Two IITs send most computer science professors to top US universities

IIT Madras, IIT Kanpur were the fifth- and ninth-largest contributors of faculty to computer science programmes in US universities


IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi and IIT Kharagpur were ranked 12th, 18th and 26th, respectively. Photo: Mint

New Delhi: Two Indian Institutes of Technologies (IITs) are on the list of top 10 undergraduate colleges that contribute computer science professors to top American universities, according to a Brown University study published on Tuesday.

Covering 2,200 professors across 50 top US universities, the research listed 37 undergraduate colleges that supply these professors. The US universities covered include Purdue, Massachusetts, Stanford and Yale.

While IIT Madras and IIT Kanpur were the fifth- and ninth-largest contributors of faculty to computer science programmes in American universities, IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi and IIT Kharagpur were ranked 12th, 18th and 26th, respectively.

Alumni from the five IITs together accounted for 122 faculty members in top 50 American universities, second only to Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the top contributor with 127 faculty members.
The data also showed that while the professors received their bachelor degrees from India, none received their doctorates from a university in the country.

“We were aware that a lot of our alumni did doctorates and then joined faculties in top US universities and this study just validates that,” said Bhaskar Ramamurthi, director, IIT Madras. Only top rankers in the entrance exam to the IITs, considered to be the world’s toughest, are admitted into the computer science programme, and statistically, many of these students tend to stay in academics, Ramamurthi added.

Ramamurthi said the top IITs recruit an average of 35 professors a year, with at least half being doctorates from top universities, mostly in the US. “The question that this data raises is how we can create better conditions so that top professors from outside India can join our faculty,” Ramamurthi said.

**Watch: This short film by IIT Kharagpur students will show you the darker side of Facebook addiction**


It is a daily routine to log in to Facebook and scroll down to check every update on your newsfeed. Your newsfeed will always have different kinds of people some will include you real life friends and a few people here and there you have no idea about, but still have them on your list anyway. This short film called 'sTaTus' is the story of one such Facebook addict.

This short movie is produced and directed by a bunch of students from IIT Kharagpur who call themselves Naughty IITians. The story revolves around a college student Dev, who comes across a Facebook profile called 'Aleron Sunnshine', which is later discovers is girl called Isha. This anonymous profile intrigues this student so much that he completely forgets about his exams and stalks this profile every day. He finds out details about this girl through a mutual friend and figures she is depressed after one of her closest friends committed suicide.

The virtual world takes over Dev's life and he spends hours every day thinking of what that anonymous profile must be going through. It touches upon the dangerous side of social media and how seriously we have begun to take the virtual world. Though the YouTube video is over a year old, it is still pretty much relevant.
56% freshers from quota at IIT Bombay feel ‘discreet’ bias

MIHIKA BASU
MUMBAI, MAY 7

A survey of first-year IIT Bombay students by Insight, the student media body in the Powai campus, reveals that an alarming 56 per cent of students belonging to various categories, like SCs, STs and OBCs, feel discrimination does exist in the institute, albeit in a discreet manner.

While an assessment of IIT-JEE results has shown success is skewed in favour of students with urban and high-income background, this is the first time an IIT has looked at the issue of biases and discrimination on the campus on the basis of region, language, caste, religion and category of the students.

While 69 per cent of freshers denied any caste discrimination, 28 per cent said it was there in an indirect manner while three per cent said they had witnessed it first-hand.

The survey was conducted on first-year students who joined IIT Bombay in July 2013. A questionnaire with 25 questions was sent online to them at their official IIT Bombay email address. The entire survey took a month.

“The campus attracts students from highly different backgrounds each year, which is why certain biases are bound to exist. Also, the transition to life in a big city like Mumbai and the IIT system can vary severely because of these biases. Hence, the primary motivation for undertaking this survey was to find out if the institute made any attempts to bring students at a level footing,” said Chirag Chadha, IIT Bombay student and chief editor of Insight.

The main difference among students of general and other categories, according to the survey, was not due to any negative sentiment, but because of the differences in their academic performance. Results show the average cumulative performance index of general category, OBC and SC/ST students is 8.09, 6.6 and 5.9, respectively. Further, 60 per cent of reserved category students said they experienced more academic pressure than general category students as they felt they “lag” the latter in academics.

“This was a demoralising factor that hit them hard when they got their results. The conclusion that can be drawn is that the discrimination against reserved category students is not direct and open, but indirect and discreet. The major disparity between students of general and reserved categories is the extra academic stress perceived by reserved category students,” said the findings, published in the Insight newsletter.
Eight students from Nepal and Bhutan have also qualified for the IIT entrance exam this year, according to preliminary data of those who have qualified for the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE advanced).

Interestingly students from Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan account for nearly 38% of those who have qualified for JEE (advanced).

There are some examination centers for JEE (mains), outside India including Nepal, Sri Lanka, Singapore and four centers in Gulf countries. JEE (mains) is the filtering exam for JEE (advanced), the exam held for admission to 16 IITs. More than 12 lakh students had appeared for JEE (mains).

After the results of JEE (mains) were announced on Friday, the top 1.53 lakh students were declared eligible for appearing for the JEE (advanced) exam.

Those who could not make it to JEE (advanced) will seek admission to NITs and other centrally funded institutes according to their final score, which will be known on July 7 after all the board results are out.

“We did not have students from Nepal and Bhutan last year qualifying for the IIT entrance exam. If this year some students have qualified, it is a positive sign. It will indirectly reflect on the ranking of IITs,’ said HC Gupta, JEE-Advanced 2013 chairperson.

Like last year, the maximum number of students to have qualified for the JEE (advanced) this year is from Andhra Pradesh, 21,818 followed by Uttar Pradesh, 19,409, Rajasthan, 16,867, Maharashtra, 13,626 and Gujarat, 10,037. In Delhi there has been a marginal increase in the number from 7478 last year to 7629 this year.

Last year nearly 18% of those who had finally qualified for IIT were from Andhra Pradesh followed by Rajasthan, 17% and Uttar Pradesh 12%. The registrations for JEE (advanced) will continue till May 9. The exam will be held on May 25 and the result will be declared on June 19.
In India, Small Research Firms Aim Big

India is not known for developing drugs, let alone cancer drugs, but a few small and niche firms are trying exactly that, reports Hari Pulakkat

Although drug discovery is an area in which India has showed significant progress, the country is not known for developing drugs, let alone cancer drugs. The reason for this is not entirely clear, but is generally attributed to the lack of education and training in the field.

In recent years, however, a few small and niche firms have emerged in India that are actively involved in drug discovery and development. These firms are utilizing innovative approaches and technologies to develop new cancer drugs.

One such firm is Indian Anti-Cancer R&D. Till 1990s, cancer research in India was not a priority. But in recent years, the government and private sector have started investing heavily in cancer research. This has led to the emergence of several small and niche firms that are focusing on cancer drug development.

Indian Anti-Cancer R&D is one such firm. The firm was founded in the 1990s and has since then been developing cancer drugs. The firm has developed several cancer drugs, including one that is currently in clinical trials.

Another firm that is making a name for itself in the field of cancer drug development is a start-up incubated by the Indian Institutes of Technology. The firm, which is developing a drug for colorectal cancer, has already conducted several preclinical trials and is planning to start clinical trials soon.

These are just a few examples of the many small and niche firms that are making strides in cancer drug development in India. With the right investment and support, these firms have the potential to make a significant impact in the field of cancer treatment.