

Government's apathy

The utter confusion and chaos in the bureaucratic circles about the admissions to professional courses in Karnataka has left thousands of aspiring young students to suffer for no fault of theirs. The counselling sessions based on the ranks obtained by students in Common Entrance Test (CET), began only recently, at least 3 months after the actual schedule. As a result, not only should the lecturers rush through their syllabi but also the students will be left with very little time to study and prepare for their exams. Under these circumstances, can we expect quality engineers to emerge out of the portals of an engineering college? This is not the case only with Karnataka, but is an indicator to the situation in the entire country.

With newer frontiers of technology opening up - the need of the hour is a well-educated and confident engineer who can face the challenges of the engineering world. But that is a distant possibility with political considerations playing a vital role in the future of our country. Approval for more engineering colleges, insufficient teaching force to train the students, lack of interaction between students and lecturers have all added to this confusion.

In a broader perspective there are several other areas of real concern. We see a mad rush among parents to admit their wards to one of the recognized professional courses, especially the engineering course. The reason for this is very simple. According to popular perception, engineers can command higher salaries and an above average living. This is the primary concern of any parent in India. The liking is not uniform across all branches of engineering but is specific to certain courses like computer science and electronics, again based on income considerations. The parents need to be educated about the innumerable avenues, which could be pursued by students. And students should be allowed to take up courses that suit their interests.

With the student not in a position to decide about his career at the pre-university level and parents hell bent on seeing their wards as engineers, coupled with the Government's apathy towards students' future, there seems to be no way one could expect to have quality engineers emerging out.

The government on its part should act in a more responsible manner, rising above petty political considerations. It should not involve itself in the admission to professional courses. This can best be handled by universities and institutions themselves based on the ranks obtained by students. Instead the Government should make an all out effort to bring in a holistic approach to education which would allow the students to pursue careers of their interest and parents to realize their dreams.

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