

More women power at IIT-Gn this year

Compared to 9 per cent enrolment of girl students last year, this year the premier technology institute saw 11 per cent enrolment

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Reflecting the trend of a growing number of girls pursuing higher studies in the field of technology, Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar (IIT-Gn) has registered highest number of girl students in its 2015-19 batch.

The statistics provided by the premier institute states that 11 per cent girls have taken admission this year – there are 16 girls in a batch of 136 students.

The percentage of girls taking admission to IIT-Gn went up from 7.5 per cent in 2012 to 10 per cent in 2013. In 2014, only 9 per cent girls had taken admission to the premier institute.

Though there has been an increase in admission of girl students, the overall percentage of students from Gujarat is witnessing a downward trend. While there were 17 students from the state in 2013 and 21 in 2014, this year only 14 are from Gujarat.

Institute's director Sudhir K Jain said, "The fluctuations are similar to what you witness in the share market. Number of girl students and Gujarat students keep on fluctuating sometimes northward and sometimes southward. But overall, number of girls stu-



IIT-Gn director says that the trend reflects the change in mindset

PERCENTAGE OF GIRLS AT IIT-GN

Year	Girls	Batch-size	%
2015	16	136	11
2014	13	142	9.15
2013	14	134	10
2012	09	120	7.5
2011	10	114	8.77

dents enrolling in the IITs have increased and this reflects a change in promotion of education for the girl child," he said.

Yash Patel, 19, a student from Surat who took admission to IIT-Gn, believes that the number of students from Gujarat has reduced because people do not have knowledge about it.

"Gujarat does not have many good coaching classes to train students for IIT and people here are not aware of the

IITs either.

"Since exposure to good coaching classes is limited in semi-rural and rural areas of the state, it will obviously reflect on the numbers," he said, adding, "State students who crack IIT exams opt for IIT-Gn because it is one of the best IITs among the new ones."

Aparna Arya, 19, who took admission to B Tech electrical engineering, attributes the increase in number of girls to more number of students taking up the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE).

"Also, IIT-Gn is now offering more courses. With more courses and more students, the number of girl students will also go up. It also reflects the change in mindsets. Now, more and more girls are interested in pursuing medicine and technical courses," she said.