

Nearly 10 TN engg colleges among top 50 in India: Study

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Chennai: More than half-a-dozen engineering institutions in Tamil Nadu including the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT Madras) have figured among the top 50 tech institutions in the country in a national survey undertaken by the 'Dataquest' magazine.

The findings of the Dataquest-IDC T-School Survey for 2008 were released this week. The survey rated institutions on an aggregated 100 point scale using the performance of colleges in terms of placement, infrastructure, academic environment, industry interface, institute response and HR response. While IIT Kharagpur has been rated as the best technological institution in the country with an overall score of 84%, IIT Madras has been ranked sixth with a score of 72.4%.

Colleges in Tamil Nadu, which have figured in the top 50 are the Coimbatore-based PSG College of Technology (15th rank), VIT University in Vellore (19th), Amrita School of Engineering in Coimbatore (21st), SSN College of Engineering near Chennai (28th), Coimbatore Institute of Technology (35th), Panimalar Engineering College in Chennai (42nd), Bannari Amman Institute of Technology in Erode, and the **B S Abdur Rahman Crescent Engineering College in Chennai (50th)**.

These rankings are a private initiative on the lines of the ones undertaken by a couple of english weekly magazines.

G Viswanathan, chancellor, VIT University, points out that India does not have a national and independent body that ranks colleges and universities. "Neither the government nor the industry has taken any initiative towards this end. Only private players have undertaken this informal accreditation exercise in tie up with A C Nielsen-Marg. I hope the people from the industry and neutral observers from a certified organisation could take up initiatives to rank universities and colleges.

Such a survey and rating would help parents and students in identifying good institutions that have been awarding impartial rankings. In some countries, the associations of universities have undertaken the surveys. Possibly, we can rate colleges and universities separately. This will encourage the good institutions," he said.

Ranking colleges help students to choose the right institution during admission. A few years ago, while E Balagurusamy was the vice chancellor at Anna University he announced that self-financing engineering colleges would be assessed for their infrastructure, academic environment and results and classified under three categories — 'A', 'B' and 'C'.

This would help students and parents distinguish good, average and bad colleges and also encourage bad colleges to improve, he argued. However, many college owners opposed the move fearing that they would lose business. Eventually, before he could undertake the exercise, his term came to an end.

PLACE OF PRIDE

The survey was conducted by 'Dataquest' magazine

Colleges were rated in terms of placement, infrastructure, academic environment, industry interface, institute response and HR response

IIT Kharagpur rated the best technological institution in the country

IIT Madras ranked sixth