

PARENTS SPEAK

Selvi Rajendran

I am more worried than my children are, when it is examination time. The elder one particularly is very stressed out because she finds some of the maths problems difficult and I think she does not pay attention. Besides this, she had a very strict teacher in the lower classes who used to shout and so she got scared. Now that I have changed her school, I think she will do well in her exams.

Since I have studied up to 12th Class, I am able to help her. But only to some extent because it has changed a lot since then and anyway I have my housework. I am sending them both for tuition near my house, for maths and English. I want them to learn very good English – that's the way they can really progress. I think learning good English is as important as doing well in the exams.

I don't think the teachers are too strict – if they don't do too well in a test or exam, there is no punishment in the present school. Personally I think they should insist on hard work, the children do not listen to anyone at home; the teacher is the most important person.

The school comments on their behaviour and also checks their classwork and homework. I think they should be stricter. They have quarterly, half yearly and final exams as well as tests. My younger daughter's class (4) has more oral tests. She is very good at speaking, very confident so she is doing very well. She also has exams, but she is not in the least afraid of them.

One thing I notice is that they are always busy with something to do with the school and we are buying things almost everyday.

I want them both to go to college and work – so I am ready to send them to any extra classes later on. They have to do well, study hard and pass examinations. I worked hard at school in my village and passed 12th class. Teachers must insist on studying hard – or what is the use? On the other hand, they should not scare the children. This school sends for me when they want to tell me something about my children.

On the whole, I am satisfied with the system.

Selvi Rajendran is very active in women's groups and takes an active interest in her children's education and development.