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Gold medallists settle for certificates



NO SHINE BUT ALL SMILES: *The Bangalore University gold medal winners pose after receiving certificates at the annual convocation in Bangalore on Friday.* — PHOTO: K. GOPINATHAN

Staff Reporter

BANGALORE: Not only did they not get a single gold medal despite being eligible for many, but the Bangalore University toppers had to settle for a certificate, which cost them Rs. 150 each.

The university authorities had recently asked all those who had bagged gold medals to submit a demand draft for Rs.150 for a rank certificate. While some gold medal winners were paid a meagre Rs. 58 in cash, some received Rs.11,000, depending on the interest accrued annually on

the amount deposited by the donors of gold medals several years ago.

Amrutha Venkatesh of MES College, who won nine gold medals by securing top rank in B.Sc. received Rs. 6,975 in cash instead of gold medals, and a rank certificate. Ms. Amrutha has opted to pursue a career in Carnatic classical music.

She said encouragement from her parents and teachers had made her excel in academics along with her interest in music. "We feel let down for not getting even one medal. The university or the

Government should have given at least one gold medal," she said.

For Harish N.S, winner of seven gold medals for topping BE (Civil) from The University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering, a gold medal would have been a perfect memorabilia. He completed his PU from Government PU College in Peenya and secured a merit seat in UVCE. He is now working as a consulting engineer.

"I am not able to pursue higher education immediately due to financial constraints, but will try after

putting in a few more years of work," he said.

Aradhana Kabi, who relocated to Bangalore along with her parents from Orissa when she joined B.Ed. in New Horizon College of Education, was unhappy that she did not get a single gold medal even though she was to get six. Priyanka J. winner of seven gold medals for topping B.Com from Sri Bhagwan Mahaveer Jain College, recently secured 36th rank in CA inter exam and is hoping to do better in the final exam to take up a career in chartered accountancy.