

Re-totalling Yields 25 Marks, Catapults Girl to 3rd Rank

Express News Service

Madurai: In an incident that exposes the callous manner in which school teachers handle valuation of public examination answer scripts, a Madurai schoolgirl has been catapulted to the State third rank after she secured 25 additional marks during re-totalling of her State Board Class X examination marks in Tamil Paper-II.

In a related development, a Nagercoil girl has secured seven more marks after re-totalling to share the State second rank.

Originally, the Madurai girl Sherry Ruth of CEOA Matriculation Higher Secondary School was awarded only 73 marks in Tamil Paper-II. She had scored 98 in Tamil Paper-I and Mathematics and centum in English, Social Science and Science. With her aggregate score of 485 (marks obtained in Tamil Papers-I and II are divided by two) she stood nowhere when it came to the State rank holders' list.

The girl, who had an excellent academic record, insisted to her father M Victor Thanaraj, that she expected



Sherry Ruth

a higher score in Tamil Paper-II. "She was very upset. We applied for re-totalling and now they have declared that she has actually secured 98 marks in Tamil Paper-II as well. This is a 25-mark increase and her aggregate is now 497, which is the State third highest score," Victor said on Friday.

"I had scored more than 95 marks in Tamil during the revision examination. Therefore, I just was unable to believe that I deserved just 73 marks," said Sherry.

Her mother Patricia Victor said that though the error in totaling did not affect Sherry's academic career, it mentally impacted her. "If a similar error had happened

in class XII examination, it would have ruined a student's career," she pointed out.

Victor Thanaraj, who is also the vice chairman of the CEOA School, said he had never come across such gross discrepancy in valuation of public examination papers. "We will share our concerns about this to the State Education Department so that such mistakes are not repeated," he said.

Elsewhere, in Nagercoil, Kowsalya, a student of the Alphonsa Matriculation Higher Secondary School emerged as a State second rank holder in the SSLC examination after a re-totalling exercise fetched her seven additional marks in the Social Science paper.

The girl had originally secured only 93 marks in the subject but is now a centum holder. With this she has scored full marks in Social Science, Mathematics, Science and English subjects. In Tamil, her score is 98. From an aggregate score of 491, she has now secured 498 marks. She has also emerged as the district topper, a feat achieved by four other students in Kanyakumari.

Courtesy: The New Indian Express, July 12, 2014