

IIT-G takes novel step towards building trust

Students Take Exam Without Invigilators For The First Time

Ragini Bharadwaj | TNN

Kevin Antao

Ahmedabad: At a time when cheating to make the grade is becoming more of a norm and ethics for students exist only in books, Indian Institute of Technology (Gandhinagar) is training its students in a different way! Taking an innovative step in trust building exercise, Indian Institute of Technology (Gandhinagar) for the first time in the history of IITs, has worked upon a system of 'exam without invigilators'. Around 100 students from 2nd & 3rd year (electrical, mechanical and chemical branch) successfully took their mid-semester exam (which carries 30-40 per cent weightage in annual grading) without any faculty member monitoring them during exam.

Talking about the initiative, visiting professor Jayant Kanitkar said, "It was an exercise undertaken on principle of local self-governance wherein the students were given freedom with accountability. They were provided with an atmosphere where they appear for exam comfortably without anyone monitoring them." Elaborating on the procedure, he said, "The students of a particular class were divided into groups of five. They were



Students write their paper at IIT, Gandhinagar on Thursday

supposed to keep an eye on group members and even monitor other group allotted to their group as per chit system. We even informed the students that the group will be responsible for any misconduct by any group member."

Another faculty member Arup Lal Chakraborty said, "We had tried this for class test earlier and examiner was there just for 15 minutes in the beginning and 10 minutes at the end. Later during feedback, students were happy about the fact that trust had been vested in them and also conceded that cheating was almost negligible."

Talking to TOI on Thurs-

day, institute director Sudhir K Jain said, "It is all about building student's self-esteem and value system. We observed that students were extra careful during the exams as they knew they had responsibility. I am happy that students have responded positively to the trust we had put in them." He was of the view that system would be implemented on a larger scale by taking feedback from students and faculty members. Emphasising on the fact that processes need to be fair, he said, "Our effort is to create people with strong value system and thorough knowledge of their subject."

The idea made me smile! It was the trust that our teachers vested in us that we did not break. We felt that with our wrong action we should not let our teacher down. Teacher bonding can work wonders and this will reduce pressure for both of us

Aditi Dighe | 2ND YEAR STUDENT



It came as a surprise, but we enjoyed the experience of taking exams without being monitored. The best part was no one cheated as trust placed in us killed the temptation to cheat. I managed to complete the paper in time

Ajinkya Kulkarni | 3RD YEAR STUDENT



It is evident that invigilators have nothing to do during the three hours and most of the time they end up disturbing students with their chit-chat. This is a positive initiative and I am confident that peer pressure will make it work comfortably

Pratyul Kapoor | 3RD YEAR STUDENT X



Cheating was nowhere on mind when we appeared for the exam, as our conscience was aware that we have big responsibility and prove our faculty that we can be trusted

Ekta Prashnani | 2ND YEAR STUDENT X

