

## Newspaper Clips

September 23, 2011

Business Line ND 23/09/2011

p-4

### **New director for IIT Madras**

*Chennai, Sept. 22*

**P**rof. Bhaskar Ramamurthi, Department of Electrical Engineering, IIT Madras, has been appointed as the new Director of IIT Madras.



**Prof Bhaskar  
Ramamurthi**

According to sources in IIT Madras, this was announced in an internal mail.

Dr Ramamurthi is an alumnus of IIT Madras Class of 1980.

According to sources, this is the first time an alumnus of the institution is becoming the Director of IIT Madras.

He succeeds Dr M.S. Ananth, Department of Chemical Engineering. — **Our Bureau**

Indian Express ND 23/09/2011

P-7

# IIT-K student commits suicide in hostel room

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 22

AN IIT-Kanpur (IIT-K) student committed suicide in his hostel room on Thursday, the ninth such case in the institution in the last five years, authorities said.

While no suicide note was found and the possible reason for his action remained unknown, Mahtab Ahmed left a message on the wall, addressed to three of his classmates. "Dear friends, I'm tired of IIT," the message said.

Mahtab Ahmed, a BTech first-year student of material science and engineering, belonged to Kannauj district of UP. He is the ninth student to have committed suicide in IIT-K in the last five years, according to details available with the local Kalyanpur police station.

IIT-K Registrar Sanjeev S Kashalkar said the incident came to light around 6 pm when Mahtab's classmates went to his room to take him along for the sports festival 'Udghosh', which began on Thursday.

He said the boys informed the hostel administration when they knocked on the door several times and did not get any response. The police were informed immediately and they broke the door in the presence of the IIT authorities. Mahtab's body was found hanging from the ceiling fan.

Mahtab had spoken to his mother at 1.45 pm.

The registrar said the police were searching Mahtab's room but were yet to find any suicide note.

# 1ST-YEAR STUDENT OF IIT-KANPUR KILLS HIMSELF

**AGE CORRESPONDENT**  
LUCKNOW, SEPT. 22

Mehtab Ahmad, a first-year student of material science and engineering, in IIT Kanpur, committed suicide on Thursday evening by hanging himself in his hostel room.

Mehtab, who belongs to Kannauj district in UP, was found hanging in his room number 307 around 5.30 pm when one of his classmates peeped in through the window. The police searched the room but could not find any suicide note. IIT Kanpur director Sanjay Dhande said a four member fact-finding team had been constituted to probe the reasons behind the incident and had been asked to submit its report within a week.

He had joined the institute two months ago and his classmates said that probably he could not cope with the pressure of studies. Faculty members denied that the boy had ever reported any problems.

Tribune ND 23/09/2011 P-20

# Two IITians among 400 richest Americans



WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 22

Two IIT alumni have made it to the Forbes' list of the 400 richest Americans, topped for the 18th year in a row by Bill Gates with Warren Buffett in second spot.

According to the US busi-

ness magazine, Bharat Desai with \$1.35 billion gets the 329th spot with Vinod Khosla two notches below at 331st place with \$1.3 billion.

Kenya born Syntel co-founder Desai (58), an IIT-Bombay graduate, founded

FORBES 400	
	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Bharat Desai, No. 329; co-founder of Syntel; fortune \$1.35 billion</li> <li>■ Born in Kenya, Desai founded the outsourcing outfit in 1980 and now has some 16,200 employees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Vinod Khosla, No. 331; co-founder of Sun Microsystems; fortune: \$1.3bn</li> <li>■ The Indian-born engineer vowed to give away half his fortune after signing the Bill Gates' Giving Pledge</li> </ul>

the outsourcing outfit in 1980, took the company public in 1997 and now has some 16,200 employees. Shares have jumped 20 per cent over the past year. Fellow IITian Vinod Khosla (56), according to Forbes "is the rare Silicon Valley venture capitalist able to generate profits from a clean tech portfolio".

The Indian-born engineer, who made his early fortune as co-founder of Sun Microsystems, recently vowed to give away half his fortune to charity when he signed Bill Gates' and Warren Buffett's Giving Pledge last April. While Microsoft co-founder Gates' fortune swelled by \$5 billion in a year to \$59 billion, Berkshire Hathaway Inc. chairman and CEO Buffett's fortune decreased by \$6 billion -- the largest dollar-amount loss by anyone on the Forbes 400 this year, to \$39 billion, the magazine said. — IANS

# HRD initiates education panel

**AGE CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 22

Union human resource development ministry has initiated the process for the establishment of an Education Commission. The HRD ministry soon likely to seek views of various ministries which control the fields of agriculture, vocational, scientific and technical education.

Official sources stated that government ministries will be asked to submit their suggestions regarding the proposed body, including its structure. The setting up of an Education Commission was first announced by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in his Independence Day speech this year.

The commission is expected to cover all aspects of education in a comprehensive manner and make recommenda-

tions for improvements in the sector in view of the major reforms initiated over the years.

Official sources stated that seeking the views of other ministries are important as education in subjects of these sectors is not controlled by the HRD ministry.

"A discussion and suggestions from other ministries at this stage will ensure that the commission will not face a similar fate like the National Council for Higher Education and Research Bill which had created a rift between the HRD and health ministries over inclusion of medical education under the ambit of the bill and hence has been delayed," sources added. It is understood that the government has decided to appoint the commission to suggest strategy for the education sector for the next 20 years.

# IIM-S to Roll Out Exec MBA with China Edge

One-year course with 6-month stay in China aims at attracting foreign students

**BIKASH SINGH**  
GUWAHATI

IIM Shillong will roll out a one-year post-graduate executive MBA course with a six-month stay in China, with the aim of attracting foreign students. The course will focus on how to do business in and with China.

China is one of the biggest trading partners of India as well as the European Union.

IIM has tied up with Ocean University of China for the course. "The course will give students exposure to both the countries as it requires a six-month stay in China and the remaining six months in Shillong," says IIM Shillong director Ashoke Dutta. "We are targeting global students, especially from Europe and the US with this course, which will be rolled out by the year-end," he adds. The student intake will be around 30.

The course will give students an insight into China's business environment and culture, besides case studies of businesses that are flourishing there and performance of various corporations.

There will also be field visits. The students will stay in the Ocean University campus in Qingdao.

"I'm sure this programme will get an overwhelming response. We have not decided the fee structure yet but it should be around ₹15 lakh per student," adds Dutta.

IIM-S will also initiate a seven-day advanced management programme on China for senior management executives and bureaucrats. The course is likely to start from November this year, and the student intake is likely to be around 25.

IIM-S plans to approach the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region for supporting this programme. It had earlier introduced a two-week certificate course on Chinese for students, as the second language in the curriculum. "The success of the Chinese language programme has encouraged us to introduce China-specific courses. Multinational companies prefer to employ students who know foreign languages," Dutta adds.

Mail Today ND 23/09/2011 p-12

# Ignore boards & kiss engg dream goodbye

By Ritika Chopra in New Delhi

**YOUR** Class XII performance is set to play a crucial role in determining your admission to an engineering institute of your choice.

In fact, marks scored in the board examination are likely to matter as much as the candidate's performance in the single national-level entrance test that the government plans to introduce by 2013.

The model of giving "equal importance" or equal weightage to the "normalised" board score and the aptitude test had the tacit approval of the IIT council — the highest decision making body of the Indian Institutes of Technology — at its last meeting on September 14.

"The Ramaswami Committee had proposed six ways of how the Class XII marks can be factored in at the time of preparing the all-India merit list. The sixth option, which gives 50 per cent weightage to the normalised board marks and the remaining 50 to the aptitude test, was found favourable by everyone," said Sanjay Dhande, director, IIT Kanpur.

The high-powered committee under the science and technology secretary T. Ramaswami was charged with the responsibility of suggesting reforms in the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) system to reduce financial and mental stress on students.

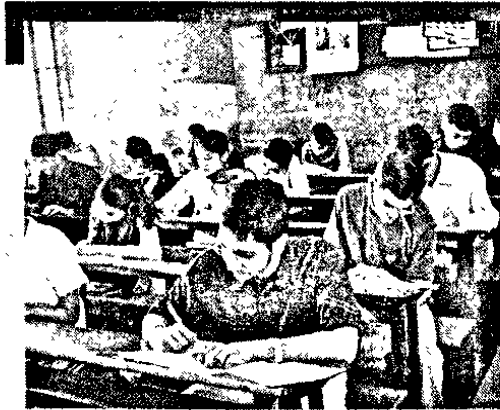
Accepting the recommendations of the committee, the IIT council had, in principle, agreed to replace the JEE and other engineering tests with one single entrance examination by 2013.

Though the HRD minister Kapil Sibal had immediately made an announcement to the

effect, the extent to which the Class XII performance will count at the time of admission to an engineering course was, until now, unknown.

"We want to respect the school board exam and the national aptitude test. The only fair way to achieve that is by giving equal importance to both," Dhande said.

This decision will be notified before the end of the year. After this, the joint admission board (JAB) of the IITs will work on the nitty-gritties of how this can be implemented.

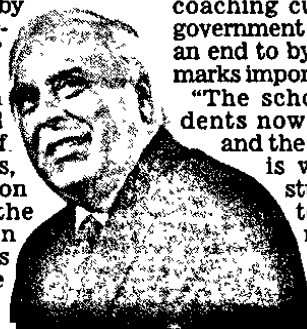


Equal weightage likely to be given to XII boards marks and engineering test.

In the current admission system, a candidate's Class XII marks are usually used to determine his or her eligibility to take an engineering entrance test.

An exclusive focus on the entrance examination has eventually given rise to a strong coaching culture, which the government now wants to put an end to by making Class XII marks important for admission.

"The school is where students now come to unwind and the coaching institute is where they go to study. If the proposal to include Class XII marks does get implemented then



Kapil Sibal

## IN A NUTSHELL

- Evolve a mathematical formula to normalise class XII performance across all national & state boards

- Get all state govts to accept the national aptitude test for engineering

- Get the state boards to announce results during a common time frame

- Establish dialogue with all state and national boards to design the format of national aptitude test

it will once again dignify the role of the school," Ameeta Wattal, principal, Springdales School on Pusa Road said.

"It's unfair that a child's fate is decided based on one examination. In that context, making board marks a criterion for admission is welcome," said renowned researcher Goverdhan Mehta.

But before taking the ambitious proposal of giving equal weightage to board score forward, the government has to bring all state boards as well as CBSE on par with each other by developing a comprehensive weighted performance index so that there is no gross inequality among them and students do not suffer.

# AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES REACH OUT TO INDIA

Attacks on Indians in Australia, and a subsequent steep drop in Indian student enrollment, have pressed Australian universities to engage more with India

MEENA BHANDARI  
Sydney, September 22, 2011

As the dust settles on the furor surrounding attacks on Indian students, which has strained bilateral relations and threatened Australia's multi-billion dollar education export sector, Australian universities are going all out to engage with Indian educational institutions. This isn't all that surprising considering that the number of offshore applicants from India fell from 18,514 in the 2009-10 financial year to just 6,875 in 2010-11, a drop of 63 per cent. From setting up joint academic and research collaborations to offering scholarships and exchanges, universities are keen to re-build Australia's reputation as a convivial and safe study destination.

"As countries, we have so much to offer each other when it comes to education and knowledge partnerships. The University of New South Wales (UNSW) like many Australian universities is investing human and capital resources in deep-

ening, strengthening and broadening our engagement with a cross-section of universities in India", says UNSW's Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International), Jennie Lang, who is in Delhi with the UNSW Vice-Chancellor Frederick Hilder, to discuss long-term engagement strategies for partnerships.

UNSW has recently announced a joint Master's degree in Optometry with the LV Prasad Eye Institute in Hyderabad, and set up a Nehru Chair in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. Earlier, the Australasian Legal Information Institute, a joint facility of UNSW and the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) Faculties of Law, helped develop the Legal Information Institute of India.

"Academic engagement is an important stepping stone towards rebuilding trust and creating a stronger relationship between the two countries," says the University of Sydney's Deputy Vice-Chancellor International, Professor John Hearn.

Between 2007 and 2010, the University of Sydney's International Programme Develop-

ment Fund has allocated AU\$96,788 to initiate research collaboration with Indian institutions in the fields of agriculture, medicine, science, engineering and Information Technology.

Macquarie University in Sydney on the other hand has initiated a number of cooperative partnerships with some of the top Indian business universities including the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad and Calcutta, Xavier Labour Relations Institute (XLRI), NarseeMonjee Institute of Management Studies (NMIMS), and the SP Jain Institute of Management and Research.

Karthik Kesavan, who hails from Chennai, arrived at Melbourne's La Trobe University when the students' attacks issue was at its peak two years ago but has experienced little of the upheavals that were reported at the time. "I find generally people are warm and friendly. I have not experienced any of kind racism. Although, when I speak to friends back home, a vast majority still feel Australia is not a safe

place", says Kesavan, who is in the final semester of a Bachelor's degree in Animal and Veterinary Bio-sciences.

He has been working as a Livestock supervisor in a Poultry Farm to pay for the nearly AU\$ 60,000 three-year course fee and he would like to stay on in Australia. "There are plenty of jobs available in my field of study here, but tougher immigration rules pose a challenge", adds Kesavan. Changes to the Australian skilled migration programme, tightening of student visa rules and financial stability requirements, closure of dodgy private colleges and a surging Australian dollar have all contributed to low enrolments from India.

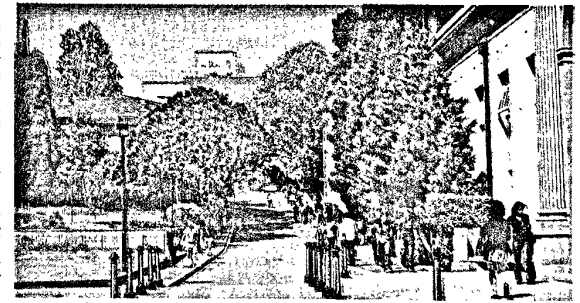
There are 61,549 overseas Indian students enrolled in Australian educational institutions as at year-to-date July 2011 out of a total of 487,704 international students from nearly 200 countries. Education is Australia's third largest export after iron ore and coal and the largest services export worth AU\$18.3 billion.

Still, a range of initiatives

are being taken to foster higher education links between the two countries. For example, the Australia-India University Shadowing Pilot, funded by the Australian Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), will provide full support for up to five Australian and up to five Indian university executives in a particular administrative or academic discipline to undertake a capacity building shadowing exchange in 2012.

In July, the India Australia-Vice Chancellors' and Senior University Executives' Workshop held in Delhi agreed to promote greater institutional collaboration, credit transfer, student and staff mobility, and joint research.

Flinders University has exchange and research links amongst others with Madras Christian College, Manipal University, National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, Bangalore, and Indian Institute of Horticulture, Bangalore. The University of Adelaide has research part-



University of Sydney has initiated research collaborations with several Indian institutions

nerships with Indian institutions on wheat and rice breeding, weed management in rice, and evaluation of genetically modified cereal crops.

Top scientists have benefited from the Australia-India Strategic Research Fund (AISFR), a joint initiative of the Australian and Indian governments. Until June 2011, more than 90 joint research projects and workshops, valued at over

AU\$30 million, have been awarded AISFR grants.

The deepening engagement with Indian researchers is in part facilitated by the Australia India Institute (AII) at the University of Melbourne, with founding partners UNSW and La Trobe University where a Masters level International Relations course is jointly taught by the three universities to all students, including the ones in Delhi.

Starting in 2012, 10 top scholars from India will be awarded AUD\$90,000 each to do a PhD at one of Victoria's nine universities under the new Victoria India Doctoral Scholarships Program launched by the State Government of Victoria and the AII. The State Government has also sponsored a Chair in Contemporary Indian Studies at the University of Melbourne for three years.

Financial Express ND 23/09/2011

P-21

## Australia to relax visa requirements in 2012 to win back Indian students

Melbourne, Sept 22: Witnessing a steep decline in foreigners' enrollment in its universities, Australia on Thursday announced that it would relax some visa requirements to win back overseas students, including Indians.

The new changes, expected to be enforced from the second semester of 2012 in the Australian universities, follow a review of the student visa programme led by ex-New South Wales government minister Michael Knight.

Under the new rules, the financial requirements for stu-

dent visas will be eased and applicants will be needing about \$36,000 less in their bank account than they do now. And new post-study work visas will allow students to remain in Australia for two to four years after their course ends, depending on their level of qualification.

Significantly, Canberra had earlier tightened visa regime for Indian students, stating that a number of them come to Australia to settle down by taking admissions in non-skilled vocational courses like cookery and hair-cutting, implying that this was one of the reasons

for a series of attacks on Indian youths here.

"We were taking hairdressers from overseas in front of doctors and nurses, it didn't make any sense," Australian immigration authorities had said last year while tightening the visa rules.

More than 100 incidents of attacks against Indian students have been reported over the past two years in Australia, mainly in its Victoria province.

In New Delhi, Australian High Commissioner Peter Varghese welcomed the announcement of changes to Australia's student visas re-

quirements.

Calling the changes significant, he said they would enhance the competitiveness of Australia's international education sector and result in easier and faster visas for Indian students in a range of Australian university courses.

Indian student enrollment in Australia has declined by almost half following turmoil in its international education sector, legislative changes and global financial crisis.

In 2008-09, 65,503 Indian passport holders were granted Australian student visas across all education sectors. **PTI**



# IIMs call more companies for summer internship

■ Some increase batch size, others look to cater to diversified set of students in a bid to hedge risks from worsening global economic situation

**Kirtika Suneja**

New Delhi, Sept 22: The Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) have decided to enhance the pool of recruiters to hedge the risks from the worsening global economic situation.

While some of the IIMs have increased the batch size, which called for more number of recruiters, others have a diversified set of students who have different preferences due to which the prestigious institutes have approached more number of companies for the summer internship process in November.

IIM-Calcutta, one of the oldest IIMs, though is concerned with the macroeconomic environment, is hedging on public sector units with whom it has a long-term view for a corporate relationship.

"The internship is an eight-week training and the response from companies is no reason for alarm. The macroeconomic indicators are worrisome and students are always apprehensive till they

have a job in hand," said professor Amit Dhiman, placements chairman at IIM-C.

IIM-Ahmedabad is still waiting for the placement season to begin but maintains that it has approached new companies to recruit from campus and contacting firms who have previously not recruited from IIM-A.

"We usually have 120-130 companies participating in the summer placement process. The number of companies we interact with before the process is larger than this. Our batch size is increasing—the current PGP batch has 380 students—as such, we will have more companies visit our campus. Also, there are companies from new areas and verticals that are keen on hiring MBA students that come in every year," corroborated Sapna Agarwal, head of career development services at IIM-Bangalore.

At IIM-Indore, more than 150 firms have been approached for the summer internship process and the institute is looking at over 25% increase in the pool of new recruiters.



Although IIM-Ahmedabad is still waiting for the placement season to begin, it says new firms have been approached

As per the media committee of the institute, the number of new recruiters approached is larger but that is largely due to the increased batch size.

IIM-Kozhikode has observed 2% of the companies being uncertain

of recruitment activities as a result of the economic environment.

"Even in companies that have expressed concern, it is primarily due to internal re-organisation of the functions as a response to the changing economic scenario. How-

ever, such companies continue to be involved in live projects and other such activities," said a student from the institute's placement team.

Same is the case with the new IIM at Rohtak which has touched base with 106 companies to intro-

duce the institute to the respective organisations and also initiate a long-term relationship with them.

"We have contacted more companies this year as compared to last year since our batch size has expanded from 48 to 124 students," explained Pritam Agrawal, member of the public relations cell at the new IIM in Rohtak.

Students' fears may also get reflected in the type of profiles they expect from the placement process. More a function of the growing diversity of student profiles on campus than the economic scenario, newer profiles are expected to be up for grabs this time at IIM-Lucknow with a greater representation of chartered accountants, doctors, lawyers in addition to engineering and commerce graduates. Hence, the institutes expect more roles in sales and marketing, finance, operations, IT, health management and human relations to open up.

IIM-L is also expecting a turnout of more than 150 recruiters for the summer process

compared with the placements for the 2012 batch where 163 firms recruited from the institute with a total of 456 offers being made to a batch of 414.

"It is our constant endeavor to increase corporate presence on campus for which we are also approaching new recruiters. The overall response has been positive, especially considering the current macroeconomic scenario. The companies have actually shown more interest in our campus," said a student from the recruitment cell of IIM-L.

Both finance and marketing are the two most preferred verticals for summers and that trend is likely to continue at IIM-L.

Once the first-year students get selected for summer internships, the final placements for the second-year students will begin in 4-5 months.

"We are cautious and concerned and have our fingers crossed for the final placements which may not reflect the slowdown," Dhiman concluded.

## आईआईटी में छात्राओं के कदम तो इतने भर से सुखरू नहीं होते

**अलका आर्य**

लेखिका स्वतंत्र पत्रकार हैं।

आईआईटी में छात्राओं के लिए रियायतों को फीस बढ़ाती ने बेमानी कर दिया। सरकार को लैंगिक विषमता वाली सामाजिक संरचना पर चोट करने के लिए प्रवेश परीक्षा के आवेदन पत्र मुफ्त देने सखीखे छुटपुट कदम उठाने की बजाए मजबूत फैसेले लेने चाहिए।

हाल में आईआईटी जैसे देश के प्रतिष्ठित शिक्षण संस्थान ने ज्यादा से ज्यादा लड़कियों को अपनी ओर आकर्षित करने के मकसद से जिस नई पहल की घोषणा की है, वह पहल आईआईटी की पढ़ाई में प्रस्तावित चार गुना फीस बढ़ाती के फैसेले के सामने कितनी कारगर साबित होगी, इस पर सवाल उठने लगे हैं। 26 अगस्त को भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) ने इंजीनियरिंग की पढ़ाई के प्रति छात्राओं में रुझान पैदा करने के लिए आईआईटी-जेईई की प्रवेश परीक्षा से यह व्यवस्था लागू होगी। छात्राओं को 1800 रुपए की कीमत वाला यह फॉर्म अब मुफ्त में मिलेगा ताकि अधिक से अधिक लड़कियां परीक्षा में आवेदन कर सकें। लेकिन सवाल यह है कि लड़कियों को दी जाने वाली इस खास रियायत से सूरत-ए-हाल में कितनी स्त्रीली आती है। यह सवाल आईआईटी काउंसिल के फीस बढ़ाती संबंधी फैसेले से जुड़े हैं। 15

सितंबर को फीस में चार गुना बढ़ाती का जो फैसला लिया गया है, उसके मद्देनजर सालाना फीस 50 हजार से बढ़कर 2 लाख रुपए कर दी जाएगी, यानी यदि कोई छात्र चार साल का बीटेक कोर्स करता है तो उसे छह लाख रुपए नौकरी लगने के बाद किराए में लौटने होंगे। छात्रों को राहत देने के लिए यह प्रावधान रखा गया है।

गौरतलब है कि यहां दाखिला लेने वाली लड़कियों की तादाद बहुत कम है। आईआईटी-जेईई की प्रवेश परीक्षा के वर्ष 2009 से 2011 तक के आंकड़े संख्या में गिरावट दर्शाते हैं। प्रवेश परीक्षा में बैठने वाली लड़कियों की संख्या 25.72 प्रतिशत से घटकर 2011 में 23.44 प्रतिशत रह गई। दसवीं व बारहवीं की परीक्षा में लड़कियों का अजबल आना अब उतना नहीं चौकाता, मगर यहीं लड़कियां आईआईटी-जेईई की संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा में लड़कों की तुलना में बहुत कम संख्या में जब नजर आती हैं, तो उन्हें बराबरी के मौके न मिलने सखीखे सवाल समाज व सरकार से जवाब मांगते हैं। लड़कियों/महिलाओं के बीच प्रोफेशनल सफलता की कमी के तार अर्थव्यवस्था के भारतीय सामाजिक स्वरूप से भी जुड़े हुए हैं। अधिकांश

भारतीय परिवार लड़कियों की उच्च शिक्षा पर खर्च करने से कतराते हैं, उसके हिस्से की पढ़ाई के बजट में कटौती कर जमा की गई रकम को उसकी शादी पर खर्च करना बेहतर विकल्प मानते हैं। आईआईटी की फीस चार गुना बढ़ने के बाद लड़कियों को भी नौकरी लगने के बाद बकाया फीस की रकम संस्थान को लौटनी होगी। अब यही उम्र उनकी शादी की भी होती है और जो अभिभावक अपनी बेटियों को महंगी कोचिंग दिलाकर आईआईटी में भेजते हैं, उनका आर्थिक गणित इसी धुरी के आस-पास घूमता है कि नौकरी के पहले दो साल की कमाई उसकी शादी पर खर्च कर दी जाएगी।

मगर अब उन्हें यह चिंता सताने लगेगी कि नौकरी लगते ही संस्थान का कर्ज चुकाना होगा। सामाजिक व आर्थिक स्वरूप वाली यह चिंता लैंगिक विषमता को बढ़ाने का काम करेगी। लिहाजा आईआईटी की प्रवेश परीक्षा का 1800 रुपए की कीमत वाला आवेदन पत्र मुफ्त में देने से कैपस में लैंगिक समानता की दिशा में उठया गया कदम वांछित लक्ष्य को साधने में अधिक कारगर नहीं लागता। नोबल पुरस्कार विजेता अर्थशास्त्री डॉ. अमर्त्य सेन की सहायक मार्था नुसबाम का कहना है

कि सरकारों व समाज को हर व्यक्ति को तैयार करने व क्षमताओं के अनुकूल अपनी जिंदगी जीने में मदद करनी चाहिए। ऐसे विचार में बच्चों को उचित माहौल व अवसर प्रदान करना भी लाजिमी हो जाता है और इसके द्वारा ही वे अपनी क्षमताओं का इस्तेमाल अपने समाज की भावी भलाई के लिए कर सकते हैं। मार्था का मानना है कि महिलाएं ही सबसे पहले अवसरों की कमी से प्रभावित होती हैं। स्वाभाविक तौर पर इससे लैंगिक असमानता वाले समाज की संरचना होती है। अपने यहां हमें विशेष तौर पर आगाह होने की जरूरत है, क्योंकि पितृसत्तात्मक मनोवृत्ति का सांस्कृतिक ढांचा ज्ञानपरक ढांचे पर हावी रहता है और प्रतिस्पर्द्धी अर्थव्यवस्था में लड़कों को अधिक उपयुक्त माना जाता है। रोजगार से जुड़े हुनर चाहे वे पारंपरिक हों या आधुनिक, लड़कों को सिखाना, यह समाज 'उनका अधिकार' समझता है। (अपवाद नियम नहीं बनते) सरकार को लैंगिक विषमता वाली सामाजिक संरचना पर चोट करने के लिए प्रवेश परीक्षा के आवेदन पत्र मुफ्त देने सखीखे छुटपुट कदम उठाने की बजाए मजबूत फैसेले लेने की दरकार है।

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