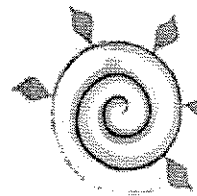




Students' Senate
Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur
AnkitBhutani | Convener



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S-SENATE/CONV/2012-13/15

7th June, 2012

To,
The Chairman, Senate
IIT Kanpur

Secretary Senate

Shande'
7-6-12

Subject: Students' Opinion Regarding the Announced Changes to JEE

Dear Sir,

The Students' Senate has requested that the opinion of the students of IIT Kanpur, as attached with the letter, regarding the recently announced changes to JEE, be placed before the academic Senate for consideration in the 4th Special Senate meeting scheduled on 8th June, 2012.

Sincerely,

Sanchit
Sanchit Khattar
Acting Convener, Students' Senate
IIT Kanpur

The Students of IIT Kanpur strongly condemn the recently announced changes to the selection procedure of the IITs and vehemently support the stand of IIT Kanpur Faculty Forum on the same. The proposed single examination for engineering admission is counterproductive and full of flaws from both an academic, and a social viewpoint. These changes are bound to increase the stress on students, make the admission system extremely fragile, corruptible, and luck-based, further aggravating the very problems these changes seek to address.

Although a large number of exams increase the stress on students, taking the other **extreme of just a single exam** is even worse. Having at least two or three alternative exams on different days with different formats somewhat cushions the weight. Clubbing all exams into one exam would simply **increase the pressure of performance** on the students to a great extent and would make the future of the millions of engineering aspirants of the country dependent on one single day. This can only accentuate instead of relieving the stress level of the students.

The huge weightage being given to the Board examination raises the immediate question of the differing levels of fairness, uniformity of standards and transparency among the examinations of the 42 different boards of the country. While, **the proposed normalization of Board Marks remains untested**, we strongly believe that no amount of normalization whatsoever can completely eliminate the problems of **inconsistency, opacity, unfairness, and subjectivity in the Board exams**.

The major contributor to the decline of importance of school education is the below par quality of education being imparted in the schools, mainly owing to the lack of quality teachers and availability of necessary resources at higher secondary level in a large number of schools across the country. Thus, the need of the hour is to raise the quality of education. Attributing failure of the schooling system to engineering admission tests and the bringing changes to them without improving the resources fails to address the serious concerns regarding quality of school education.

A more immediate problem concerns the students slated to appear for Engineering entrance exams in 2013. Since the exact details of the new system are still far from being finalised, these students shall be denied the full knowledge of the selection procedure for a considerable amount of time even now. Thus **introducing this system in 2013 can only result in a marked failure and inevitable stress on the students appearing in 2013 due to contingent uncertainties**.

Sanchit
(ACTING
CONVENER)

Further, any decision of such magnitude warrants proper deliberation and consultation with the actual recipients of the changes, i.e. the IIT fraternity, both students and teachers, which the concerned authorities have conveniently ignored in this particular matter. The changes being brought against the wishes of the IIT Senates is an encroachment on the much needed autonomy of the IIT Senates. Further the decision to affect these changes directly from 2013 instead of 2014, without proper consultation and against all academic advice, raises several questions over the haste being shown to bring the changes.

Thus, concern for the engineering aspirants, strong desire to keep the admission procedure fair as well as vehement support for maintaining the autonomy and sovereignty of IIT Senates, leads the students of IIT Kanpur to express their strong disapproval of the proposed system and its suggested implementation plan.

Sanchit
(ACTING
CONVENER)