

Skewed sex ratio in PG course at IIT-I to affect students

Ashish Gaur | TNN

Indore: If findings of certain surveys on a similar situation are to be believed, then a skewed sex ratio at the maiden M Tech batch students of Indian Institute of Technology Indore (IIT-I) is likely to be a problem for the students at the campus. Not a single female student figures in the list of 24 candidates who have been offered the post graduate programme at the institute.

A survey conducted on IIT-Bombay (IIT-B) students revealed that they rued lack of social life at the campus due to skewed sex ratio. The survey was conducted by institute's on-line publication Insight in November last year.

IIT-I recently announced the start of its first set of M Tech courses in production & industrial engineering and communication & signal processing for the academic year 2013-14 with a batch of 12 students each. At IIT-B, out of 8,000-odd students,

30% are girls. The survey conducted by the students on over 400 students has thrown up the fact that only one in five students is in a relationship. Of the small number of girl students, only 1 of 20 felt they were being objectified by male students.

Dheeraj Sanghi, an IIT alumnus and a professor said, "The top institutions in India too

NOT A SINGLE FEMALE STUDENT

should relook at their admission strategy and find ways to admit more girl students because it will improve the average performance of the class."

However, one of the senior professors at IIT-I said that the institute does not have a reservation policy for girls. He could not elaborate on the issue of not even a single girl being offered to study M Tech at IIT-I. It is not only IITs that are witnessing an imbalanced students sex ratio. There are less number of female

applicants taking the Common Admission Test (CAT). The Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore (IIM-B) too commissioned a study to find out the reason. The IIMs have been constantly thinking about the ways to bring more girls into the pool.

For the first time last year, IIM Calcutta decided to award three points (out of 100) to female candidates. The number of short-listed women candidates doubled to 395 from 170 in 2012. Among the new IIMs, the one at Rohtak is awarding 30 additional marks to a girl. IIM Udaipur is giving 15 marks and IIM Kashi-pur three.

Former director of Atomic Energy Commission, Anil Kakodkar had also recommended granting higher marks to girls, even if they performed same as boys, in a bid to improve the skewed gender ratio in IITs. Kakodkar was appointed by the Union HRD ministry to suggest reforms in IIT admissions and selection procedure.