

STAGNATION IN COLLEGE EDUCATION

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Introduction :

In two previous articles* published in this journal the present authors discussed the problem of wastage in college education among arts and science students based on an enquiry concerning a three-year entry of freshers to Fergusson College, Poona. In this article we deal with stagnation in college education among arts and science students on the basis of the same enquiry. For the scope and coverage of the investigations, for the definitions of the concepts already used, and for the general method of constructing wastage figures and for other relevant details the reader is referred to the two articles mentioned above.

Definition of stagnation :

By stagnation we cover the cases of those students who complete the prescribed course only after a delayed progress; they take a longer time to complete the course than the prescribed minimum period.

Description of the Problem :

It is convenient for this purpose to divide the four-year degree course in arts or science into its two natural stages : (1) the first stage of two years from the time of entry to the first year class in college to the time of passing the Intermediate examination; and (2) the second stage of two years from the time of joining the Junior B.A. (or B.Sc.) class to the completion of the degree course in arts or science. This division is necessary because the Intermediate examination is a qualifying examination for students taking the degree courses in law, Ayurved, engineering or medicine. If we do not consider the two stages separately and consider only the four-year degree course in arts or science as a whole it would make a qualitative difference, especially for the analysis of science students, as more than one-third of those who passed the Intermediate Science examination from Fergusson College left it to join engineering, or medicine where admission is competitive and this took away the greater portion of the top layer of the science students. After analysing stagnation in these two stages separately, we also analyse it for the four-year degree course as a whole for those students who have ultimately obtained the B.A. or B.Sc. degree. It should be mentioned therefore, even at the risk of repetition, that in the analysis of stagnation for the second stage as well as for the

* Vide, Vol. II No. 1 (1960), pp. 28-44 and Vol. II No. 2 (1960), pp. 122-140.