

Newspaper Clips

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MDI suspends professor for plagiarism

Harvard May Also Take Action

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

New Delhi: The HRD ministry's allegation that Management Development Institute (MDI) associate professor Amit Kapoor had plagiarized from a secret Expenditure Finance Committee note and later claimed copyright over it has resulted in widespread action.

Kapoor has been put under suspension by MDI and Harvard University has promised to carry out an investigation and take appropriate action. Harvard comes into the picture as Kapoor was till recently the honorary chairperson of the Institute of Competitiveness, India, which has been recognized by the Institute of Strategy and Competitiveness at Harvard Business School.

In fact, Kapoor was also given the Competitiveness Hall of Fame award by Harvard University. HRD ministry brought Kapoor's plagiarism to the notice of Michael Porter, professor of Harvard Business School and an authority on competitiveness, requesting him that the Indian affiliate should be disassociated as well as the Competitiveness Hall of Fame award and any other

recognition to Kapoor be withdrawn.

Meanwhile, sources in MDI said Kapoor has explained that most of the so-called secret documents were shared with him by the Planning Commission as it wanted him to prepare an index of competitiveness.

Pawan Agarwal, advisor, Planning Commission, told TOI, "The moment HRD ministry brought plagiarism to our notice, we checked the facts. We have sought his explanation."

Agarwal admitted there was a case of copyright violation. However, sources in the Planning Commission said, "Kapoor's presentation on the Rashtriya Uchatar Shiksha Abhiyan plagiarized slides from the HRD ministry's EFC document but was not meant for public consumption. Planning Commission had shared the EFC note for his views."

In July, HRD ministry officials were invited to Pennsylvania State University (PSU) to address Academic Leadership Academy (ALA) on Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) and other initiatives of the Indian government. Kapoor was also slated to speak as an invited faculty.

STUDENTS' CORNER

Dear Students,

LAST WEEK WE ASKED: Do you think the IITs should devise strategies to better their financial condition so that their dependence on government grants reduces?

BEST RESPONSE

Funding for the IITs has never been a problem, especially for research projects. The government and the private sector have been generous in extending financial assistance as and when required. The IITs should concentrate on research and development activities and ensure they apply for more patents and contribute to breakthrough innovation. The IITs' global rankings are relatively low and, hence, more efforts should go into building the academic capability and innovation. Financial strategy improvement should not come at the cost of innovation and research. Once they prove their mettle, funds would chase them, rather than having IITs to do the job.

R R Mohan Kumar, Bharathidasan Institute of Management, Trichy

OTHER RESPONSES

The IITs should deploy some strategies in their institutions to better their financial conditions and ease their dependence on government grants. They should expand their franchise in other parts of India, so that more and more deserving students get to study in their dream institute. In return, the institute would be getting the appropriate finance in the form of structured fees. They can also take the help of their alumni, who have achieved a lot after studying in their respective institutes.

Akash Jaiswal, IBS Mumbai

The IITs should devise strategies to better their financial condition so that their dependence on government grants

reduces. They could increase fees to a certain extent and reduce costs. They could provide candidates for companies that are hiring and in turn get grants from the industry.

Rituparna Saha Ray, Fr. C. Rodrigues Institute of Management Studies, Navi Mumbai

Financial autonomy would ensure greater accountability in resource allocation, resulting in optimised expenditure and greater efficiency. This would also result in lesser government intervention in the IITs. Social media and crowd sourcing can be used for devising financial strategies by engaging with stakeholders. Universities around the world are employing cutting-edge marketing tools and strategies to attract international students and diversify to the countries that they can reach out to, as additional measures to counteract depleting government funds. I believe the IITs should also start decreasing their dependence on government funds by employing the best practices of international higher education industry.

Rahul Kumar Jha, IMT Ghaziabad

The IITs should devise strategies to better their financial condition, so that their dependence on government grants reduces. It would enable them to enjoy greater autonomy, which would further help in avoiding any type of government interference in its functioning and subsequently deleting red tapism and bureaucracy. Increasing the fees can play a great role in strengthening the IITs' financial condition.

Jatin Kashyap, Post Graduate Government College, Chandigarh

The IITs should devise strategies to better their financial condition as dependence on government grants is resulting in issues such as lack of proper infrastructure and acute shortage of faculty. In the eight newly established IITs, faculty shortage is as high as 60 per cent, compromising on the quality of education. Being funded by the government, the IITs have to adhere to regulations and curbs in investment. It is

imperative that the onus of quality education is shared by students in the form of higher fees and alumni in the form of corporate tie-ups.

Aakanksha Sharma, IMT Ghaziabad

The IITs are the premier technological institutes of this country, set up by a special act of Parliament and it is the duty of the state to ensure sufficient funds for their proper functioning. Having said that, the IITs can consider the example of the IIMs to generate more revenues by introducing corporate training programmes and doing feasibility surveys. Also, the IITs can provide technological assistance to government projects such as UIDAI so that the funds given by the government to IITs do not seem a burden on state exchequer.

Swar Grover, GNDU, Amritsar

At IITs, much of the expenses are met through grants from the ministry of human resource development. This is an open invitation for greater political interference and erosion of autonomy. Moreover, the government's decisions in the past few years concerning the IITs have not been very encouraging. Hence, looking at this scenario, reducing dependence on the government is the solution. The IITs should bank on endowments, consultancy and executive development programmes for a steady revenue stream. Also, they must establish a broader linkage with the industry, eyeing corporate funding for their research projects.

Navjeet Goraya, Xavier Institute of Management & Entrepreneurship (XIME)

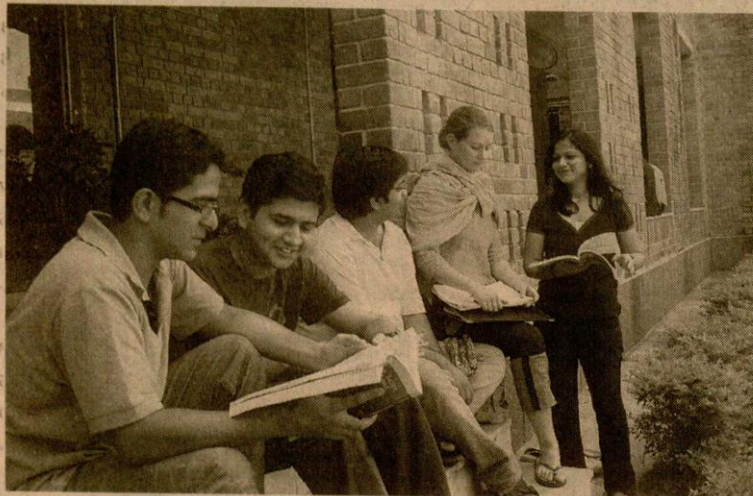
The grants made available by the government have been the only source for successful running of the IITs. It is certainly true that these institutes are majorly dependent on government funds. By being a government-run institute, an IIT has full right to seek financial help. But for being self-sufficient, it would be better if the IITs could devise new methods for sourcing their funds. Alumni could help a great deal by making a collaborative effort to strengthen the financial standing of the IITs. Such measures could help IITs evolve into the world leading institutes.

Shivam Chhabra, Integral University, Lucknow

Your responses should reach us at edu@business-standard.com by Monday evening every week. Please ensure your responses do not exceed 100 words. Avoid attachments and email your full name, institute's name, batch and complete mailing address. The student who gives the 'Best Response' will be awarded ₹500.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION: Do you think education institutions should be kept out of service tax purview?

For other responses, please log on to <http://goo.gl/KZpL70>



Hindustan Times ND 22-Aug-13

UGC sets up panel to revisit NET, new pattern by next year

Vanita Srivastava

■ letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: In an effort to raise the bar of students seeking to crack the National Eligibility Test (NET) and an overhaul of the examination system, the University Grants Commission has initiated the process to take a relook at the UGC-NET exam.

The exam, which is held twice a year to award junior research fellowship for PhD, is a pre-requisite for appointment of a lecturer in a college. The UGC awards 8,800 JRF fellowships per year. Around 7 lakh students had appeared for the UGC-NET exam conducted in June this year.

“We have formed a 12-member committee to revisit the exam in totality. This includes a re-look at the format of testing. Essentially the committee will recommend changes on three aspects — pre-conduct, conduct and the post conduct of the exam. The recommendations of the committee will be put before the Commission by

IN THE WORKS

- The University Grants Commission has formed a 12-member committee to revisit the exam in totality.
- This includes changes in pre-conduct, conduct and the post conduct of exam.
- The recommendations will be put before the UGC by November
- Opinion from academics, students will be sought.

November which will take a call on the recommendations,” UGC chairman Prof Ved Prakash said.

Dr D N Reddy, member of the expert committee for reviewing the NET exam, said: “We are having regional consultative meetings in this regard. We are taking feedback from various stakeholders, intellectuals, university professors and students.”

An opinion is being sought on

the scheme of examination, subject, syllabus, evaluation process and other issues. The committee will also give its recommendation whether there is a need to out-source the exam and the modalities involved.

Some suggestions that have so far come during regional-level consultations includes having only one paper to test the subject. At present, there are three papers — paper 1 is for testing general aptitude while paper 2 and 3 are for testing the subject knowledge.

There are also suggestions that if there should be three papers, then the third paper should be subjective. Other suggestions made include re-introducing negative marking, holding a two-tier exam like the civil service exams — prelims and mains — essentially to screen the number of students who would be allowed to appear for the exam and holding a separate exam for JRF.

All these suggestions will be reviewed and changes are likely to be implemented in June 2014.

New chapter on foreign education

As ₹ falls, higher studies abroad get costlier; US, UK lose sheen, Germany emerges the cheapest destination

VINAY UMARJI & KALPANA PATHAK
Ahmedabad/ Mumbai, 21 August

The excitement of pursuing higher education abroad has waned for Ahmedabad-based Shreya Mathur. Reason: rupee depreciation. She had secured admission in Masters in Business Administration (MBA) in human resources at Seneca College in Toronto, Canada. But the \$6,800-odd per semester fees will now cost her an additional ₹ 2-3 lakh in the subsequent semesters due to currency fluctuations.

Between August 20, 2012 and August 20 this year, the rupee depreciated about 14 per cent. On August 20, 2012, the currency was at 55.5 against the dollar, on Wednesday the rupee was at the 64 mark at close.

This means, if you were to enrol for an MBA at Harvard Business School in the US, you would have shelled out over ₹ 1 crore for the programme in August 2012. If you were to enrol this year, the cost would be ₹1.17 crore, an increase of 17 per cent or ₹8.5 lakh per annum for the two-year programme.

Mathur had paid her first semester fees in July when the rate was ₹58 against US dollar. At that time, it cost her over ₹4 lakh, excluding the cost of books. However, come October and she will have to shell out almost ₹1 lakh more for her tuition fees and books, apart from the hostel fees of \$1,100 a month.

"Had I secured admission last year, I would have spent ₹5-8 lakh less for the entire programme. Many of my peers who were planning an overseas education have dropped the idea, since they now cannot afford it due to rupee depreciation. As for me, I could afford only because the new rule allows us to pay the fees in part for a semester," says Mathur.

Coaching institutes that train students to take global



The impact on student traffic due to the rupee depreciation against dollar, pound and euro could be as high as 40 per cent, according to an expert



FOREIGN EDUCATION

Increase in average annual cost of higher education abroad

| | Annual total | ₹ as on Aug 21, '12 (1\$=₹55.54) | ₹ as on Aug 21, '13 (1\$=₹63.46) | Increase in cost for students (₹) |
|----------------------|--------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Australia | \$38,516 | 21,39,180 | 24,44,225 | 3,05,045 |
| United States | \$35,705 | 19,83,055 | 22,65,839 | 2,82,784 |
| United Kingdom | \$30,325 | 16,84,250 | 19,24,425 | 2,40,175 |
| United Arab Emirates | \$27,375 | 15,20,408 | 17,37,218 | 2,16,810 |
| Canada | \$26,011 | 14,44,650 | 16,50,658 | 2,06,008 |
| Germany | \$6,285 | 3,49,068 | 3,98,846 | 49,778 |

Figures in rupee have been rounded off to avoid decimals

Source: HSBC

examinations such as Graduate Record Examination (GRE), Graduate Management Aptitude Test (GMAT), International English Language Testing System (IELTS) and Test of English as Foreign Language (TOEFL), and help them secure admissions in colleges and universities, say the impact is more among students from middle class families.

"Fairly a large portion of the student traffic to other countries from India come from the middle-class. Hence, there will be a huge impact on the traffic, especially from the middle-class. Moreover, not only is the rupee declining but certain

policy changes will add to the impact. For instance, the annual cap of ₹200,000 for overseas remittances by Indian tax payers has been brought down by the government to a mere ₹75,000 per annum," says Naveen Chopra, chairman of The Chopras, a Delhi-based global education firm.

According to Chopra, the impact on student traffic due to the rupee depreciation against the dollar, pound and euro could be as high as 40 per cent.

Industry estimates peg student traffic from India to the US, the UK, Australia, New

Zealand, Canada and Germany, among others every year at 150,000-200,000

"A major fall in the rupee has taken place in the last few days. Temporarily, there is a slowdown as students are apprehensive and in a wait and watch mode now," says Vinayak Kamath, technical director, GeeBee Education, Mumbai. GeeBee is an international student recruit-

ment organisation, adding that student traffic to the UK would be substantially impacted as the rupee has depreciated the most against the pound compared to the dollar.

The other impact could be country shift. "Those who still want to go for overseas studies are opting for country shift. This means, instead of opting for costly colleges, universities or countries, students are trying to save money by choosing cheaper destinations," says Chopra, adding that many are opting for Germany, although the country puts a lot of effort on getting "bright students".

This makes sense in the wake of a study released by HSBC last week according to which, at an average cost of over \$38,000 per annum for international students, Australia tends to be the most expensive country for overseas study from India.

The US is the second most expensive country for foreign students with the combined average cost of university fees and living expenses there putting the average annual cost at over \$35,000. The UK is the third most expensive destination, with annual fees of \$19,291 and living costs of \$10,177. International student costs in the United Arab Emirates, Singapore and Hong Kong are all above \$20,000 a year, as a result of higher costs of living in these three premier emerging market destinations.

However, foreign students in Ivy League universities could pay two-thirds (67 per cent) on top of this amount, with average total costs reaching \$58,760 a year.

According to the HSBC study, which looked at available data on higher education in 13 countries around the world, international students could find a lower cost of education in Germany, with low tuition costs as well as cost of living. International students studying in Germany pay an average \$635 for study costs and another \$5,650 in living costs, bringing the annual total to \$6,285, a sixth of the cost of studying in Australia.



Dainik Bhaskar ND 22 August 2013
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छह सौ करोड़ में बनेगा आईआईटी भवन

भास्कर न्यूज. इंदौर | आईआईटी (इंडियन इंस्टिट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी) इंदौर के नए आधुनिक भवन का काम जल्द शुरू होने के आसार हैं।

सिमरोल में 500 एकड़ जमीन पर करीब 600 करोड़ रुपए से यह भवन बनेगा। इसके निर्माण के लिए आईआईटी प्रबंधन ने कॉन्ट्रैक्टर से 26 अगस्त तक आवेदन बुलाए हैं। भवन का काम ढाई साल में पूरा करना होगा। ऐसे में संभावना है कि यह भवन 2016 तक ही तैयार हो पाएगा। 2009 में आईआईटी खुलने के साथ ही इसके नए भवन की कवायद शुरू हो गई थी, लेकिन सिमरोल में जमीन और उसके अतिक्रमण को लेकर शासन से प्रबंधन का विवाद चलता रहा। बड़े हिस्से से अतिक्रमण हटाने में संस्थान को खासी मशक्कत करना पड़ी। अब यह समस्या सुलझने से निर्माण का रास्ता साफ हो गया है।