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Headline: Don't let poly graduates fall through the cracks

# Don't let poly graduates fall through the cracks

MS SANDRA Davie's special report last Saturday ("From poly to...") highlighted the dilemma faced by a significant group of polytechnic students like me who have fallen through the cracks of local university intakes.

I chose the polytechnic over a junior college, graduated with a business diploma, scoring an above-average cumulative grade point average of 3.4.

Yet I was denied entry into local universities despite sending in my application for two consecutive years.

I am currently finishing my national service.

While the Government seeks to increase the skills and education of our workforce, a large group of equally deserving students is being caught in the middle.

We are the students who have above-average grades but are being denied the chance of upgrading ourselves.

We must study overseas or in lesser-known private institutions.

The consequence is an exodus of precious human capital. Also, we are forced to spend large amounts of our parents' money to study abroad.

Once abroad, most of us are likely to remain there given the underlying disappointment and frustration. This is especially so for NSmen who feel keenly the frustration of being rejected by the system they are fighting to defend.

I myself will have little choice but to use my parents' retirement savings to further my education abroad.

If increasing the number of places for polytechnic students in local universities, as mentioned in Ms Davie's article, is not possible, polytechnics should disclose admission figures in

their marketing campaigns and at their open houses. This way, O-level students know that their chances of making it into a local university from polytechnic are not that high at 20 per cent.

Additionally, the Ministry of Defence should allow NSmen studying at private schools the same terms of deferment as government-approved ones for in-camp training call-ups.

The standard reply given will not help raise the image of the private education industry in Singapore either.

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