

Times of India
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GOOD FOR NOTHING!

"I'll never get into medicine or engineering", young Regina a PCMB student said to me. "My Maths and Science marks are so bad, everyone says I'm good for nothing." I looked at her marks cards and true enough, Regina just didn't seem to be the Science type. But does that mean she was "no good"? That's what everyone including herself, seemed to believe! In fact, one of her teachers had told her that she was not "intelligent". We began to talk.

I discovered that Regina was good at a number of other subjects. When in class 10, she enjoyed History and Geography. In Class 11 and 12, she had scored an average of 89 % in English ! Not intelligent!?! Intelligence has very little to do with how good you are at Maths and Science. Intelligence is seen in a variety of aptitudes and talent areas. Some of you maybe great on the play field, others maybe good at design or music, still others maybe good with people, or with logic.

Regina was on her college debate team, she was excellent at elocution, she was a voracious reader and she had been the student editor for her school magazine. What do you think Regina's highest aptitude was? The Linguistic Aptitude... that is what she had a natural flair for. So what if she was not going to get that much sought after seat in an engineering or medical college ? There are plenty of other viable options open to her.

Linguistic skills reflect your ability to use words effectively. I'm sure you've come across people who speak so attractively that you want to listen to them. This is the Linguistic aptitude seen at the level of speech. Teachers need it, Sales people need it... in fact most "people based careers" (psychology, law, social work, personnel management), require the ability to communicate effectively through the spoken word. Linguistic skills are also seen in people who are able to communicate effectively through the written word. "Aha".... is a non word. It means nothing. Yet this "word" has sold millions of bottles of a soft drink in our country. This is the work of a copywriter... someone who is able to use words very well in the written form. Copywriters, journalists, publishers, editors, poets, novelists, authors... are all people who have a well developed Linguistic aptitude, at the written level.

Take a closer look at yourself. Are you a person like Regina. Do you enjoy playing with words? Perhaps your forte is language. Maybe, it's not medicine, engineering, computer science and those other science-based careers you should be planning for. Perhaps your career lies in that fascinating world where your words give life to ideas and concepts come alive when you put pen to paper.