



Common Entrance Exams Like NEE Ignore India's Gender and Social Realities

Professional Courses Entrance Examination (TNPCEE). The DMK government under M. Karunanidhi abolished it in 2006. The underlying policy continuum which exists reveals the political will across party lines to help create a competitive landscape that neutralises the privilege lent by one's socio-geographical location and socio-economic position. More recently, the AIADMK well. She said the rural students and those from poorer socio-economic backgrounds will be unable to compete with urban elite students in such common entrance examinations, designed to favour the urban elite. This observation of hers reflects the findings of the committee under the chairmanship of M. Anandakrishnan, constituted by the DMK government in 2006, to recommend measures for the abolition of the central



By : Dr P.M. Yazhini
Courtesy The wire

The day S. Anitha succumbed to the dark side of NEET. Born into a Dalit family in Ariyalur and with her father working as a load man in Trichy, medical education must have been an unthinkable dream. Given the socio-economic milieu of Tamil Nadu, Anitha studied in a government-aided school in Kuzhumur, and scored above 480 out of 500. This allowed her to join Rajavignesh Higher Secondary School in Melamathur, a private school which offered her scholarship that would cover the fees towards tuition and hostel.

Intent on becoming a doctor, Anitha scored a cut-off of 196.75 for medicine. This would have ensured her a seat in the prestigious Madras Medical College – if there was no NEET. The objective of creating a level playing competition landscape for students to allocate professional college seats led to a series of government interventions – the primary one being reservation. By 1989, the reservation percentage in Tamil Nadu had reached 69%, with the sub-categorisation of Backward Caste quota to create the Most Backward Caste quota due to the persistent struggle spearheaded by Vanniyar Sangam.

Following this, the then Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) government under M. Karunanidhi instituted a scheme to grant five marks to applicants for professional courses whose families did not have a graduate. This scheme was caste-blind, wherein an applicant from any caste could benefit. This scheme was later challenged in the court of law and quashed. Later, under the DMK government of 1996, a scheme to reserve seats for rural candidates was created, in order to overcome the deficiencies placed on them due to their location. This too was quashed by the court. The major intervention was the abolition of improvement examination system by the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) government under J. Jayalalitha in 2005. Introduced in 1989, it gave undue advantage to students who were prepared to spend a year or two to improve their scores.

The year of 2005 also saw the first move to abolish Tamil Nadu



government in the face of widespread protests against NEET, unanimously passed two NEET-related bills in Tamil Nadu legislature with overwhelming support from opposition and parties across the state. The key Bill is to annul NEET for admissions into MBBS and BDS and allow students to secure admission in medical courses based upon the marks secured by the students in Class XII. The bills passed in 2017 are still awaiting the assent of the president.

The resistance to NEET in Tamil Nadu, made compulsory by the BJP

entrance test from the academic year 2007-08. Also, Tamil Nadu had policies to retain its doctors in rural services, district and government hospital through the 'in-service' quota. Under this, the doctors would receive 50% reservation in the postgraduate courses in Tamil Nadu after a minimum service period of two years. This provision of 'in-service' quota was quashed again by court, citing it as unconstitutional. If a state doesn't even have the right to devise policies in order to build its health infrastructure by retaining its doctors through incentives, I wonder where the

initiatives (aimed at securing medical graduates for the state medical infrastructure) and socio-economic objectives of Tamil Nadu. She also said it was out of tune with the prevailing socio-economic milieu and administrative requirements of Tamil Nadu. The mere fact that Anitha would now be a second-year student perhaps best illustrates this observation.

This is not restricted to just the case of Anitha. Three girl students have committed suicide this year after failing to crack the NEET. The grave concern is the case of women representation in professional courses. The nature of the examination along with the coaching class ecosystem which has developed common entrance tests has led to a different kind of reality. The reality where the examinations end up selecting individuals not majorly on their abilities but based on the propensity of their families to spend. Naturally, this affects women representation. Women are often overlooked when the question of investing money on their education arises.

Women representation in IIT Madras and Anna University holds the key to understanding this issue with greater depth. The reason for the stark contrast in the representation of women in IIT Madras and Anna University, separated by a single road named Sardar Vallabhai Patel Road, boils down to one single factor – the selection mechanism. The question of whether the selection is based on a system which effectively has low participation cost (higher secondary examination) or high participation cost (joint entrance examination). As NEET continues to shatter countless dreams in Tamil Nadu, one wonders whatever happened to the resolve of the state apparatus that attempted to deal with varying forms of barriers in the competitive landscape?

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Her Fantasy

By-Dr Nunglekpm Premi Devi
Independent Scholar

She dreams a life; she dreams her own;
She hopes and she admires; she dreams her silence;
She smells and she loves; she feels and she hugs;
She owns her time, clock a mystery;
She hangs her out own, secretly silent;
Morning's so fresh; Mornings' so softly;
Her heart speaks; her mind talks;
She loves cuddling and she loves shadowing;
She holds her magic; fresh as her bloods;
Smearing her cloth line; murky as she desires;
She embarrasses; she fazes; and she closes in;
Her womb so tight; her chest so forbidden;
She cares and she covers every piece;
She digs and she plants; magic into mirrors;
She lives a queen; she holds no mistakes;
She's bounded; she's all walled;
She's fantasy; she's imagining.

She favors 'his' presence and she waits;
She smiles within heartily; she adores 'him' secretly;
She loves being drug into his; warmly smiles;
She believes his chest and she forgets to live;
His shoes and his hairs; all superb;
Evening so waiting; his arrival 'all home';
His clothes and his inners; all magnificent;
She owns her place; she loves and she sees 'him';
She makes 'his bed' and she comforts it;
She fancy 'his' words appreciating;
Ah! You're too good for me;
Her breaths 'his body'; she checks and she steals;
She loves being listening; her man as 'he' 'be still';
She desires attitudes touchy upon his hands so cold;
She's all calm; her doors all securely open;
Her prettify loosen, so peaceful with 'his bosom';
She's glorious and she's all beautiful.

She loves 'his' smells and fascinates his 'touch';
She moves again and after; she's inviting his;
His 'presence' so magnetic arousal;
She flattered 'his' holding hands; so touchy;
Her breaths faster; she pumps stronger;
Her 'love' and his 'love'; twining and tingling;
Stealing his moment; she imagines lying upon his lap;
She hopes and she imagines; adventures and mysteries;
She listens to 'his' so dearly; she performs strongly;
She isn't feeling weak as he 'holds' his within;
Her eyes so seductive; her lips so touchy;
Her hair so fragile; her body so smooth;
Her wetness, Ah! The scent of the two souls;
She brings in his; she feels so magical;
Her bed so velvety; his moves so tremendous;
She love being exchange; she desires a fantasy;
She's fantasy; she's all absence of fear.

IN QUEST OF GREEN VIBES.



By : Parthajit Borah

Oh; my endearing Globe ,
Have you ever perceived
the warmth of your mushy bosom?
Scattering red flecks of red longings,
Accentric minds chase the dreams
To suck your green tears
at a little distance.

Oh; my enchanting earth,
Have you ever pained
untold agony of your white breast?
Sailing numerous ship and boat ,
Interminable bargaining crowds
over the price of your green vibes.

Oh; my beloved mother,
Calling you, as 'Nymph'.
Let unveil your irked face .
Now, Silence would ruin everything.

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