

Newspaper Clips

January 12, 2013

Virat Vaibhav ND 12/01/2013

P6

आईआईटी में लगभग दोगुनी फीस वृद्धि को नितान्त अतार्किक मान रहे हैं शशांक द्विवेदी

पूरा होगा आईआईटी से इंजीनियरिंग का सपना?

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री एमएम पल्लमराजू की अध्यक्षता में आयोजित आईआईटी काउंसिल की बैठक में शैक्षिक सत्र 2013 से आईआईटी में ग्रेजुएट स्तर पर दक्खिला लेने वाले छात्रों की फीस में सालाना 50 हजार से बढ़ाकर 90 हजार रुपए (80 फीसद वृद्धि) करने का निर्णय लिया गया है। एक तरफ देश के राष्ट्रपति और प्रधानमंत्री 100 वें विज्ञान कांग्रेस में उच्च शिक्षा में बड़े सुधार की वकालत करते हुए उसमें ज्यादा सरकारी निवेश की बात कर रहे हैं, वहीं दूसरी तरफ सरकार आईआईटी की फीस लगभग दोगुनी कर रही है। यहां पर यह जानना भी जरूरी है कि सरकार ने इसके पहले फीस बढ़ाकर 2009 में की थी, तब आईआईटी की फीस को 25 हजार रुपए सालाना से बढ़ाकर 50 हजार रुपए किया गया था। इसका मतलब यह हुआ कि चार साल में फीस में लगभग चार गुने की बढ़ोत्तरी हो चुकी है। जबकि छात्रों-अभिभावकों पर बोझ बढ़ाने वाला यह कदम किसी भी तरह से न्यायसंगत और तर्कसंगत नहीं है।

वर्तमान सत्र में पूरे देश में इंजीनियरिंग की चार लाख से ज्यादा सीटें खाली हैं। इनमें कुछ आईआईटी भी शामिल हैं जहां 2012 में 300 सीटें और 2011 में 700 सीटें खाली रह गई थीं। उच्च और तकनीकी शिक्षा में निजी और सरकारी सभी संस्थानों में लगातार फीस वृद्धि हो रही है, जो आम

वर्तमान सत्र में पूरे देश में इंजीनियरिंग की चार लाख से ज्यादा सीटें खाली हैं। इनमें कुछ आईआईटी भी शामिल हैं जहां 2012 में 300 सीटें और 2011 में 700 सीटें खाली रह गई थीं। उच्च और तकनीकी शिक्षा में निजी और सरकारी सभी संस्थानों में लगातार फीस वृद्धि हो रही है, जो आम आदमी की पहुंच के बाहर है। इसी वजह से मौजूदा सत्र में पूरे देश में चार लाख से ज्यादा सीटें खाली रहें।

आदमी की पहुंच के बाहर है। इसी वजह से मौजूदा सत्र में पूरे देश में चार लाख से ज्यादा सीटें खाली रहें। एक तरफ सरकार भारत को 2020 तक दुनिया की पांच सबसे बड़ी वैज्ञानिक शक्तियों में शामिल करने का लक्ष्य रख रही है, राष्ट्रपति महोदय नोबेल पुरस्कार जीतने का आह्वान कर रहे हैं, वहीं दूसरी तरफ देश में उच्च और तकनीकी शिक्षा का बुनियादी ढांचा ही बेहद कमजोर है। बेरोजगारी और लगातार फीस वृद्धि की वजह से इस क्षेत्र से युवाओं का मोहभंग हो रहा है। दक्खिलों का अनुपात साल दर साल कम हो रहा है। यह हाल तब है जबकि देश की जनसंख्या का मात्र 10 फीसद हिस्सा ही उच्च शिक्षा ले पाता है। इसके विपरीत जापान में 70 फीसद, यूरोप में 50 फीसद व कनाडा और

अमेरिका में 80 फीसद लोग उच्च शिक्षा लेते हैं।

पिछले दिनों उच्च शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में रैंकिंग बताने वाली क्यूएस वर्ल्ड, यूनिवर्सिटी रैंकिंग की ताजा सूची में आईआईटी सहित भारत के किसी भी संस्थान या विश्वविद्यालय को दुनिया के शीर्ष दो सौ संस्थानों में भी जगह नहीं मिली है। देश में अपनी गुणवत्ता के लिए विख्यात आईआईटी की भी साख विश्व स्तर पर धूमिल होती जा रही है। वि के सात सौ संस्थानों पर किए गए इस सर्वे में भारतीय संस्थानों की रैंकिंग लगातार नीचे ही गिर रही है। आईआईटी-दिल्ली 202 से गिरकर अब 218वें स्थान पर है और आईआईटी-मुंबई 187 से 225 वें स्थान पर। इस सूची में शीर्ष स्थान हासिल करने वाले अमेरिकी मैसाच्युसेट

इंस्टिट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी (एमआईटी) से आईआईटी की तुलना ही नहीं की जा सकती है। दोनों में शिक्षा, शोध और फेकल्टी के मामले में जमीन-आसमान का अंतर है। इसका प्रमाण तो यही है कि एमआईटी की फेकल्टी में 77 नोबेल पुरस्कार विजेता संबद्ध हैं। देश में अनुसंधान की स्थिति, गुणवत्ता और अंतरराष्ट्रीयकरण के पैमाने पर भी आईआईटी कमतर ही साबित हुए हैं। यह चिंतनीय विषय है कि हमारे आईआईटी इनोवेशन क्यों नहीं कर पा रहे हैं। लेकिन इस तरफ सरकार का ध्यान ही नहीं जाता। दुर्भाग्य से अभी देश में तकनीकी शिक्षा का जो स्तर है वह ठीक नहीं है। अगर समय रहते इस पर ध्यान नहीं दिया गया तो देश को इसके गंभीर परिणाम भुगतने पड़ेंगे। मौजूदा नीतियों के आधार पर उच्च और तकनीकी शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में सुधार असंभव है। शिक्षा हर बच्चे का बुनियादी हक है, इसे निशुल्क या बहुत कम फीस पर छात्रों को उपलब्ध कराना सरकार की जिम्मेदारी है। आईआईटी में फीस बढ़ोत्तरी से कमजोर वगैरे के उन छात्रों के लिए दिक्कत बढ़ जाएगी, जिनमें प्रतिभा है और वे आईआईटी से पढ़कर आगे जाना चाहते हैं। इससे सामान्य छात्र भी प्रभावित होंगे। क्या हम अपने बच्चों, देश की आने वाली पीढ़ी के लिए ऐसी स्थिति विकसित नहीं कर सकते कि फीस आदि को लेकर उनमें अवसाद या तनाव न पैदा होने पाए।

Pioneer ND 12/01/2013

P-5

IIT-Gandhinagar introduces Masti Ki Pathshala to curb suicides

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

The IITs have woken up to the frequent cases of suicides within their campuses. Taking the lead in initiating innovative steps to check suicides, IIT-Gandhinagar has introduced an innovative initiative called *Masti Ki Pathshala*. New entrants to the institute will not have to attend classes for the first five weeks and during this period the students will get time to play games, indulge in sporting activities, cinemas, outings and several other extracurricular activities where they will get an opportunity to interact with each other, seniors and institute staff.

According to IIT-

Gandhinagar Director, Prof Sudhir K Jain, "Initial bonding is more important than beginning studies during the first few weeks for new candidates. Social orientation of the students and acquainting them to the ground realities of society is important."

"Our B-Tech students will go through a five-week Foundation Programme to enable them to cope better with the challenges that lie ahead in their years at IIT-Gandhinagar and in their professional life beyond this institute."

"They will enjoy themselves and at the same time the students, staff and faculty will bond together as one big family," Jain said about his new ini-



Suicides at IITs
2008-2011: 16
2012: 12

The students will go through a five-week Foundation Programme to enable them to cope better with the challenges that lie ahead in their years at IIT

tative to arrest cases of suicide.

Other IIT's too have expressed their interest in this initiative and may implement the *Masti Ka Pathshala* from the forthcoming academic session. However, the IITs are still grappling with the harsh real-

ity that students have access to drugs and liquor in the campuses. This is one of the major cause for suicides in IITs and other Centrally Funded Technical Institutes (CFTI).

Prof Sanjay Dhande, Director, IIT-Kanpur, described suicides as a "social scourge".

In a presentation of a report on Prevention of Suicide and Promotion of Wellness in the CFTIs by the MHRD-constituted task force comprising all IIT Directors, it said that every institution should have a dedicated system to cater to the mental health and counseling needs of the students.

Astonishingly while the Centre has announced a major hike in the fee structure of IITs,

the panel suggested that there should be mechanism of reducing the financial burden of students. It suggested that adequate financial support is made available according to the budgetary provisions of the institution and the Government.

The Directors discussed at length about the 'intrusion' of drugs and alcohol within the campus and into the hostel room. "The issue is as how these intoxicating agents reach the hostel rooms. Once these items are in the hands of the students' then there are many associated problems. We need to think and ponder over how we check this (drugs and alcohol) menace within the campus," said the presentation made

before the HRD Minister MM Pallam Raju during the Council of IIT Meeting early this week.

The panel formed to look into reasons behind the spate of suicides had attributed drug addiction, failed love also as also the reason for growing number of suicides within various IIT campuses. The report also talks about the technology like mobile phones and internet which too have become a menace. The logic given by the panel was constant internet use left students too tired to concentrate on lessons. A case which came to point of discussion was that about a student who committed suicide at an IIT when one of his female classmate deleted the boy's name from a social website.

Financial Chronicle ND 12/01/2013

P-18

The Inside Story of Aakash

A visit to DataWind's assembly plant in India reveals how the world's cheapest tablet is made

PAMPOSH RAINA

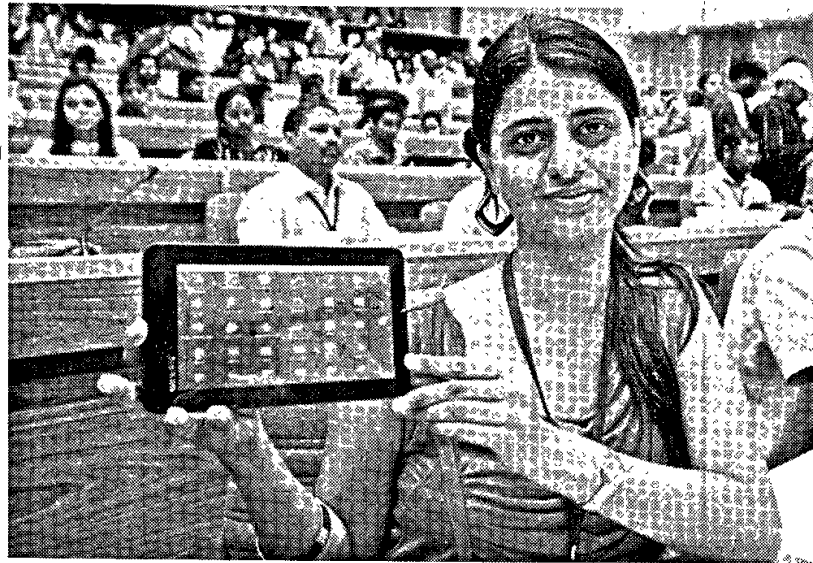
IN A nondescript neighbourhood of Amritsar known as Ghee Mandi, a three-story building with blue glass windows has displayed a prominent sign: "DataWind Makers of Aakash Tablets."

In the city of Amritsar, the British-based manufacturer of the world's cheapest tablet computer has based its operations in India, supported by a battery of local recruits from the area, some of whom make as little as Rs 5,000 (\$92) a month. The Amritsar office is where DataWind is assembling the low-cost Aakash-2 tablet, CEO of DataWind, Suneet Singh Tuli, said recently, in response to an article in *The New York Times* that reported DataWind was buying finished tablets from Chinese manufacturers. "We have been strong proponents of developing a manufacturing base in India, and our actions continue to reflect this," Tuli said.

In early December, *India Ink* visited the Amritsar office. A narrow staircase leading up to the first floor was decorated with a small poster with a UbiSlate tablet, the name for the commercial version of the product, with the price marked in bold: Rs 4,499, or \$81.

The landing on the office floor had a reception desk, separated by a transparent glass partition. Behind the glass, several men and women sat behind several long communal tables. Ibadat Singh, the bespectacled VP for operations, offered a guided tour.

The ground floor serves as a warehouse, cramped with



A DREAM PROJECT: British-based manufacturer DataWind has already missed its first deadline of December 31 to supply 100,000 Aakash-2 tablets to IIT, Bombay

rows of shipping boxes piled on top of each other. One box, which Singh pointed to, had a sticker that read, "Tested" and was packed with a batch of tablets that were ready to use, he said. Some of the boxes had "Easydy" printed on them, the name of a tablet manufacturing company in Shenzhen, China. Singh said DataWind was not buying finished tablets from China, but that the recycling boxes happened to come from China.

At the rear of the ground floor warehouse was a mismatched set of a table and chairs, occupied by two men who were pressing the touchscreens on two separate tablets. These, Singh said, were the most upgraded versions of the tablet made by DataWind, which could dou-

ble up as a mobile phone.

These tablets looked like the latest version of Aakash, but with a SIM card slot in them. Singh said the company only had two in stock to test which mobile service in India offered the best phone connectivity. He showed a sample of a touchscreen panel that he said had been made at DataWind's manufacturing unit in Montreal. The panel prototype was a rectangle frame made of glass and it had a slight crack on one of its edges.

All the tablets produced by DataWind used the touchscreen panels shipped from Montreal, Singh said, and the company is also making modems to be used in the tablets there, he said.

Tuli told *The New York*

fixed to the base of the tablet, and they were stuck together using blue plastic tape to avoid a rattling sound that could be produced by vigorous shaking of the tablet, Singh said.

In fact, tablets were being assembled at the floor right above his office, Singh said. On the second floor, in a 900-square-foot hall was a big rectangular table with a cutout centre, surrounded by chairs and occupied by 16 men.

Singh said they were programming them and adding standard applications featured on every UbiSlate tablet. The setup involved no machines, except for tiny soldering guns, and lacked air conditioning. Singh said that the factories' current setup allows it to make 1,000 tablets a day on an average, with the staff working three shifts a day, and each eight-hour shift made up of 20 people. Each tablet takes five minutes to assemble and two to program, he said.

India Ink also visited in early December the Delhi office of DataWind, located in south Delhi. A senior sales manager, Kumar Kundan Saran, who said he had been working with the company for four years, said the office has a staff of about 20 people. Saran said that DataWind had a 2,000-square-foot warehouse in the neighbourhood, where it stored the tablets that came in from China. He added that the engineers also worked on the tablets in that space.

DataWind has already missed its first deadline of December 31 to supply 100,000 Aakash-2 tablets to IIT, Bombay.

Courtesy: *India Ink International Herald Tribune*

HT Chandigarh

New visa rules: 25% drop in Indian students going to UK

FAULTY POLICY?

- The British gov't's rhetoric on immigration is undermining the UK market in foreign students
- 11 universities have raised concerns about what they called the "economically disastrous and socially divisive" neglect of postgraduate students
- Universities get 10% of their income from non-EU students.

Guardian News Service
 ■ letters@hindustantimes.com

LONDON: The number of postgraduate students travelling from non-EU countries to study at UK universities has fallen for the first time in 16 years, fuelling fears that the government's immigration crackdown is deterring thousands of the brightest students from continuing their studies in Britain.

The number of students coming to the UK from China continued to rise, with 11,000 more enrolling in 2011-12 than in the previous year. However, there was an 25% drop in the number from India, and a 13% drop from Pakistan.

"Not only are these countries with large numbers of ambitious students aspiring to study overseas, but they are also countries with which we have historical-

ly been actively engaged in the areas of higher education and research," Jo Beall, British Council director of education and society, said.

Tim Westlake, director for the student experience at Manchester University, said students whose families relied on them working in the UK after their studies to gain experience and repay the fees were starting to look elsewhere. "Since

2004, the university has had significant growth in Indian students, but over the past two years there has been a 32% drop in Indian master's enrolments. Master's applications from India are down again by 33% this year."

Over recent years, the number of non-EU postgraduates has risen annually by an average of more than 10%, but figures released by the Higher Education Statistical Agency (Hesa) show

a 1% drop in enrolments in the 2011-12 academic year.

Beall said the fall would be cause alarm among UK vice-chancellors. "The sector was expecting a decline in growth, but the actual reduction in postgraduate numbers is of real concern as international students make up the majority of numbers in many postgraduate courses and research teams in science," he said.