

Tech institutes focus on humanities

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AHMEDABAD: City's institutes of technology are increasingly recognizing the need to infuse a holistic understanding of humanities as a discipline in their syllabus.

IIT-Gandhinagar (IIT-GN) has not only introduced a large number of elective courses in humanities, but also made it compulsory for every student to complete at least 8 such courses during the four [years](#) of their graduation. These courses are in various areas of humanities like languages, art, sociology and management and others. Students can opt as many as 17 courses during the four years.

"Technology is to serve mankind and the society, and that is why students need to understand people and society through such disciplines," said Sudhir Jain, director, IIT-GN.

There will greater emphasis on humanities and cultures in the curriculum of design students at National Institute of Design (NID). The new curriculum will be implemented in 2013.

NID director Pradyumna Vyas said, "We are in the process of revising our curriculum. With the idea that technology should not control human beings, but human beings should control technology, the new curriculum will include various aspects of humanities."

Students of the school of architecture at Cept University are also required to study a variety of courses in humanities. Every student needs to complete a total of seven elective courses before they graduate from the school.

"Since the last 20 years we have been laying a strict focus on humanities and culture as a part of the curriculum," said Neelkanth Chhaya, dean of faculty of architecture at Cept University. "All technicians should know their fields with a sense to serve the society. Otherwise the techniques could become a burden to the society. So it is very important for students in the area of technology not to be isolated from the society but to understand it deeply."