginess. X did not follow the leads given and it was considered prudent not to press the point further. As for his ability for studies neither his conversation nor the records give any real ground for suspicion.
Case No. 109

General Facts:

Sex: Male
Native place: Urban
Marital status: Married
Family monthly income: Between Rs 200 & 500
Whether working or not: Yes

Scholastic Record:

School: Urban
Year of passing S. S. C.: 1956
Number of attempts: One
Percentage: Forty seven
Year of entry into college: 1956
Age at time of entry: Nineteen
Faculty: Commerce

Problem:

Failure in I. Com. Interruption of studies for two years. Preparing for I. Com.

Reasons for failure:

Financial difficulties, Full-time job.

Subjects failed:

Accountancy and Commercial Correspondence.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Same as above.

Reasons for interruption:

Financial problems. Fees too high.

Interview:

X would have liked to become an engineer but the family finances did not permit it. At the time
of his entry into college all his four younger brothers were still in school and his father was the only bread-winner. It was therefore evident that he would not be able to cover all the expenses of an Engineering degree. He decided to take up Commerce and then find a job. Everything went alright till the end of his Inter. Com. year. Then his father developed some trouble in the throat which later turned out to be cancer. He gave up his job, and all the savings of many years went on doctors and medicines. X himself was forced to find employment anywhere in order to support the family. He was assigned the post of store-keeper. Although he was permitted to study during his hours of leisure, he could never find the peace to do so, nor could he do any study on his return home after a full day's work. His failure in Accountancy and Correspondence did not mean anything. The subjects were not difficult, he just could not study. For two years X did not register again for I. Com., he felt that given the poor financial condition of the family he could not afford to pay college fees. X would welcome some kind of financial help, but being a repeater, he does not hope anyone will extend him a helping hand. He is resigned to live in poverty and meanwhile try to improve his condition in the best possible way. He still desires to prepare himself for another attempt.

Comment:

As X did not try to obtain assistance financially but appeared quite sincere, his statement accepted. His intelligent conversation seemed to rule out any other causes of failure.
Case No. 110

General Facts:

Sex: Male
Native place: Urban
Marital status: Unmarried
Family monthly income: Below Rs 200
Whether working or not: No

Scholastic Record:

School: Urban
Year of passing S. S. C.: 1955
Number of attempts: Two
Percentage: Forty four
Year of entry into college: 1956
Age at time of entry: Eighteen
Faculty: Commerce

Problem:

Three failures in I. Com. Preparing for the examination.

Reasons for failure:

Financial problems.

Subjects failed:

Accountancy and Commercial Correspondence.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Poor in English.

Interview:

X came to the interview with his father, who did most of the talking and showed throughout a great admiration for the qualities of his son. He had three other sons and one daughter, all younger than X. When X passed his S. S. C. Examination and showed a desire to go to college, father was very pleased and for the sake of the son's studies he
left a good Government job and came to town so as to be near him and help him as much as he could. X wanted to take Science but was refused admission at the last moment. It was too late, he felt, to join any other college and so spent the year in doing odd jobs, thus helping the economy of the house. Once in college, X worked very earnestly in order to show his gratitude for the sacrifice his father made for him. He was surprised to fail in I. Com. He ran short of few marks in Commercial Correspondence and thinking this might be due to some mistake on the part of the examiners he applied for retouching of the marks. There was no mistake. He then attributed the failure to the fact that he had done his schooling through the medium of Gujarati and so his English was poor. The following year he prepared for the examination while working instead of attending college, for his father could not afford to pay the fees. In the re-examination he failed in Accountancy. He could not account for this failure at all. He claimed he liked the subject very much and had never experienced any difficulty either in this or any other subject. At the third trial he failed once more in Correspondence. May be his English was still poor or the part-time jobs he was doing interfered with his studies. He did not think it was so, for his job consists in doing some typing for Government offices, and giving tuitions to school boys. At present both he and his father feel very confident that this time he will be able to pass and then graduation will come easily in two years.

Comment:

X, and still more his father, is full of good will and desire to graduate. But he does not appear to be as clever as he or his father think. College results may not be a very objective criterium, but three failures in succession seem to be some indication of lack of ability.
Case No. 111

General Facts:

- Sex: Male
- Native place: Urban
- Marital status: Unmarried
- Family monthly income: Between Rs 200 & 500
- Whether working or not: No

Scholastic Record:

- School: Urban
- Year of passing S. S. C.: 1956
- Number of attempts: One
- Percentage: Forty nine
- Year of entry into college: 1956
- Age at time of entry: Nineteen
- Faculty: Commerce

Problem:

Two failures in I. Com. Discontinuance.

Reasons for failure:

- Financial problems. Poor in English.

Subjects failed:

- Commercial Correspondence.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

- Poor in English.

Reasons for discontinuance:

- Financial problems.

Interview:

X wanted to take a degree in Science, but since his marks in the Science subjects were rather low he was refused admission. He then tried Commerce,
following the advice of one of his friends who was then a Commerce student. He hoped to graduate and then be able to raise the standards of his family who live in a village in Saurashtra. In town he had rented a small room but could not find peace and so went out to the public gardens to study. On account of his low social status, he felt a kind of inferiority complex before the other college students. But his main difficulty by far was English. He had studied in a village school and the standards of English there were very low, he could not make up for this deficiency during the two years in college and so failed in Commercial Correspondence. After his second failure in the same subject his parents wanted him back in the village to help them. X discontinued his studies. Now he realises he had made a wrong choice of faculty. Had he taken Arts he might by now be a graduate and probably well employed. X would have welcomed some financial assistance for his studies but chiefly more personal attention on the part of the teachers. He felt lost in the crowd and if given a hand he might have passed more easily.

Comment:

X's case seems to be of inability for college studies. If given the proper guidance and help he might have graduated in Arts but not in Commerce.
Case No. 112

General Facts:

Sex: Male
Native place: Urban
Marital status: Unmarried
Family monthly income: Above Rs 500
Whether working or not: No

Scholastic Record:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Year of passing S. S. C.</th>
<th>Number of attempts</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<td>1955</td>
<td>Seventeen</td>
<td>Commerce</td>
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Problem:

Two failures in I. Com. Discontinuance of studies.

Reasons for failure:

Poor in English.

Subjects failed:

English.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Weak in English.

Reasons for discontinuance:

Father's command.

Interview:

X's father is a self-made successful merchant. Starting from scratch, he build a very large business. Now, in this later years he has devoted
himself to religion and given up the world. The business is now run by X's uncle. X had many times been urged by his father to give up the world and devote himself to God. But the boy feels unequal to the ideal and like his father has postponed his renunciation till his later years. Now he wants to educate himself and build himself a business as prosperous as his father's. His desire for higher education has met also with the opposition of all the other members of the family. They consider it a waste of time to study while one could be making plenty of money. Still, in spite of so much opposition he joined college and went up to I. Com. where he failed twice in Commercial Correspondence. The main reason for this failure was that, in English, he was very poor. He had studied through the medium of Gujarati and could not cope with the course.

A secondary cause of his failure may have been his interest in religion. His father's example has had some influence on him after all, and X has never missed a lecture by a religious leader or guru anywhere in town. He believes that religion is the solution to all problems. After his two failures, his father, as well as the other members of the family, insisted on his giving up studies. He complied with their wishes, mainly to prevent his uncle from disinheriting him if he disobeyed. So now he wants to start business on his own and when he can stand on his feet he will continue his studies. He wants to graduate and then to follow other higher courses. His thirst for education is very great. For the time being, he is prevented from pursuing his studies by his business and his coming marriage. He is already engaged to a girl his uncle has found for him and although he is not very fond of her, still he would not dare to oppose his uncle's wish.

Comment:

X's reason for failure, his poor English, is a very common one, however, a college with ordinary ability should be able in two years to make up for his deficiency. May be he lacks also interest in studies, his religious activities being the distracting force. As for his discontinuance the reason given sounded good. X's sincerity could not be questioned.
Case No. 113

General Facts:

- Sex: Male
- Native place: Rural
- Marital status: Unmarried
- Family monthly income: Between Rs 200 & 500
- Whether working or not: No

Scholastic Record:

- School: Urban
- Number of attempts: One
- Percentage: Forty nine
- Year of entry into college: 1955
- Age at time of entry: Nineteen
- Faculty: Commerce

Problem:

- Failure in P. Y. Com. Transfer to Arts. Failure in Inter Arts. Preparing for B. A.

Reasons for failure:

- Wrong, forced choice of Commerce.

Subjects failed:

- Accountancy.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

- A difficult subject.

Reasons for change to Arts:

- Failure. Dislike of course. Wrong choice.

Reasons for failure in Arts:

- Difficult examination paper.
Subjects failed:

Economics.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Same as above.

Interview:

X has always had a strong interest in and ability for literature and in particular for Gujarati literature. Yet, because his father and all his relatives are businessmen, he was forced by his father to take Commerce. He had a natural dislike of Arithmetic, and Accountancy was the most dreaded of all the subjects of the Commerce course. He struggled with it the whole of his first year and finally failed. After this failure there was no opposition to his change over to Arts. Here he felt at home for he liked the subjects. However, in Inter he failed in Economics much to his surprise for he had approached the examinations confident that he knew the subject well. The only reason he could find to explain his failure was that the question paper was rather difficult and he was a bit put out. After appearing again for the Inter Arts he passed and is now preparing for the senior B. A.

X finds the B. A. course too lengthy and, with most of his friends, would suggest that the junior B. A. examination be conducted by the university in order to shorten the course. He was glad to hear that the University was considering permitting colleges to give thirty percent of the marks for the final result. In his opinion the present system is detrimental to the health of the students, for they do nothing the whole year round and then kill themselves at the last moment. A change of system would also result in a better formation of the students. Colleges should somehow control the distribution of scholarships. Sometimes these go to the wrong hands and there have been cases of students getting several scholarships from different sources and employing the money in fancy clothing and other useless things. Students
do not receive in college much personal attention and guidance. Tutorials are being held in some colleges but they are too badly conducted. This may be due to the fact that there are too many students in each class some of them clearly not meant for college at all.

Comment:

X had given a good exposition of his case and the reasons he gave for his failure seemed quite sufficient. Although he does not appear very bright he seems to be an ordinary student who, with some effort, can eventually graduate.

Case No. 114

General Facts:

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Scholastic Record:

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<td>Faculty</td>
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Problem:


Reasons for failure:

In F. Y. possibly personal grudge against the professor.
Subjects failed:

Geography and Commercial Correspondence.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Poor in English.

Interview:

When finishing his schooling X, together with other friends decided to study Commerce. They did not have much ability for Science and hearing that Commerce graduates can obtain better employment they made their choice without more reflection. In F. Y. he found Geography a little difficult but he did not expect to fail. He was rather inclined to think that his failure was more due to the personal grudge against the professor, with whom he did not get along very well, but he was not sure of this. After failure he took up a job and passed the examination at the second attempt. He changed colleges for Inter. Com. in order to be able to keep the job. Then he failed in Commercial Correspondence. This failure was more to be expected, for he had always been weak in English, but the following year he passed out. On registering for senior B. Com. X gave up his job in order to concentrate on his studies. He reasoned that he would have been able to keep his job had the junior examination be conducted by the university; however, the present system the course for the degree examination is too lengthy.

X prepares for his final examination by going through the question papers of previous years but he says he gets the impression that sometimes paper-setters ask anything that comes to their minds; the only criterion for asking a particular question being the fact that it was not asked in previous years irrespective of whether it is important or not.
Comment:

Although the possibility of failure because of some personal grudge on the part of the examiner can never be ruled out, yet in X's case there were other failures to be explained. It seemed more objective to conclude that X had joined Commerce without counting on his ability to complete the course.

Case No. 115

General Facts:

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<td>Faculty</td>
<td>Commerce</td>
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Problem:

Failure in F. Y. Com. Change over to Arts after passing F. Y. Absence and failure in Inter Arts. Desires to continue.

Reasons for failure in Commerce:

Negligence, Friends.
Reasons for change over to Arts:
Difficult course.

Reasons for failure in Arts:
Negligence, Friends, Political activities.

Subjects failed:
Not remembered.

Interview:
X comes from a rather poor family. There are nine people to be supported and only two bread-winners, his father — a mill worker — and his elder brother—married and with children. X had a great inclination for Arts, in particular for literature with preference for English literature. However, he took Commerce and, if the subjects he offered for the S. S. C. would have permitted it, he would have even tried Science inorder to obtain a better employment and help the economy of the family.

In college X made friends with a very rich student who took him in his car every day after the attendance had been taken, and both would go to see pictures and waste their time in various ways. Since he had not opened a book till the very end, X failed in almost all the subjects of F. Y. Com. Even after his failure he did not change his ways, he felt too much in the clutches of his friend. Meanwhile his father seemed to be utterly unconcerned about it all and X found it very easy to hide from him what he was doing and how his studies were going. In spite of not studying much X managed to pass. Afterwards he decided that Commerce was too difficult for him and changed to Arts. So did his friend and life in Arts was the same as in Commerce. At the end of the year the college withdrew his examination form and X had to repeat the year. Now he began to take interest in politics and devoted to them all his extra time and energy. His attendance was more regular, for he did not go so often with his friend, but failed because of his political activities. Here again his failure was almost
general and by a large number of marks. This third failure had disappointed X so much that he decided to give up studies and begin to search for a job. Now X has changed his mind and wants to study as soon as he settles a little and can be economically independent from his father.

X has learnt at long last what he should not have done in college. He would like to "preach" to students not to meddle in politics. They are too young for this, they do not know what is what, either in politics or in anything else, and the best service they can render the country is to prepare themselves by studying hard and becoming eminent in some line or other. He would also advice both parents and college authorities to keep a little control on the students and force them to study more.

Comment:

X gives the impression of being a bright man. He speaks English very well and he even claimed that he had secured first class marks in the F. Y. Com. without studying at all. This might be an exaggeration but it only emphasizes more the truth of his statement regarding his negligence in studies.
Case No. 116

General Facts:

Sex: Male
Native place: Urban
Marital status: Unmarried
Family monthly income: Between Rs 200 & 500
Whether working or not: No

Scholastic Record:

School: Urban
Year of passing S. S. C.: 1955
Number of attempts: Two
Percentage: Fifty
Year of entry into college: 1955
Age at time of entry: Twenty one
Faculty: Commerce

Problem:

Failure in I. Com. Discontinuance of studies after failure.

Reasons for failure:


Subjects failed:

Hindi.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Dislike of the subject. Not a Commercial subject.

Reasons for discontinuance:

Financial problems.

Interview:

X comes from a family of professional merchants. His only desire when going to college was to prepare himself for the future as a businessman by studying
Commerce. He felt confident he would easily graduate for he had always obtained good marks in Mathematics. He liked very much all the commercial subjects, but took great dislike for Hindi and all other subjects connected with Arts. He had imagined that the Commerce course would not have such subjects and was very disappointed to find they were compulsory. This was the reason for his failure. He had mentioned previously that the cause of his failure in general was the financial problem he was going through. This was clarified later, when he said that he meant lack of personal income. His father would have the money to pay his college fees but it is the understanding in his caste that a man has to earn his own living and stand on his legs and not depend on others, even his father. For this reason alone he has decided to discontinue his studies. He has already found employment and wishes to obtain a better job with a higher salary. Then he will consider continuing his studies.

X finds the teaching methods used by some professors very defective. Instead of making sure that students understand the point, they dictate notes in class and the whole time of the period goes in that. Students would benefit more if the colleges were to introduce tutorials. As for the examinations, he would advocate the introduction of weekly tests, and thinks that the final results should be the average of the marks obtained during the year. He wants English as the medium of instruction in college. His reasons are, that English is not the language of one country or other, but an international means of communication of ideas. The best books in Commerce are written in English, the translation of these textbooks will be difficult and uneconomical. Only when the necessary textbooks are available in the vernacular, should the universities think of changing the medium of instruction.

Comment:

X's conversation does not lead to any definite conclusion. His record is not too good either. As for the reasons he gave for failure, financial problems, it seems more subjective than objective.
Case No. 117

General Facts:

Sex: Male
Native place: Urban
Marital status: Unmarried
Family monthly income: Between Rs 200 & 500
Whether working or not: Yes

Scholastic Record:

School: Urban
Year of passing S. S. C. 1953
Number of attempts: One
Percentage: Forty seven
Year of entry into college: 1953
Age at time of entry: Seventeen
Faculty: Commerce

Problem:

Failure in I. Com., Jr. B. Com. Graduation in six years and a half.

Reasons for failure:


Subjects failed:

Economics. Accountancy.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Sections mixed up in examination in Economics.

Interview:

When X decided to go to college he wanted to become a Chartered Accountant. However, little by little as the first year came to an end and he experienced the difficulty of Commerce studies, he began to doubt whether he would be able to
cope with the still more difficult course of C. A. and later on with the hard work and responsibility of the office of a chartered accountant. And so the former fervour began to cool down and he decided to be satisfied with the less remunerative but easier life of a college teacher. He admitted that he had already rejected the Science degree because he considered that the career of a Scientist would entail still harder work than that of a Chartered Accountant. X said he had always been very good in Mathematics and liked the Commercial subjects generally. However, he was very negligent in his studies. He attended college only during the first period till the attendance was taken. For the rest of the day he would roam about either alone or with some friends, cast in the canteen and frequent other places of entertainment. X managed to go through the F. Y. Examination but failed in Intermediate. He liked accountancy, but failed in it because of his general negligence. After his failure in Inter Com. X felt he should work and earn some money. His father had at that time a pretty good income, but the expenses of the education of the younger members of the family were increasing and there was need for additional income. However, now that X had become more serious about his studies he could not devote to them all the time they required. Besides his work there are other difficulties. His house is not the best place for concentrated study. It is small and they are a large family. In order to have more peace to study he rented a small room for the nights or went to the house of some of his friends. Yet at the end of the junior year he was not promoted to senior B. A. on account of the personal grudge of one of the professors whose family had picked up a quarrel with his own. He changed college and was promoted at the end of the year. In the B. Com. final examination X said he had mixed up the various sections of the Economics paper and failed. The following October he graduated.

X admitted he had not been a model student, However, he felt that the educational system needed also some improvement. Guidance in the choice of both faculty and particular subjects is lacking
in schools and colleges. The syllabus of the Commerce course is a carbon copy of the old syllabus of the Bombay University, but the question papers do not follow the pattern of the Bombay University, they test more the memory of the students than their intellectual ability or their achievement; and the ample choice they give lends itself to a good amount of guess work on the part of the studies. Teachers, specially those of abstract subjects like Accountancy, should make a special effort to be interesting. Colleges should introduce more tests during the year and the final results should be an average of the marks obtained in those tests and the final examination. Finally college should help poor students by providing them with facilities to study and making more available to them library books and journals.

Comment:

X seems to have a natural inclination to avoid hard work and this is probably the main reason for all his failures, although the financial problems may have somehow aggravated the case. He appears to be of average intelligent but not to have made the best of it.
Case No. 118

General Facts:

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Problem:


Reasons for failure:

Double change of medium of instruction, from school to college and in college itself.

Subjects failed:

Accountancy.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Same as above. A difficult subject.

Reasons for discontinuance:

Failure. Discouragement.

Interview:

X's father is well off and he himself stands in no need of a college degree in order to make a living.
But since all the members of the family have graduated so far, he felt he too should go to college. As he had not offered Sanskrit in the S. S. C. and his marks in the Science subjects were rather low he could only study Commerce. X had studied through the medium of Gujarati and on entering college he found English too difficult as a medium of expression. This fact led to his failure in Accountancy already in the first year. When he was in I. Com. the university changed the medium of instruction from English to Gujarati. This new change of medium occasioned his failure in the same subject. This discouraged X and he decided to discontinue his studies, but on the occasion of the interview, he said he had felt a desire to continue them next year.

X thinks that students waste their time in various activities. They should be forced to work harder either by means of examinations during the year or by other means.

Comment:

The change of medium of instruction does not seem to be the only reason of X's failure. There are other factors also, he lacked proper motivation, is not interested in studies and his conversation seems to reveal a not very high intelligence. His failures could very well be the effect of all these causes.
Case No. 119

General Facts:

Sex Male
Native place Urban
Marital status Unmarried
Family monthly income Above Rs 500
Whether working or not No

Scholastic Record:

School Urban
Year of passing S. S. C. 1954
Number of attempts One
Percentage Forty eight
Year of entry into college 1954
Age at time of entry Fourteen
Faculty Commerce

Problem:

Failure in I. Com. Graduation in four years and a half.

Reasons for failure:

Wrong choice of subjects.

Subjects failed:

Mathematics.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Difficult subject.

Interview:

I had a very short story to tell. Having joined college very young, he did not know his abilities well and was led by one of his friends into choosing Mathematics as an optional subjects. His friend was very good in Mathematics and used to help him during his first year. But in Inter he
left the college and X was left unaided. He had recourse to the professor and was told not to worry, he would do well. The examination results proved the professor wrong and X had to appear for the October re-examination. As he is a clever student X passed out and availed himself of the facility just then granted and kept terms for junior B. Com. from October. The rest of his Commerce career was one success after another. After graduation he has passed with credit his B. A. and LL. B. Now feeling too young to practice he intends to go abroad for further studies in Law.

X having passed his B. Com. quite successfully seems to be an impartial judge in his criticism of the university. To begin with, it seems to expect too much from her Commerce students. He also believes that the grouping of subjects does not favour students at all. Schools and colleges do not provide enough means of guidance to their students. He himself is a victim of this deficiency. He also believes that English should remain as the medium of instruction in higher education. Strangers like himself would suffer from the imposition of the regional language as the only medium of instruction, the standards of the university would go lower and lower - a fact that could be already attested in the few years in which Gujarati has been enforced - and from the political point of view, India would head for disintegration rather than for union.

Comment:

X was known from other sources to be a clever student and there was evidence of the absence of any other problem. His conversation also revealed him as very intelligent.
Case No. 120

General Facts:

Sex: Male
Native place: Urban
Marital status: Unmarried
Family monthly income: Below Rs 200
Whether working or not: No

Scholastic Record:

School: Urban
Year of passing S. S. C.: 1954
Number of attempts: One
Percentage: Fifty
Year of entry into college: 1955
Age at time of entry: Nineteen
Faculty: Commerce

Problem:

Failure in I. Com. Interruption of studies for two years. Change over to Arts. Absence from the Inter Arts Examination for two years.

Reasons for failure:

Lack of guidance.

Subjects failed:

Accountancy.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

A difficult subject.

Reasons for interruption of studies:


Reasons for change to Arts:

Commerce course difficult.
Reasons for absence from the examination:

Felt unprepared.

Interview:

X said he needed guidance and had come for the interview in search of it. He had an acute financial problem when he joined college. His father had died many years before and his only support was his elder brother, who at that time had a low income, though he has improved it somewhat since then. X wanted to graduate in Commerce and raise his financial position. The subjects were not difficult, except for one, Accountancy. He passed, however, his first year examination without much difficulty. But in Inter he approached one of the professors for help as he found the difficulty of the subject was increasing. When he was dismissed with nice words - after the professor had promised in class to help anybody who had difficulties - X felt very disappointed. He is a man always ready to help anyone and could not understand how those whose duty it was to help others could not do so after making a formal promise in public. After failure X decided to give up his studies. He would take up a job and start earning. For two years he did not study. But then realising that only graduates stand some chance of a good employment he desired to continue his studies. He would go back to Commerce but he would first graduate in Arts, as he considered this an easier course. In order to be able to study better he gave up his job. At the end of the year he felt unprepared for the examination and absented himself. The following year he wanted to attend classes but ex-students are not permitted to do so, and the examinations found him once more unprepared and he absented himself again. This year he determined to appear, but he needed some guidance in methods of studying and preparation for the examination.

X thinks that professors care more for money than for the progress of students. Their only concern seems to be to have as many private tuitions as possible even at the cost of their efficiency in
class. Some of them go so far as to accept bribes in order to pass students in the final examinations. Students are in great need of guidance both in the subjects they take and in their readings. Principals tell professors to see to it that students get personal attention, they in turn accounce in public their willingness to give it, but when the actual time for helping students comes they find all kinds of excuses. There are however some professors, who do not follow this general rule.

Comment:

X needed guidance and probably more than others. He seemed diffident and even a little overly dependent on others. The reason for this may be the death of his father when he was still very young. In any case what in others would not be sufficient reason for failure and discouragement may have become in him a serious subjective problem. No other cause could be detected.
Case No. 121

General Facts:

Sex Male
Native place Rural
Marital status Unmarried
Family monthly income Below Rs 200
Whether working or not No

Scholastic Record:

School Rural
Year of passing S. S. C. 1954
Number of attempts One
Percentage Forty four
Year of entry into college 1954
Age at time of entry Fifteen
Faculty Commerce

Problem:

Transfer to Arts after passing F. Y. Com. Discontinuance of Arts course after Intermediate.

Reasons for transfer to Arts:

Financial problems.

Reasons for discontinuance:

Financial problems.

Interview:

X's interview was one of the poorest. His house, situated in a congested mill area, could not be found, he himself had to be called by his friend and the interview was held in a hotel in full view of the curious onlookers that had gathered in the meantime. His friend took charge of the situation and answered all the questions, while X, feeling very shy, remained almost entirely passive throughout. However, a few details of
X comes from a very poor family. His parents are dead a good number of years and he stays with his brother, a mill worker married and with two children. X hoped to graduate in Commerce as he had secured almost a second class in the S. S. C. Examination. In the choice of faculty he was led by the general opinion that Arts degrees are of little value. After passing the F. Y. Com. Examination X had to go to his native place in Northern India on some family business. There he joined the Arts faculty of the local university for he began to feel he would not be able to complete his graduation in Commerce as his brother would any day refuse to support him. This happened after his completing the Inter Arts course. X had to give up his studies and take a job. X has now been able to marry and does not intend to study any longer, although he would be glad to do so if he was given some help by the Government or some institution.

X thinks that the help given to needy students and specially to married students is not sufficient. Government and universities should co-operate in this point. The most expensive item is the textbooks and he feels that here more than in any other thing students should be helped.

Comment:

It was very difficult to make an appraisal of X's case. His shyness was the only thing that could be known for certain. His scholastic record seems to be pretty good but no conclusion can be reached regarding his ability for studies.
Case No. 122

General Facts:

- Sex: Male
- Native place: Rural
- Marital status: Married
- Family monthly income: None
- Whether working or not: No

Scholastic Record:

- School: Urban
- Number of attempts: One
- Percentage: Forty five
- Year of entry into college: 1954
- Age at time of entry: Twenty
- Faculty: Commerce

Problem:

Failure in I. Com. and B. Com. Graduation in six years.

Reasons for failure:

Financial and Family problems.

Subjects failed:

Commercial Correspondence and Accountancy.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

No interest in Correspondence. Defective teaching of Accountancy.

Interview:

X is very poor. Although he is employed at present and so is his elder brother, with whom he stays, they have to pay out the debts their father left on dying. He wants to pay all these debts during his life-time even at the cost of his health or
even his life, so that his children be free from this obligation, and be able to enjoy a relative comfort in life. Whatever little money he can save, and he tries to save as much as possible, is put by. He leads a most frugal life; never a picture or any other entertainment, never a trip in a bus or train, he goes to and comes from his work on cycle, although the distance is long and his health is already impaired. When he passed the S. S. C. Examination X decided to go for higher education for the only purpose of securing a good job and so be able to pay his debts. He would have preferred Science to Commerce, but he would not have been able to complete his studies on account of the expenses involved and the need of having to work during his career. Even in order to pay his fees in Commerce X had to borrow money. He was hopeful that the good job he would eventually secure on graduation would more than compensate for the expenses incurred. Other difficulties came from his poverty, poor food, a broken body that cannot stand long hours of study and a worried mind. He also feels that the influence of his backward community has delayed his progress in studies. He found it difficult to study in his house, for they stay in a crowded and noisy colony of working men. But after spending money and ruining his health in the attention of a degree, X has not been given promotion. All his dreams have come to nothing and he is now poorer than he was before.

X has been in two different colleges and found some differences between them. He was pleased to find some of the professors helped him in his difficulties and would like to see that all do alike. The personal attention given and the interest shown for his progress in studies made a great difference to him. He thinks that the fees of both university and private colleges are far too high, and he would have welcomed more financial help and more facilities to study in the college premises. As for scholarships, he has seen some of them go to the wrong hands, while students like himself, who were earnest and poor could never get one. When students apply for jobs, the firms
should seek information from the educational institutions where they studied, so that good students have more chances of securing employment according to their abilities.

Comment:
X's case is very pitiful. His tale of poverty, privation and suffering seemed quite true. He is one more victim of the all too common fallacy that a college degree will open the road to prosperity.

Case No. 123

General Facts:
- Sex: Male
- Native place: Urban
- Marital status: Unmarried
- Family monthly income: Between Rs 200 & 500
- Whether working or not: No

Scholastic Record:
- School: Urban
- Number of attempts: One
- Percentage: Forty eight
- Year of entry into college: 1955
- Age at time of entry: Seventeen
- Faculty: Commerce

Problem:
Four consecutive failures in I. Com. Still studying.

Reasons for failure:
- Family problems.
Subjects failed:

Accountancy, English, Correspondence.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Same as above.

Interview:

After making sure of the nature of the enquiry and that his confidences would be respected, X was ready to tell his problem. He is the younger of two sons of a prosperous merchant. All the relatives are businessmen and he desired to prepare himself better for the business by taking a degree in Commerce. He did not feel any attraction for Arts, and Science was beyond him because he had not offered any Science subject in the S. S. C. On joining college he enjoyed a little the newly acquired freedom but not to the extent of endangering his career. As he grew he became more and more interested in the family affairs and their latest developments began to worry him. His father had been suffering from heart trouble for many years and could not take any active part in the family business. His uncle ran everything. Sometime before, in order to avoid paying the full amount of the income tax they had decided to include another relative as a nominal partner. He agreed to play that role, but once all the documents were drawn on his name, he insisted on being given the share in the profits that legally accrued to him. This was a serious crisis. Family meetings were held, discussions followed, quarrels arose, but nothing could be achieved. Legal action was out of question for it would only involve more expenses and the discovery of their fraud. They had to resign themselves to the inevitable. All these years X had been failing only on account of these troubles, but hopes to be able to overcome them and prepare the examination. If he passes he will continue up to graduation, otherwise he will start his own business.
Comment:

With the information at hand it is very difficult to find out the real reason for X's continuous failures. His English is better than average, his conversation intelligent but he sounded rather hollow in his story. This may be true, for he would stand to gain nothing by building it, but the suspicion still remained that not everything had been said.

Case No. 124

General Facts:

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Scholastic Record:

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Problem:

Failure in B. Com. Graduation in four and a half years.

Reasons for failure:

Illness at the time of the examination.

Subjects failed:

Modern Economic Development. Accountancy.
Reasons for failure in these subjects:

M. E. D. difficult and defectively taught.
Teaching of Accountancy not practical.

Interview:

X thought it natural to go to college as all the members of his family had done so. As for his choice of Commerce, he did not feel much inclination for Science, and he considered that Arts graduates could not make a decent living. As X passed out year after year, he was confirmed in the wisdom of his choice, and felt enough courageous to go ahead. Just a little before the B. Com. Examination X suffered an attack of fever he could not account for. He suffered no ailment or had any other symptom, just a fever not sufficient to keep him away from the examination. He failed in Accountancy and M. E. D. He had developed a little dislike for Accountancy towards the end of the course. Not that the subject was difficult, but he had the vague feeling that the method of teaching was a little impractical; students were under the impression that one could be a first class accountant without much of what was taught in the lecture halls. M. E. D. offered him a little more difficulty but the teacher was not very efficient either.

X had a few things to say about the educational system and in particular about the college teachers. These are recruited from among second and third class students. Naturally enough first class students prefer more lucrative jobs. He does not blame them, he blames the Government and universities for not giving them higher scales in order to attract better brains to the teaching profession. Until this is done the standards will not come up, rather they will be going down lower and lower. Inspite of the low scales of professors there are some good and devoted ones whose sincere desire is to promote education. But they are forced to give private tuitions to rich but useless students in order to have a decent income. As he put it, professors nowadays have only one occupation the "hunt" for tuitions.
Some of them have gone still lower, they accept bribes to pass undeserving students.

In this connection X felt that one of the reasons why so few students obtain first class in Commerce may be the jealousy of the examiners who cannot see that students know more than they themselves and attain higher posts. Other reason may even be their inability to judge whether a student is worthy of a high class. Another defect of the college staff is that even though they may have the required knowledge most of them do not have either the ability or the training to impart it. There are too many students in our colleges and some of them not meant for higher education. On account of these large numbers and poor quality, professor cannot pay individual attention to all; students get discouraged and standards suffer. The importance of the final examination should be reduced while tests or monthly examinations should little by little be given more importance, and a certain percentage of the marks of the final results should come from these tests. If this was done students would work more during the year, the tension of the last weeks would be greatly decreased and standards would gradually improve.

Comment:

X made a good impression. The attack of fever may have been due to nervousness although he ruled out such possibility. No other possible reason for failure could be discovered.
Case No. 125

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</table>

Problem:

Discontinuance of studies after failure in I. Com.

Reasons for failure:

Illness during the year.

Subjects failed:

Results held out. Terms not kept.

Reasons for discontinuance:

Failure. Disappointment. Degree not needed.

Interview:

X had not failed properly speaking. On account of his poor health he was unable to attend college regularly during the second term of I. Com. But since he was a pretty good student and he felt prepared for the examination, he appeared on the recommendation of the Principal who had promised
to take up the case with the university and fight it out. X came to know through his many connections that he had secured passing marks in the examination, however, his results were held up by the University till the Senate met. In the meeting his case was rejected. This disappointed X very much, he had enrolled in the Commerce college only because he was too young to take up the family business, and as a sort of preparation for it, but actually he did not need the degree for he could also learn from his father and uncles, all of them very experienced businessmen. He decided there and then to give up his studies, but still keeps on reading on all topics pertaining to trade and commerce.

X did not remember much of his college days, for he had spent only a short time in college. However, he felt that co-education, which is now more and more common in colleges, is the greatest source of student indiscipline for it distracts students from their studies. Guidance in school and college is hardly given, and little attention is given to the students. This could be remedied by decreasing the number of students, by insisting more on discipline and regular attendance, by holding more tests or by other similar measures to force students to work throughout the year.

Comment:

X makes a good impression with his intelligent and cultured conversation. The reason he gave for his failure seemed quite sufficient and was accepted as there was no way to check the truth of it.
Case No. 126

General Facts:

Sex: Male
Native place: Urban
Marital status: Married
Family monthly income: Below Rs 200
Whether working or not: Yes

Scholastic Record:

School: Urban
Year of passing S. S. C.: 1952
Number of attempts: One
Percentage: Forty eight
Year of entry into college: 1952
Age at time of entry: Sixteen
Faculty: Commerce

Problem:

Failure in F. Y. Com. Absence from the examination. Transfer to Arts after F. Y. Com. Absence from the Inter Arts Examination. Discontinuance.

Reasons for failure:


Subjects failed:

Languages.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

New subjects. Poor in them.

Reasons for transfer to Arts:


Reasons for discontinuance:

Financial problems.
Interview:

X was very young when he passed the H. S. C. Examination and did not have a clear idea of what he wanted. Everybody went for higher education and he followed the current. With no one to guide him in the choice of career he decided on Commerce merely because friends said it offered better prospects than other faculties. He felt no special inclination towards any subject for he was equally good in all. Later he developed a liking for Economics and then for Philosophy. He felt the effects of poverty right from the very beginning of his college studies. His father had a very low income and he had to teach in a primary school and so help somehow finance his way through college. At that time also a great crisis arose in his soul. Seeing on the one hand his parents do deeply religious and on the other hand so diverse and even contradictory religious beliefs, he began to have doubts about his own religion. All these factors prevented him from concentrating on his studies and as he was weakest in the languages he failed in them. He had not offered these subjects for the S. S. C. and now he found he could not cope with the course. After failure he was forced to work more in the school and giving private tuitions because the family finances were worse than ever, and since he could not combine both work and study, he transferred to Arts. But even in Arts he found he could not study after teaching the whole day and so absented himself from the examination and later gave up hopes of graduating when he was offered a permanent post.

X was critical of the method of granting Government scholarships only to members of scheduled classes as it was done in his time. Many poor people like himself were left out. More personal attention on the part of college would be desired as well as some means of making students work more during the year.
Comment:

X seems to be an average student who, without the financial difficulties he met, would have easily completed his education at least in Arts.

Case No. 127

General Facts:

- Sex: Male
- Native place: Rural
- Marital status: Unmarried
- Family monthly income: Between Rs 200 & 500
- Whether working or not: Yes

Scholastic Record:

- School: Urban
- Year of passing S. S. C: 1956
- Number of attempts: One
- Percentage: Forty five
- Year of entry into college: 1956
- Age at time of entry: Eighteen
- Faculty: Commerce

Problem:


Reasons for failure:


Subjects failed:

- Accountancy.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

- A very difficult subject.
Interview:

X said his problem was financial. By this he did not mean that his father had no money to pay for the education of the children but that he did not want to give it to them so that they do not misspend it and so they might learn from youth the value of money. X was all praises for the honesty of his father who, being the administrator of the funds collected by the caste for educational and other charitable works, has never taken a pie for himself or for his children. But his "stinginess" in refusing to give them money for their education was not right, he thought. As a matter of fact his failure had been due to this. He has changed his work many times but has not found yet the formula to combine the demands of work and studies, and so he has been failing year after year in the same subject, Accountancy. This was the only difficult subject of the whole course.

X would suggest the opening of night colleges for working students. The university should lower the passing marks in Commerce, the high marks now required for passing are the reason why there are less Commerce graduates in this university than in the other universities. Some students take tuitions from the paper setters or examiners. These are the people who get the question papers before time and pass in the examination.

Comment:

The reason X gave for his failure should be sufficient in the case of an ordinary student. However, three consecutive failures in the same subject seem too many for an ordinary student. Yet neither his conversation, not his scholastic record lead to any definite conclusion.
Case No. 128

General Facts:

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Problem:

Two failures in I. Com. One in B. Com.

Reasons for failure:

Defective system of education.

Subjects failed:

Accountancy.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Same as above. A difficult subject.

Interview:

X comes from a very respectable family. All his brothers and sisters have so far graduated and he felt he should follow the family tradition. For the choice of career he followed the advice of his eldest brother, a practising lawyer who told him a degree in Commerce would open to him a bright future. X went already to a Commerce school as an immediate preparation for his college studies. Since he had never failed in his life and considered himself a good student, X was very
disappointed at his two failures in I. Com. but when he failed once more in B. Com. he was in despair. Every time he had failed in Accountancy and he could not find out the reason unless it was the teaching method.

X was very disappointed with the educational system of the University and held it finally responsible for his failures. Commercial subjects are very dry of themselves and professors do nothing to make them attractive and interesting. The teaching is theoretical while the subjects themselves are most practical. A kind of field work or "practicals" similar to those had in Science would be necessary. This could take the form of visiting banks or other well organised firms where Commerce students are likely to go for employment after graduation. Old professors have got into the habit of reading the very same notes they prepared twenty years before without taking into consideration the latest developments. And young professors lack experience and mastery of the subjects. Other professors are subject to bribes in order to promote undeserving students. Most of the students do not work except at the end of the year under pressure of the examinations. Colleges should prevent this by changing the whole system and giving more importance to tests and terminal examination.

Comment:

The evils X mentioned are real and require urgent remedies, but he seems too eager to blame the university for all his failures. It is doubtful whether he is the clever student he claims to have been.
Case No. 129

General Facts:

Sex
• Native place
• Marital status
• Family monthly income
• Whether working or not

Male
Urban
Unmarried
Between Rs 200 & 500
No

Scholastic Record:

School
Year of passing S. S. C.
Number of attempts
Percentage
Year of entry into college
Age at time of entry
Faculty

Urban
1954
One
Fifty
1954
Eighteen
Commerce

Problem:

Failure in B. Com. Graduation in four and a half years.

Reasons for failure:

Wrong choice, Dislike of Commercial subjects.

Subjects failed:

Accountancy.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Same as above.

Interview:

X happened to be present at a friend’s interview and volunteered to cooperate with the enquiry. Like many of the Commerce students, he decided his choice of faculty on practical grounds in spite of the dislike he felt for the commercial subjects and a strong inclination for literature.
This dislike followed him throughout his career and was ultimately responsible for his failure in B. Com. Of all the subjects Accountancy was the one he disliked most and he failed in it by few marks, but as he had always been a good student he made up for this failure by graduating the following October.

X agreed with most of the criticisms students make of the present educational system and added a few of his own. In general the Commerce course is good, though there are some subjects that do not seem to fit in, and serve no other purpose than to lengthen the course. Some of his friends who had graduated in Arts said the same of the Arts course. In particular they found Logic a useless subject. X would like to see English regain the place it held once in higher education. The change into Gujarati had brought in only a lowering of academic standards. He said there was a great difference between the present-day graduates and those trained under the old system. The latter were more cultured generally, and had a better command of the commercial subjects, for they could read other books. Now students cannot do that and have to be satisfied with the few textbooks written in Gujarati. College professors, with a few exceptions, are not very good though generally speaking they are approachable and helpful. The teaching profession has deteriorated these last years and become commercialised. Since the teachers are not well paid, they look for as many tuitions as they can while they neglect their first duty. Bribery at the time of the examinations is becoming more and more common. Teachers are very stereotyped in their lectures. More personal attention should be given to students and more selection in their admission to college would result in higher standards.

Comment:

There had been a very good report throughout the conversation which was kept very informal, and as X had said everything without being questioned, there was no need to investigate further.
Case No. 130

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Problem:

Two failures in B. Com. Graduation in six years.

Reasons for failure:

Sports. Neglect of studies.

Subjects failed:

Accountancy every time. Once all subjects.

Reasons for failure in these subjects:

Difficult subjects.

Interview:

X had no special inclination for Commerce. He was rather for taking Arts because, from the lectures on vocational guidance he attended while in school, he had drawn the conclusion that he had more ability for Arts than for Commerce or Science. However, his friends and a cousin of his, who was at the time studying in Commerce, persuaded him that
Commerce offered more prospects than Arts. Once in college he did not find the Commerce course as difficult as he had been told. In fact, he passed every year, if not with credit, at least with a certain facility. In the course of time he discovered he had a natural aptitude for sports. He was selected for the college team and in more than one occasion for the university team. With this he spent long hours in the evenings practising and taking part in tournaments, absented himself from class very often and neglected studies generally. In his senior year he decided to concentrate on studies on his father’s advice, but as he put it, the college authorities persuaded him to continue in the college team as this brought prestige to the institution; after all he was clever and would be able to make up for the lost time at the end of the year. He did not need much persuasion for he liked sports. That year he appeared but failed in all subjects. He appeared at every re-examination and failed but only in Accountancy. He tried to study more than before, but the habit he had acquired prevented him from making a real effort. And Accountancy had been his stumbling block right from the beginning of his career.

Comment:

X had not been very open in the beginning. In fact most of the information was obtained later in the course of the interview. He gave the impression of not being very enthusiastic about his studies or his future. He has not yet sought an employment even after graduation. Apparently his interest in sports had dried out all his ambitions. These seemed to be the real reasons for failure.