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Gay is 'normal' for 72% in IIT-D

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New Delhi: An 'LGBTQ+ Campus Climate Survey', conducted by Indian Institute of Technology Delhi's gender sensitisation group Stree, showed that nearly three quarters—72%—of respondents “believe homosexuality is as normal as heterosexuality”. A total of 300 IIT Delhi students filled the online questionnaire in September and 62.5% of them “felt that nothing would change if one of their close friends comes out as homosexual” and 60% “would not have a problem if their roommate were gay”.

IIT-Delhi's social interventions tend to take the tech route but at least one group is working on gender equality and awareness on a campus known for its appalling sex ratio. The average boys-to-girls ratio is 10:1; the ratios within departments vary widely. A campus



STANDING UP FOR WHAT'S RIGHT: Boys at a campaign for equality

with a sex ratio this skewed needs all the help it can get.

“Men feel distanced or isolated from issues faced by women. I feel there's more male chauvinism here and also a tendency to belittle women's issues,” says Arpit Agarwal, final year computer science student at IIT-D. Consequently, many male students feel girls are “exaggerating their problems” or that all men are “be-

ing framed” in sexual harassment cases.

Stree had started in the winter of 2012 with the sole aim of tackling sexual harassment and rape. Over the past three years, they realized these are only a part of a larger malaise and have now broadened their area of activity to gender equality and sensitisation. The Campus Climate Survey “aims to explore the gen-

eral views of people at IIT Delhi on the issue of diverse gender and sexual identities”. Respondents are requested to answer “honestly” so that Stree “can plan [their] activities on these issues in a better fashion”. IIT Delhi has an LGBT rights group in Indradhanu that's unrecognized by the administration. Stree “works closely” its members.

The responses have been reassuring. Only 12% feel “it is right to tag someone as ‘tomboy’ or ‘girlish’ because of the way they walk or talk”; 41% “accepted that their gender has affected their career choices”; and 64% “accept that their habits and choices are affected by what the society expects from them”. There are photographs on Facebook of students—including Agarwal—holding packets of sanitary pads. Stree had picked October 11—the International Day of the Girl Child—to “Break the Taboo”.

IIT Kanpur to increase foreign students' intake, to boost ranking

VIRENDRA SINGH RAWAT
Kanpur, 15 October

Indian Institute of Technology-Kanpur (IIT-K) is making structural changes, including increasing the intake of foreign students, in the wake of the institute getting low ranking among world's top universities.

There is a belief here that the low ranking is not reflective of the actual academic and infrastructure facilities available on the campus, but more structural and procedural aspects that impede a fair analysis of the ground realities.

For instance, there are only about 34 foreign students in IIT-K of the roughly 6,500 students, which is less than one per cent. This effectively prevents the institute from attaining the status of a global campus — an imperative for any modern educational institution.

The statute prohibits the institute from enrolling foreign students. However, now IIT-K is mulling over ways to admit foreign students through the memorandum of understanding (MoU) route to ensure they could stay for at least three months on the campus for being counted amongst its students.

"We have also signed two MoUs with the National University of Singapore and the Melbourne University (Australia) to offer joint degrees, which we are hopeful of launching soon," IIT-K Global Ranking Committee convener Sandeep Verma told *Business Standard*.

While, IIT-K was ranked 271st in the QS World University rankings released last month, the institute exited

Entire JBIMS batch bags summer placements in 4 days

The entire batch of Jamnalal Bajaj Institute of Management Studies has secured summer placements in only four days. While the highest stipend offered was ₹4,50,000 for two months, the average stipend touched a new high of ₹1,37,000, against ₹1,17,000 the previous year. Of the 72 companies that registered for the process, 68 participated, making 123 offers. Consulting firms such as McKinsey & Co, The Boston Consulting Group and Accenture Strategy continued to count the institute among their preferred campuses for recruitment. The likes of Barclays Capital, Goldman Sachs and Avendus Capital offered various students roles related to investment banking. Fast-moving consumer goods giants such as HUL, P&G, ITC, Danone, Marico and Nivea offered attractive roles in branding, sales & marketing, corporate finance, product management and digital marketing.

BS REPORTER

from the list of top 100 of another prestigious rankings, the Times Higher Education University Asia Rankings 2015, although it had figured in the top 100 last year.

In the QS World University rankings, two Indian institutes — Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, and IIT-Delhi — were ranked within the top 200 at 147 and 179 slots, respectively. However, IIT-K was declared the best engineering institute in India by the India Today Group-Nielsen Best Colleges Survey for a second year. IIT-Delhi was ranked second.

The IIT-K Global Ranking Committee was constituted as an institutional framework for interfacing with the ranking organisations and providing correct data and statistics.

"Earlier, these organisations picked up secondary data without verifying with us. Since, the global rankings have

gained importance in society, the institute now sees these rankings as a measure to compare with the best universities in the world," Verma added.

Under the committee, a set of professors study the mechanism with a view to suggesting rational changes at different fronts so that IIT-K puts the best foot forward. Besides, the institute is taking steps towards developing a better research eco-system, so that more quality research work emerges and such papers are published in international journals of repute.

IIT-K's B V Phani said the matrix of rankings itself was sometimes unfavourable to the institute and not the correct manifestation of the ground realities.

"Besides, we never had the motivation to improve our rankings like the US varsities and as such, IIT-K never looked at it in a professional manner. Now, we have taken it

seriously and in a rational manner," he said.

Phani argued two institutes cannot be compared on the basis of mere rankings. "Suppose we compare the average height of Americans and Chinese, then, the average height of the Americans would be greater. But, does that make the Americans more or less efficient or better or worse professionals than the Chinese," he asked.

Phani is also coordinator of SDBI Innovation Incubation Centre at IIT-K. He said IIT-K possessed perhaps the best educational system in India vis-à-vis campus size, faculty, lab testing and prototype development facilities, etc. To some measure, he pinned the blame on the bad infrastructure facilities in and around Kanpur, which still lacks any direct airport connectivity despite being one of the major industrial hubs of Uttar Pradesh.

Meanwhile, IIT-K is keen to improve its teacher-student ratio by inducting more faculties. Against the sanctioned strength of 650 teachers, the campus only has 500 faculty members, including 100-odd PhD students as well.

Individual faculty members have been suggested to contribute towards better research works, publications and academics, so that it cultivates a more positive image of IIT-K.

Spread over 1,055 acres, IIT-K is situated on the Grand Trunk road in Kanpur. It first started functioning in the borrowed building of Harcourt Butler Technological Institute in 1959 with 100 students before flowering into a major educational hub in India.

IIT-Kanpur and TAMU to start joint dual-degree course for students

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/education/news/IIT-Kanpur-and-TAMU-to-start-joint-dual-degree-course-for-students/articleshow/49393691.cms>

KANPUR: IIT-Kanpur along with Texas A and M University (TAMU, United States) are engaging to start a joint dual degree course. Vice chancellor of TAMU, Dr Margaret Katherine Banks, director of Graduate Programs (TAMU), Dr Vikram Kinra and director, IIT-Kanpur, professor Indranil Manna during an important meeting have given green signal to the proposal. During the meeting the deans of IIT-Kanpur also remained present.

The meritorious students who will pursue this dual degree course will get the degrees with the logo of both the institutions. The admission to this course is likely to be taken from next academic session year. This dual degree course could be initiated only after the approval from the senate of IIT-Kanpur.

Babita Lohani, coordinator of international relations at IIT-Kanpur informed that for last three years institute has been running student exchange programme with TAMU. Till now four students each from both the institutes used to take benefit of the student exchange programme but during the meeting it was proposed to increase this number to 10 (from each institute).

Lohani said that the selection of the students for the student exchange programme is based on their academic performance. If they have performed well, they have full opportunity to be chosen for this programme. She said that the arrangements such as airfare, fooding, lodging and accomodation are managed by the two institutes. Lohani also mentioned that in the student exchange programme, students do internship for a period of three months.

During the meeting it was also agreed to explore the avenues for internship of PG students similar to the ongoing program for UG students, Starting exchange of non-degree students for 1-2 semesters. It was aso agreed that there is also a need of starting visiting faculty program between the two institutes which will ultimately result in research collaboration.

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आईआईटी-एनआईटी का फर्क मिटेगा!

नई दिल्ली | विशेष संवाददाता

एनआईटी काउंसिल का फॉर्मूला लागू होने के बाद आईआईटी और एनआईटी के बीच का फर्क मिट जाएगा। नए फॉर्मूले के तहत आईआईटी और एनआईटी में प्रवेश के लिए न्यूनतम योग्यता के नियम भी समान हो जाएंगे।

मसलन, प्रवेश के लिए छात्र को अपने बोर्ड के शीर्ष 20 पर्सेंटाइल अंक हासिल करने वालों में शामिल होना चाहिए या फिर न्यूनतम 75 फीसदी अंक हासिल किए हों। इसके बाद एडवांस परीक्षा में निर्धारित कटऑफ अंक हासिल करने होंगे। नए बदलावों के बाद जेईई मेन परीक्षा के प्रश्न पत्र का कोई महत्व नहीं रह जाएगा। हालांकि अभी स्पष्ट नहीं किया गया है यह आदेश कब जारी होगा।

अभी इस फॉर्मूले पर प्रवेश

आईआईटी: अभी आईआईटी में प्रवेश के लिए 12वीं बोर्ड में 75 फीसदी अंक या फिर बोर्ड परीक्षा में टॉप 20 पर्सेंटाइल में शामिल होना जरूरी है। आईआईटी में प्रवेश के लिए पहले छात्रों को जेईई मेन परीक्षा उत्तीर्ण करनी होती है। इस परीक्षा में शीर्ष डेढ़ लाख छात्रों को ही एडवांस परीक्षा में बैठने की अनुमति दी जाती है। एडवांस की मेरिट के हिसाब से छात्रों को आईआईटी में प्रवेश मिलता है।

एनआईटी: एनआईटी में शामिल होने के लिए बोर्ड के अंकों की कोई न्यूनतम सीमा नहीं रखी गई है। न ही पर्सेंटाइल की कोई बाध्यता। लेकिन बोर्ड परीक्षा के अंकों को 40 फीसदी वेटेज दी जाती है। जेईई मेन की मेरिट को 60 फीसदी और बोर्ड परीक्षा को 40 फीसदी का वेटेज देकर नई मेरिट तैयार की जाती है।

बदलाव की जरूरत

- बोर्ड के अंकों का ब्योरा समय पर नहीं मिलता है और उनकी वेटेज तैयार करने की एक लंबी प्रक्रिया अपनाती पड़ती है
- एडवांस परीक्षा में डेढ़ लाख छात्र बैठते हैं, 20-25 हजार छात्र पास होते हैं, जबकि आईआईटी में दस हजार सीटें हैं

- ऐसे में छात्रों को पहले आईआईटी में एडमिशन के लिए मशक्कत करनी होगी फिर एनआईटी का रुख करते हैं
- इस साल से संयुक्त काउंसिलिंग के जरिये इस जटिलता को कम करने की कोशिश की गई है

Economic Times ND 16/10/2015 P-03

After Swamy Hoax, HRD Ministry Sets Ball Rolling for New JNU VC



New Delhi: Subramanian Swamy may have set the stage for appointment of the next Vice chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University with his claims of being an informal frontrunner; the formal process, however, has only been initiated now by the HRD Ministry. The ministry has last week constituted the search cum selection committee to appoint the new VC to JNU. The search committee will be headed by the former VC of Banaras Hindu University who is at present the Director at the National Assessment & Accreditation Council – Prof Dharendra Pal Singh. The two others on the search cum committee are former ISRO chief K Radhakrishnan and former diplomat Ashok Sen. Radhakrishnan and Sen were appointed to the selection committee as per the recommendations of the JNU Executive Committee and Prof D P Singh is the nominee of the Visitor to the Central University – the President of India. The HRD ministry has also invited applications to the VC's post which will now be screened by this selection committee. Noted scientist Prof Sudhir Kumar Sopory, who is currently the JNU VC, completes his term in January 2016. – Anubhuti Vishnoi

Survey finds sexism, gender bias at IIT-B

<http://www.mumbaimirror.com/mumbai/others/Survey-finds-sexism-gender-bias-at-IIT-B/articleshow/49394763.cms>

Male, female students cite different instances of gender bias, but collectively demand action against sexism.

Male and female students of Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-B), believe that gender bias is prevalent on the campus, but they cite different instances of what they think amounts to such discrimination, according to a survey.

Male students think that their female counterparts get preference when it comes to project selection, placements and sometimes grades. The girls think that they face more restrictions than boys and often, their abilities are underrated.

But a large number of respondents in both groups said that sexism on the campus needed to be tackled. Sixty-three per cent of male students sought measures against sexism compared to 76 per cent of female.

The survey was conducted by IIT-B student media body, Insight, and it had over 500 male respondents and 140 female.

"The survey takes a closer look into various aspects of both patriarchy and feminism. We came up with the questions for the survey and discussed them with the women's cell at the institute," said Niranjan Thakurdesai, one of the chief editors of Insight.

More female IIT-B students than male believe that demands for gender equality were justified.

The male respondents cited instances where they felt discriminated against. They believe that irrespective of abilities, it's easier for their female counterparts to get jobs because of companies' policies to maintain a gender ratio. One male student claimed that he once saw a professor give more marks to a classmate just because she was a girl and requested for lenient evaluation.

Female respondents said that they weren't exactly the privileged lot as perceived by some. They said that they sometimes faced sexist remarks on their appearance and clothes, and their abilities were not fully appreciated. One girl said that officials and security guards had showed insensitivity while handling complaints of sexual harassment, and some even had preconceived opinions about the complainants.

Other grouses: male students face fewer restrictions when it comes to moving around or leaving the campus, and have been provided better hostel facilities.

WATER WASTAGE AT IIT-B

IIT-B's Insight team conducted another survey that sought to gauge the amount of water wasted on the campus. The study suggests that IIT-B has a "callous approach towards water as a resource". An average Mumbaikar uses 268 litres of water per day (LPCD). At IIT-B, the figure stands at 358 LPCD. According to the Central Public Health and Environmental Engineering Organisation, the ideal figure should be 150.