

## Newspaper Clips

May 5, 2015

**Hindustan Times.com Edition Delhi**  
**5.5.2015 Page 3**  
**Height 8.74cm Width 13.61 cm**

# Every IIT/IIM MoU will need cabinet nod

**Brajesh Kumar**

**NEW DELHI:** In what could have a bearing on the autonomy of the higher educational institutions including the IITs, IIMs and Central universities, the cabinet secretariat has directed that prior approval of the cabinet is required for any agency in case it wants to sign any agreement including MoUs with any foreign agency/country.

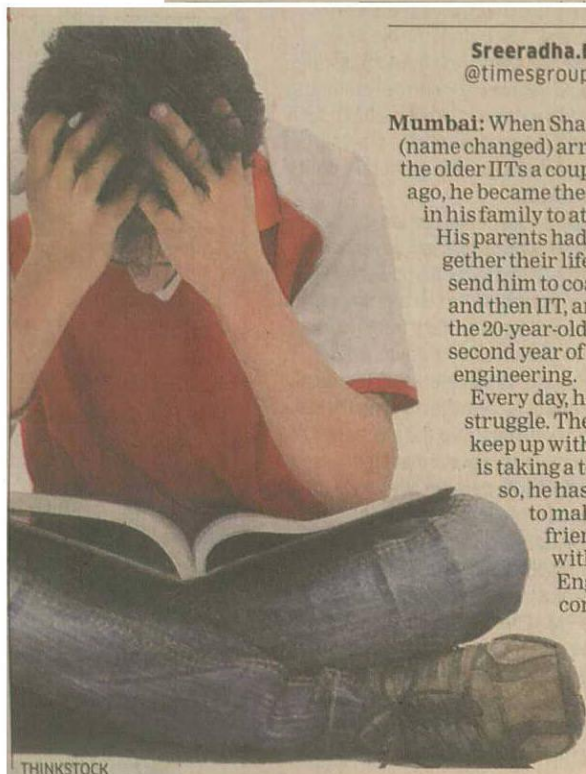
The circular issued to all

ministries, departments including HRD ministry on April 24 says, "It is advised that prior approval of the cabinet is required to be obtained by concerned ministries departments in all cases involving treaties, agreements and other important matter including MoUs to be signed by any agency with any foreign agency/country."

Academics say this is against the 'minimum government and maximum governance' motto.

Economic Times Edition Delhi  
5.5.2015 Page 10  
Height 25.56cm Width 20.25 cm

## IIT Students Crumble Under Study Load, Expectations



**Sreeradha.Basu**  
@timesgroup.com

**Mumbai:** When Shankar K (name changed) arrived at one of the older IITs a couple of years ago, he became the first person in his family to attend college. His parents had pooled together their life's savings to send him to coaching class and then IIT, and today, the 20-year-old is in his second year of electrical engineering.

Every day, he says, is a struggle. The pressure to keep up with his grades is taking a toll. So much so, he hasn't had time to make good friends. And with his poor English and communi-

cation skills, he fears that landing a good job is going to be a real challenge.

Stress is part and parcel of college life, but for some students at the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), it can get overwhelming.

Everything adds up: daunting academic loads, struggling to keep up after a lifetime of being an overachiever and the burden of expectations from family, friends and peers.

Last year, the IITs saw an estimated 14 student suicides, probably the highest ever across these elite colleges. On Sunday, Jitesh Sharma, a third-year student of chemical engineering at IIT Bombay, allegedly committed suicide. He left behind a note, talking about poor performance in his exams as well as his worry about placements.

The inability to cope – often spiraling into depression – has haunted several students. “The

world creates artificial expectations. There's peer pressure, family pressure, societal pressure. Unfortunately, for some students, their ambition is centred around pay packages. To their mind, their success will be judged only around their pay packages and placements,” says Indranil Manna, director, IIT Kanpur.

Agrees Mohak Mehta, placement manager at IIT Bombay: “There are students blindly taking up computer science and engineering even if they aren't inclined towards it just because that's where the fattest pay cheques are. Parents call up the placement cell to find out the schools or branches getting the top salaries, and that's the one they pressurise their children to join.”

At a leading IIT, a top 50 AIR-holder in JEE took up computer science but could not cope with

**INDRANIL MANNA**  
Director, IIT Kanpur

For some students, ambition is centred around pay... Success will be judged only around pay packages and placements

the pressure. He went into depression. “In this competitive environment, when someone starts slipping, stress just keeps building up from there,” says a director at a top IIT, who does not wish to be named.

“There are students coming into the system thinking that once they've made it to an IIT, things are easy from then on,” says Parth Vaswani of IIT Kanpur. “They don't realise it's just the first hurdle. You could have been a topper all your life, but here you may be struggling to get by.”

Pressure builds up in various ways. There are students who see their batchmates bag coveted internships in the second and third years and suffer from comparison. There are those who have been faring poorly academically. Then there are students from humble backgrounds whose families have sold their land or put in all their savings for what they believe is the ticket to a better life. Some of these students don't even have the time to bond or make friends.

“Stress and depression is more prevalent among people who are shy and quiet. There are counsel-

lors on campus but they won't reach out for help,” says IIT Bombay's Mohak Mehta.

Anonymity helps, says Richa Singh, an IIT Guwahati alumnus who started a crowdfunded online platform called Your D.O.S.T. to provide emotional support. They have over 30 counsellors on board so people can reach out anonymously and vent their feelings online.

While providing an enterprise solution at IIT Guwahati, 360 students signed up within the first 10 days. Around 100 queries came in ranging from difficulty in concentrating on their studies and poor grades, to apprehensions about not getting placed. Singh says she is in talks with other IITs to implement the initiatives there as well.

IITs too have their own systems in place. There are counsellors on board, buddy systems, faculty advisors at hand to look out for students at risk. “We try to make sure there are multiple ways of reaching out to students,” says Bhaskar Ramamurthi, director, IIT Madras. “It's not always fool-proof but we try and ensure we do everything we can.”

THINKSTOCK

### Excellence in universities

Now it is high time too make “excellence” as our credo and institutionalise it as a top priority through a National Mission for Excellence in the universities. As a corollary, the UGC as a product of the bygone will need to pave the way for a University Excellence Commission (UEC). It will need to be statutorily ordained under a new UEC Act of the Parliament. It could comprise persons having impeccable scholarly credentials, wider horizons as well as societal concern and empathy. The tasks of grant allocation as well as regulatory aspects could be just components of UEC’s larger mandate to be a vehicle for promoting excellence in the universities.

It is necessary to bring down the edifice of fossilised rules, regulations, attitudes and statistical jugglery like the API to earnestly provide a conducive environment. UEC must become a professional entity chaired by a dynamic scholar with proven credentials of research, innovation, ideas and passion to lead by example. The blueprint for a new UEC would

require a concrete roadmap for salvation of the Indian university system to play a pivotal role for ushering into a knowledge society within a period of one decade (2015-2025). This would call for reaching out to the people with vision, iconoclastic thinking, and working out innovative processes, an agile and flexible institutional structure to meet challenge of the global digital age.

### Finding visionary heads of varsities

Alongside the drastic changes in role of the MHRD, crafting of a new UEC, a new education policy and national mission on excellence, the issue of stellar leadership of universities need to attain top priority. The current system and criteria for appointment of vice chancellors leaves much to be desired.

The position, the process and the outcome have been undermined to such an extent that most of the appointees end up “maintaining” the system rather than provide a strong leadership, infuse energy and bring about results through cutting-edge ideas to excel.

It requires bringing in dynamic scholar-leaders who could infuse fresh blood in 726 Indian universities that are widely known to lack quality that denies world-class education to the students. If we are indeed desirous of catching up with best in the world, we need to find genuine scholars of integrity, vision and wider horizons as vice chancellors who are in their late forties. It is high time that we inculcate a thinking culture in our system so as to promote excellence as a part of our ethos and as a way of life itself.

We need to create circumstances, razor-sharp understanding and infrastructure that could enable us to replicate knowledge traditions from some of our best ancient universities. One only hopes that closure of the UGC will herald about a new renaissance, freeing of universities from control, futuristic changes in leadership, a robust regulatory framework and approach as well as bring about excellence as our credo both in words and deed.

The writer is Jawaharlal Nehru Chair & Chairman, Centre for International Legal Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University & Chairman, Centre for Advanced Study on Courts & Tribunals

As the UGC logo proclaims: “Knowledge liberates.” Has the UGC been able to live up to essence of its logo? Did it have leadership that strived to institutionalise a culture, structure, process and deep sense of commitment to realise the futuristic symbol? Public institutions like the UGC need to perform statutory obligations.



Tribune Edition Delhi  
5.5.2015 Page 9  
Height 36.71cm Width 33.88 cm

## Why is it the end of the road for UGC

**BHARAT H. DESAI**

**T**HE report of the three-member University Grants Commission (UGC) Review Committee seems to have sounded the bugle for beginning of the end of UGC as it exists today. The initial reports, quickly denied by the Ministry of Human Resources Development (MHRD), indicated crystallisation of the Committee's view that UGC cannot be restructured and hence it needs to be scrapped!

The fact that this committee was headed by a former UGC Chairman speaks volumes about manning the UGC without leaving a distinct legacy and still passing a verdict that the entity has not delivered. It appears, MHRD's July 30, 2014 notification did provide a rationale for what was in store. Ironically, after five decades of existence, the UGC has reached a dead-end. If it is now closed, no tears would be shed for its demise. MHRD's own control over the UGC — a statutory body — would be no less responsible than many of the people who headed UGC from time to time.

It remains to be seen if the UGC also meets the fate of the Yojana Ayog, (only to be reborn as a kind of NITI Ayog) or a new futuristic institution emerges from its ashes to meet the challenges of the decrepit Indian university system. The follow up process will not be easy since the UGC Act, 1956 will need to be replaced or amended drastically. The MHRD notification itself underscored that "UGC could have done better".

The President of India, Pranab Mukherjee, has been repeatedly hammering on dismal state of our universities. In his April 10, 2015 convocation address at Mizoram University, the President has again expressed anguish that "We have less to trumpet about the quality of our institutes. None of our institutions are ranked in the top two hundred positions...a vast majority...are mired in mediocrity". Notwithstanding this, what makes us not to wake up from "slumber" and "inertia"? Why are we facing such an 'implosive' situation in spite of our huge untapped potential? Why did the UGC allow the situation to degenerate over the years and could not stem the rot in the system?

### Ushering in universities of tomorrow

Barring a few honourable exceptions, both in State-funded as well as private universities, our struggle for designing the universities of tomorrow appears to suffer from several structural fault lines. It has kept most of the universities bogged down to a mundane existence. Hence, any expectation from the universities to strive for excellence or emerge as "trail blazers for ushering in a high-quality knowledge society" or dream of "attaining the repute of ancient India's citadels of higher learning like Nalanda and Takshashila", can only remain a utopian goal.

We do not need more high-level committees to tell us what is wrong with the idea of universities as a modes vivendi for higher education. In fact we need to institutionalise a robust system to excel. It could include systematic long-term plans for innovative and socially relevant teaching as well as cutting-edge research efforts at individual levels, between departments of each university and through active collaborative interface between the universities. They need to be led by persons who are trail blazers as well as nurtured, valued and provided with enough space to excel.

### Creating knowledge first

As the UGC logo proclaims: "Knowledge liberates." Has UGC been able to live up to essence of its logo? Did it have leadership that strived to institutionalise a culture, structure, process and deep sense of commitment to realise the futuristic symbol? Public institutions like the UGC need to perform statutory obligations, meet expectations of the people and still remain relevant with the changing time. If not, they would be consigned to history.

Even as we await winds of change to blow across the education firmament, what does it take to make the Indian universities world class? The mantra of knowledge first must pervade in all spheres of our system to place us firmly on the long road to excellence. We not only need to learn from our past knowledge tradition but also draw from the best in the world. It would require a lot of concerted efforts over a period of time to overcome mediocrity that has set in, produce the best in a system that otherwise pays lip service to knowledge and does not celebrate scholarship per se.

### New architecture for excellence

The change that we are seeking must start at the top of the ladder with the President and the Prime Minister taking the lead to regularly interact with scholars and thought leaders. In the past periods of oasis, a scholar-statesman, Dr Radhakrishnan, strode the national scene like a colossus, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru used to host scholars over breakfast meetings and Dr APJ Abdul Kalam challenged scholars in premier institutions with a call as to "What would you like to be remembered for"? Thus we now need at least open access of scholars to the Prime Minister, irrespective of their location, views and affiliations. A scholarly interface with the Prime Minister would send right signals down the hierarchy to help foster an attitudinal change to respect scholars and give primacy to knowledge in all spheres of national life.

It is time to remove all cobwebs of outdated views and bottlenecks through a robust, organic and futuristic instrumentality tipped with a new National Educa-

tion Policy. We need to unleash the best talent and allow best scholarly tradition in our universities to flourish. The MHRD needs to loosen control and provide higher education top priority in fund allocations (apart from secondary and tertiary education). The State not only needs to be in the vanguard for educational infrastructure in India but also promote genuine private universities to build centres of excellence across every corner of India. We need to ensure that key positions dealing with the university sector are manned by professionals bereft of political affiliations in ministries such as finance, earth, space, nuclear, energy, environment, law and science and technology.

When we seek the universities of tomorrow to stand tall in the top knowledge league, they need to be provided with genuine autonomy, excellent infrastructure and funding as well as unimpeded by any bureaucratic and political interference. Even as there is growing expansion and "massification" in the university system, we need to first strengthen the existing institutions rather than spread resources too thin.

The bugle has been sounded for the beginning of the end to the University Grants Commission. It remains to be seen whether it will meet the fate of the Yojana Ayog. Can we, instead, have a University Excellence Commission?

### Making a difference

- Our struggle for designing the universities of tomorrow appears to suffer from several structural fault lines.
- We do not need more high-level committees to tell us what is wrong with the idea of universities as a modes vivendi for higher education. In fact we need to institutionalise a robust system to excel.
- It requires bringing in dynamic scholar-leaders who could infuse fresh blood in 726 Indian universities. Pur varieties are widely known to lack quality that denies world-class education to the students.
- If we are indeed desirous of catching up with best in the world, we need to find genuine scholars of integrity, vision and wider horizons as vice chancellors who are in their late forties.

conomic Times Edition Del  
5.2015 Page 10  
Height 22.07cm Width 5.62 cm

Times of India Edition Delhi  
5.5.2015 Page 15  
Height 20.21cm Width 8.63 cm

## Harvard Business School Has the Market Cornered on Case Studies

Francesca Levy

Business schools like to say they're at the leading edge of corporate innovation, boasting on-campus incubators and electives on design thinking. But almost all rely on a teaching tool that's barely changed in more than a century. To learn how to lead companies, MBA students read hundreds of case studies — stripped-down narratives about a strategy problem at a real company — and discuss how they would tackle the challenge.

For Harvard Business School, which created and popularised the method — the school taught its first case in 1912 — case studies are a cottage industry as well as a bedrock of the curriculum.

Harvard Business Publishing says it sells to about 4,000 schools globally; its cases account for 80% of the case studies used.



# 4000

**B-schools  
worldwide use  
HBS case studies**

HBP, which also publishes the Harvard Business Review, had revenue of \$194 million in 2014, according to the business school's annual report, a 44% increase from 2010.

The publisher says it sold 12 million cases last year to schools, companies, and others, and sales totalled about \$30 million.

The sheer scale of Harvard's publishing machine helps it maintain dominance in the case market. Darden Business Publishing calls itself the second-biggest publisher of cases in the US, but it sold fewer than 700,000 cases in 2014, according to Steve Momper, DBP's executive director. HBP produces and distributes co-branded case studies for about 40 business schools.

Of the 25 top business schools ranked by Bloomberg Businessweek last year, 19 reported that they use case studies as one of their main teaching tools.

The bottom line: The publishing arm of Harvard Business School sells case studies to about 4,000 business schools worldwide.

Bloomberg Businessweek

## Nasa's 10-engine electric plane clears test flight



**FLYING HIGH:** The battery-powered plane, Greased Lightning or GL-10, can take off and land like a helicopter and fly like an aircraft

**Washington:** Nasa has developed and successfully flight tested a battery-powered plane with 10 engines that can take off and land like a helicopter and fly efficiently like an aircraft.

The Greased Lightning or GL-10 prototype successfully transitioned from hover to wing-borne flight during several test flights, Nasa said.

"We have a couple of options that this concept could be good for," said Bill Fredericks, aerospace engineer at Nasa's Langley Research Centre in Hampton, Virginia.

"It could be used for small package delivery or vertical take off and landing, long endurance surveillance for agriculture, mapping and other applications. A scaled up version — much larger than what we are testing now — would make also a great one to four person size

personal air vehicle," said Fredericks.

The GL-10 is currently in the design and testing phase. The initial thought was to develop a 6.1 meters wing-span aircraft powered by hybrid diesel/electric engines, but the team started with smaller versions for testing, built by rapid prototyping.

"We built 12 prototypes, starting with simple 2.3 kilogrammes foam models and then 11.3 kilogrammes, highly modified fibreglass hobby airplane kits all leading up to the 24.9 kilogrammes, high quality, carbon fibre GL-10 built in our model shop by expert technicians," said aerospace engineer David North.

The remotely piloted plane has a 3.05 meters wing-span, eight electric motors on the wings, two electric motors on the tail and weighs a maximum of 28.1 kilogrammes at take off. 71

Hindustan Times.com Edition Delhi  
5.5.2015 Page 6  
Height 20.20cm Width 9.14 cm

## Enquiry launched into PhD education



■ Over 7,000 PhDs are awarded each year but top institutes like IITs, IIMs and NITs are still short on competent faculty. FILE PHOTO

Press Trust of India

Raising serious questions about the quality of PhD holders in the country, a parliamentary panel has sought an evaluation report to understand why suitable candidates were hard to find for vacant teaching posts.

With over 7,000 research scholars being awarded PhD every year, the panel has suggested "reorienting" the entire system of evaluation of PhD and other research scholars.

In its report tabled in Parliament last week, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on HRD stressed

**A PARLIAMENTARY REPORT HAS SUGGESTED AN OVERHAUL OF THE FULL INFRASTRUCTURE OF PHD PROGRAMS**

on increasing the number of research fellowships and new schemes for teaching assistantship, taking into account the shortage of teaching faculty in higher educational institutes.

Drawing attention to the quality aspect of PhD holders, the committee said they were rolling out of Indian universities dime a dozen.

Shortage of faculties in premier institutes such as IITs, IIMs and NITs continues to be grim with no improvement foreseen in the near future, the report said.

To address the issue, the report has suggested that stricter norms for the appointment of faculty should be implemented and that the UGC and other regulatory bodies should review them on regular basis and bring in necessary changes so as to fill up the vacant posts at the earliest.

"HRD Ministry should take steps to enhance the prestige of the teaching profession" the report said.

## IIM okay, but what about other premier institutes?

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/City/Nagpur/IIM-okay-but-what-about-other-premier-institutes/articleshow/47155103.cms>

**Nagpur:** Even as Maharashtra's first IIM is all set to commence operations from July, solely due to personal interest taken by none other than chief minister Devendra Fadnavis, other national level institutions, which were announced over two to three years back, are still on paper, if city academicians are to be believed.

'Maharashtra National Law School/University (MNLS/U)' was allotted to the city around three years back after a lot of protests while the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) was granted about couple of years back. Ironically, both are yet to see light of the day and its very unlikely that they would become a reality in forthcoming session.

Similarly, prestigious All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) was announced, much before the IIM, but it's also still on paper. The central team visited the MIHAN area where the land was earmarked for the 1,200 bed mega project. Even National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) was announced in the city, but no progress was made after that.

If this is not enough, the much-needed Government College of Engineering (GCOE), allotted to Nagpur University, with the sole effort of then guardian minister Nitin Raut, two years back, is yet to see light of the day. This is despite the fact that government had already finalized 7.47 acres at Mouza Wanjri, for setting it up. It was expected to benefit the poor students who couldn't afford exorbitant fees charged by private institutions. But despite tall promises of previous Democratic Front and current BJP-Sena governments, all these projects were still on paper with no sight for any of them getting operational from this academic session.

Principal secretary for higher and technical education Sanjay Chahande refused to take up repeated calls of TOI. Fadnavis informed that all projects are moving at a brisk pace after his government assumed power. "AIIMS has moved forward while we've finalized the land for MNL/U. For IIIT, we're still awaiting approval from Ministry for Human Resources and Development (MHRD)," he said.

Joint director of technical education in Nagpur Gulab Thakre said that the government had earlier zeroed in on two large tracts of land for IIIT, but MHRD team didn't find them suitable. "Finally, they had approved the land behind Sutgirni at Waranga on Wardha Road in May last year."

For MNL/U, a land at Kaldongri (earlier rejected for IIIT) was selected as it requires less area as compared to IIIT, but nothing moved beyond that.

In case of GCOE, a deal was fixed between NIT and government's town planning department for Rs37 crore. "Of this NIT was demanding Rs 26 crore while DTE had asked for Rs 11 crore as charges for compound wall and land development. Besides, NIT also asked for Rs53 lakh per year towards the lease. However, the government, it seems, is not ready to pay up those 'exorbitant' charges and we may have to look for alternative land," Thakre pointed out.

### PREMIER INSTITUTES AND THEIR STATUS

\* IIM | All set to begin operations from VNIT from July, due to initiative of chief minister. IIM Ahmedabad to appoint academic officer

- \* MNL/U | Despite tall promises, the prestigious institute allotted three years back is yet to see light of the day, due to government's apathy. Land identified at Kaldongri, but not yet finalized
- \* IIT | Conceptualized two years back and even land was identified at Waranga on Wardha Road. But proposal is struck with MHRD for nearly a year
- \* AIIMS | Announced during last year's union budget in July. Land at MIHAN finalized and even a central team inspected it, but it's yet to come out of paper
- \* NIPER | It was allotted to the city in this year's budget in March, but government is yet to identify a land for it
- \* GCOE | Allotted couple years back and even land was finalized at Mouza Wanjri, but government's reluctance to pay charges to NIT delayed its starting

## Survey to find problems faced by IIT-B students not fluent in English

Hindustan Times (Mumbai)

MUMBAI: After the death of a third-year student at Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay (IIT-B) on Sunday, the institute's student media body, Insight said that it will conduct a survey to find the problems students face owing to a lack of fluency in English.

Jitesh Sharma, who was found dead on a hostel terrace, is said to have had trouble with fluency in speaking English. He left a note stating he was not happy with his academic performance. He was also being treated for depression.

“We thought about this survey as we observed that a language barrier is hampering IIT-B students. Some students from small towns and rural areas find it difficult to communicate in English,” said Niranjana Thakurdesai, one of the chief editors of Insight.

“The upcoming survey will explore how the lack of English proficiency has affected students' academic performance. The results will be submitted by May 7,” said Thakurdesai.

Experts feel that continuous counselling is important. “High expectations of teachers and parents, inhibitions, discrimination by fellow students make things difficult for students. Continuous counselling is not provided to students. Top institutes should include emotional intelligence in their syllabus,” said Rajendra Barve, senior psychiatrist.

According to the professors, the institute has already come up with measures to help. Last year, the institute started extra lectures in Bengali for first-year undergraduate students. A few professors also conduct extra lectures in Hindi and Marathi.

A professor, on condition of anonymity, said, “Students who are fluent in English should not discriminate against others who are not fluent in English.”

UA Yajnik, dean, students' affairs, IIT-B was not available for a comment.



## PhD thesis for sale! Available at a corner store near IIT-D and JNU

<http://www.firstpost.com/living/phd-thesis-sale-available-corner-store-near-iit-d-jnu-2226956.html>

There are boards that announce “Projects and Assignments.” Students from different colleges go around shop after shop to look for a better bargain, some places charge per word, some per page. The entire place looks like a specialised market. The place is Ber Sarai market which is situated on the boundary between Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi and Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU).

“Do you want a project made? Come with me,” says a man, pretending to be using his phone. The place is filled with touts and gives you an impression that the entire place is operated by a mafia that knows what it is doing. They seem to sense that it might be awkward for a student to start a conversation about getting a thesis project made and look to break the ice by turning conversations into ‘deals’.

“What is your topic, just tell me what you want and how many words,” says the man in front of a computer, already working with another student. (For sake of convenience he will be referred to as X) He is changing the names and certificate in the beginning of the project that give the credit to the person who has produced this work.

In the computers on the desk are folders named after each stream, within which are topics for thesis and final projects. There is a variety of topics to choose from. Something based on which a university might award you a degree, or a PhD, are lined up according to the alphabetical order.

The first few pages reveal that these are thesis and projects which are submitted to universities and colleges by students. The names are still there, all you need to do is change the initial credits and the name of the university. “This will cost you Rs. 300, if you want to get it printed that will cost you separately. There is difference between the prices for hard bound and spiral bound,” says X.

There are institutions which ask for digital copies of dissertations and thesis from the students, in order to detect academic dishonesty and duplicate content. The plagiarism detecting softwares check the databases of universities and the internet to search for duplicate content. The mafia has a hack for that too. “If you want original content written for your topic, it will cost you more. I can take you to the person who makes it,” says X.

In a bookshop a stone’s throw away, the man, who is addressed as ‘sir’ by X, asks you which university you are studying at, which field do you need the dissertation for, and other questions that help him decide the cost he is going to quote.

After taking a look at your clothes and phone he looks around to figure out whether you came by a private car or public transport. “It will cost you two rupees per word for the original content. For a 10,000 word thesis you will have to pay 20,000 rupees. It won’t be detected in any plagiarism software, that is our guarantee,” says the owner of the bookshop (will be referred to as Y).

On asking who will write the dissertation, Y assures that there is ‘faculty’ dedicated for the job.

“It will take time, you will have to wait for two weeks before it is completed,” says Y. “Don’t worry about plagiarism detecting softwares, we will put it through the software your university uses and give you a final report, fool-proof.”

In an environment where even degrees are faked the reality of education in Delhi stands exposed in such markets, raising questions over its future. There has been controversy over qualifications of government ministers, including the controversy of HRD minister's own degree and more recently the Delhi Law minister's degree being 'reportedly' fake.

When Krishna Sankar Kusuma, assistant professor for media research at Jamia Millia Islamia, was approached by someone to write a PhD thesis for someone else, he was astonished. He says that he thought the man to be crazy.

“How is it possible to live someone else's thought process and write something on their behalf? Ghost writing is not just the written word, it means the thoughts and ideas behind the topic. Softwares like Turnitin, Blackboard or Google only check similarity, but as a teacher you can check whether it's the students work or not,” Kusuma says.

Many research scholars feel that the core issue with the education system is that students are not taught the implications of plagiarism in the academic and professional fields and they are straight away expected to submit a thesis.

“University should have a policy for teaching about forms of plagiarism and making students aware about issues related to infringement of copyright laws. We, as academicians, should think what kind of enrollment we are providing for academic freedom. Some kind of democratic situation should be there in between the teacher and the student so that such cases of dishonesty can be done away with,” Kusuma adds.

With universities having to bear the brunt of academic dishonesty, open markets -- where such practices are rampant -- complicate the issue. The quality of education of the students, who graduate with degrees after using such thesis, can hardly be imagined.

Ber Sarai is not the only such market, outside other reputed universities in Delhi the situation is no different. Delhi University North campus has Patel Chest Market, Amity University has Noida Sector-18 market and Jamia Millia Islamia and other South Delhi colleges have Nehru place where similar practices are just as open as Ber Sarai.

*Qazi Zaid and Prerna Lidhoo are freelance journalists. Both of them are currently pursuing their masters in Convergent Journalism from MCRC, Jamia Millia Islamia.*