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A rickshaw ambulance for rural patients

The rickshaw

designed by IITGn

The ground clearance to the foot-rest, which the traveller uses to climb is 21 inches in a conventional rickshaw thereby posing problems to elderly people

—Ashwin RK, staff member

It has been designed by eight staff members of the IIT-GN under the guidance of a visiting faculty Professor

N Ramakrishnan

Himali Doshi

A cycle-rickshaw, specially designed for patients in rural India by the mechanical engineering staff of the Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar, was an eye-catcher of the Industry Open House held for the first time on their campus.

The event that witnessed the participation of 50 leading industries like Maruti Suzuki, Cadilla Pharmaceuticals, Reliance Industries and many representatives of other industries aimed at strengthening the good industry-academia relations.

The cycle-rickshaw has been designed by eight staff members of IITGn under the guidance of visiting faculty, N Ramakrishnan.

“The ground clearance to the foot-rest, which the traveller uses to climb is 21 inches in a conventional rickshaw thereby posing problems to elderly people, especially those with arthritis joints, obese people and pregnant women,” said Ashwin RK, a staff member.

According to him, in this multi-purpose cycle-rickshaw, the height of the foot-rest is brought down to 12 inches. Also, this can be further modified to bring it down to six inches or four inches for easy climbing.

This multi-purpose cycle-rickshaw was conceptualised, keeping in mind various difficulties faced by the people in rural areas. Ambulance

service is not easily available in villages and sometimes the roads are too narrow for one to pass. Unfolding half of the seat and raising the foot-rest, this can be quickly modified to make a patient lie down with support and assistance from persons sitting on the other side.

Unlike conventional rickshaws, separate luggage space, too, is there so that the travellers do not have to put the luggage on the foot-rest. Plus, this cycle-rickshaw can be turned into a flat bed for one to sleep conveniently. This modification was introduced to benefit rickshaw drivers, who do not have a home of their own.

Somesh Dravid from Mahindra and Mahindra, Mumbai, was pretty much satisfied by this event. “I hope such events are organised on a regular basis to demonstrate students’ innovative ideas. This is just the beginning. There are many such activities which IITs from all over the country should come up with to promote India’s talent.”

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