पूरा होगा आईआईटी से इंजीनियरिंग का सपना?

IIT Gandhinagar introduces Masti Ki Pathshala to curb suicides

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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 sports activities, cinema 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 Iyengar, “initial bonding is more important than beginning studies during the first few weeks for new students. 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 initiative.

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 to arrest cases of suicide.

Other IITs too have expressed their interest in this initiative and may implement the Masti Ki Pathshala from the forthcoming academic session. However, the IITs are still grappling with the stark reality that students have access to drugs and liquor in the campuses. This is one of the major causes for suicides in IITs and other Centrally Funded Technical Institutes (CFTIs). Prof Sanjay Thakur, Director, IIT Kharagpur, 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-conducted 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 shift in the fee structure of IITs, the panel suggested that there should be mechanism of redressing 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 ‘intoxication’ of drugs and alcohol within the campus and into the hostel rooms. “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 M M Pallam Raju during the Council of IIT Meeting early this week.

The panel favored to look into reasons behind the spate of suicides that had attributed to 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 inboxes 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 of a student who committed suicide at IIT when one of his female classmate deleted the boy’s name from a social website.
The Inside Story of Aakash

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

A DREAM PROJECT: British-based manufacturer DataWind has already missed its first deadline of December 31 to supply 100,000 Aakash-2 tablets to ITI, Bombay.
New visa rules: 25% drop in Indian students going to UK

The number of students coming to the UK from China continued to rise, with 10,000 more enrolling in 2011-12 than in the previous year. However, there was a 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 historically been actively engaged in the areas of higher education and research," Jo Beale, British Council director of education and society, said.

Tim Widdowson, director of education 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 postgraduate students 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.

Beale said the fall would be cause for 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.