I recently heard that, in some schools, the policy of ‘education for all’ is grossly mistaken.

Apparently, these pathetic excuses for schools have made ‘strict’ rules, that if any of its students’ were to attain an annual percentage lower than that of 85 or 80 (or some other cutoff in a similar manner) then he/she would be debarred from school. The schools feel that, such students would bring about a ‘poor performance’ in the board exams, thus spoiling the ‘image’ /’reputation’ of the school.

Let’s talk about the ridiculousness of the above statements for a bit shall we?

A school is a place for children to attain ‘knowledge’, not ‘marks’. The basic purpose of an educational institution must be to impart good values, correct information and more so, mould children into fine human beings. I know I sound all ‘retired-grandpa’-ish, but come on, its true. Why else wouldn’t everyone be home-schooled otherwise?

Every kid needs his/her time to produce results and any forced reduction of that period could be disastrous. The kid could have a meltdown, hiss morale would shatter and he’d be scarred for life, in terms of how crudely he had been pushed into converting hard work into marks.

What happened to the concept of one generation looking after another? What happened to-school is a second home? What happened to- teacher is a second parent?

I remember the days when I was writing my board exams, way back in 2010.

My school had a brilliant system of segregating students into groups characterized by the marks attained in their pre-boards. Yes, it did lead to some discrimination at first, but ultimately, it yielded results and no one was left out. Be it a 95% holder or a 65% holder or even one who didn’t pass.

I speak for myself and a majority of my friends, who considered our then principal to be the most disciplined, efficient yet considerate lady. She had devised a system that made sure that every person received the help they deserved from the institution. She had gone to such an extent, that everyone was allotted certain teachers as mentors, who were kind enough to ask us if we had any issues and persuade us to speak our minds out. Not only did this help some people overcome certain fears, but some of ended up making some great student-teacher relationships that last till date.

It was tough for a couple of people at first to adjust to the sudden barricade between them and their friends, being divided just by a factor of marks obtained in some tests, but the fact that everyone was getting help released most of the tension and put many glitches regarding the new system to rest.

When the time came, and with the level of preparation that even a person who could barely pass was given, our whole batch passed with flying colours! Our school had 10-20 students with percentages above 90! It was a huge achievement for a batch of 120 odd students.

Not because the institution decided to debar students who were considered ‘not- upto- the- mark’. Not because it decided to give up on those who ‘didn’t-make-the-cutoff’.

But because,

no matter how many marks each one of secured in any of our tests, all of us were equal to the eyes of our institution. All of us received the education that had been promised to us.

Because, we were actually taught things, and not just made to learn them.

(There’s a huge difference between the two.)

So, the reason why I wrote this post was because, this new fangled system made my temper rise to the peak and I wanted to convey my sincere wishes to all those who have probably been affected by it.

Don’t lose hope. Although the institution has turned its back on you when you probably needed it the most, there are other places you can go, to receive an education. In fact, you might as well drop out of such cruel institutions willingly, as they spread a wrong message to everyone.

Remember, an education is worth striving for-Abraham Lincoln.