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IIT-G students to get lessons in social causes

Dayananda Yumlembam, TNN | May 24, 2011, 01:11am IST

AHMEDABAD: Even before they begin with their engineering lessons in the classrooms, students coming to study at [Indian Institute of Technology \(IIT\) Gandhinagar](#) this year will learn their lessons from the slums in the city and villages around. As a part of a new foundation programme introduced at the Institute this year, the students will be hunting for social issues and trying to understand it more closely than ever.

In a bid to create responsible engineers who will cater to social issues as they graduate from the institute, IIT Gandhinagar will introduce a five-week foundation programme this year for its new entrants of Bachelor of Technology (BTech). The programme will take the students to different parts of the city and nearby villages with an intention to sensitize the students towards various issues and problems in the society. The new students arriving at the institute will first of all go through the foundation programme before they start with their general classroom lessons.

IIT Gandhinagar will be the only IIT in the country to have such a foundation programme. Talking about the need of the foundation programme director of IIT Gandhinagar Sudhir Jain said, "The programme intends to connect the students to the real issues existing at the grassroots level in the country so that we can prepare them to become agents of change."

Jain said, "Coming face to face with the issues and the sessions of the programme will provoke the students to think and work in such a way that the society benefits from their works."

The programme will also expose its students to various guest lectures from eminent personalities working in the area of social empowerment. Around 120 students will join IIT Gandhinagar in its three BTech courses including mechanical engineering, chemical engineering and electrical engineering. Apart from the sensitization about social issues, the students will be made to go through sessions on social responsibilities and values, sessions on creativity including paintings, music, poetry, handicrafts and application of design and innovation to things that are used in daily life and so on.

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