

Date: 5th March, 2010

To
CAT Convenor
CAT 2009

Subject: Voicing of Students' concern over the recently declared results of CAT 09-10.

Dear Sir,

On the onset let me introduce myself. I am a proud alumnus of IIM Ahmedabad from the batch of 2002-2004 and have been able to create a niche for myself as a first generation entrepreneur. At each and every step of my short career till now, learnings and principles instilled in me at IIM Ahmedabad have guided me to achieve whatever I have.

Over the past few days I have been receiving frantic calls from B-school aspirants and parents alike expressing their discontent over CAT results and how their right potential is not getting reflected in this year's CAT results. Moreover, the results show a slot-wise pattern and hence it has not been able to provide a level playing field for the test takers across slots.

As a well wisher of IIMs and in overall interest of student community I have decided to raise their concerns to you and I am confident that you will look into their concerns with all fairness which is the hallmark of Brand IIM. I have listed their concerns in 4 points as mentioned below:

1. The students are voicing concerns over their poor scores in some sections and claiming the answer keys of some questions are wrong, else their scores are not justified.
2. Also some students had reported mistakes in the question paper (ranging from insufficient data to data inconsistency) to Prometric and they want to know whether the same has been factored in preparation of scores.
3. The scores are being shown as scaled scores. This scaling of question has been done post the conducting of test and students have raised the issue that Maximum Possible Scaled Score in a particular section across slot is not same. This as a result does not provide a level playing ground as irrespective of performance of a student he will not be able to match a student where in maximum scaled score is higher.
4. On Prometric's site it is mentioned that "Equating as a tool has been used to arrive at scores may be used interchangeable". This equating seems not just for this process as the difficulty level of the questions varied highly across slots, especially when number of questions in each section was only 20.

These issues have left the student community disillusioned as they are not able to decipher what does their score stand for and where have they gone wrong.

To bring transparency in system and address the issues of student community, I will request you to please bring the following information to public knowledge:

1. Slot wise question papers and their answer keys.
2. Maximum scaled score possible for the three sections in all the slots and hence maximum achievable overall scaled score for all slots.
3. Explanation of how quantifiable the concept of Psychometric Equivalence can be (The same has been applied post conduction of tests without prior clarity). An explanation for the same is required as it is not only the top few percentage of students who matter but also the students targeting other institutes affiliated to CAT matter. Prometric's site mentions explicitly that "The exam design accomplished the goal of identifying the top performing candidates who were, indeed, ranked at the top of the list". But, this affects thousands of students who were targeting other top B-schools affiliated to CAT and the method is not supposed to be just for the top performers but for larger audience as well.
4. Distribution of test takers, slot-wise and section-wise in percentile terms.
5. Details of erroneous questions and how have they factored it for calculating the results.

Bringing this information to public domain will remove the doubts pertaining to the fairness of the process among the student community and to give them an opportunity to understand where they went wrong, if at all. B-school aspirant's trust and confidence which CAT has enjoyed over past several years has been shattered and disclosure of the above mentioned information will help in regaining this lost confidence and trust in the most illustrious management exam in the history of India, CAT.

I have the confidence that you will look into all the aforementioned issues and identify whether the conduction of CAT and computation of results this year was fair for all and share adequate information to win back the faith of the student's community.

Yours faithfully,

Vivek Tuteja
PGP 04
IIM Ahmedabad

CC: Director, IIM Ahmedabad
CC: Director, IIM Bangalore
CC: Director, IIM Calcutta
CC: Director, IIM Lucknow
CC: Director, IIM Indore
CC: Director, IIM Kozhikode
CC: Director, IIM Shillong
CC: Managing Director, Prometric, India