

VIDEO SUMMARY

Monsoon Semester 03: Topper No More

Resource person: GuruSetu | An animated series for teachers in Indian higher education

Monsoon Semester 03: Topper No More | Monsoon Semester | psychological-literacy

Kabir was the best student his town had ever seen. Now his first quiz mark is pinned up by roll number, his family has taken a loan, and he tells Mummy it went well. Kamala explains the big-fish-little-pond effect, and marks start coming back folded, with one line written on each.

Academic self-perception can change when a high-performing student enters a group of similarly strong peers. No. The comparison group has changed; feedback should help the student understand learning rather than infer personal worth. Private feedback protects dignity and makes it easier to focus on improvement without public comparison.

Family expectations, financial commitments and a former identity as the top student may make the result feel unusually threatening. A realistic path to improve, concrete feedback and access to support make encouragement more credible.

In practice: Tell your class that almost everyone here was a topper, and that early struggle is normal and passes. Share marks privately.