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Name (नाम) :	Thirumalai Dasan K	Gender (लिंग) :	Male
Address (पता) :	Flat D 15-14, K G Signature City, 200 Ft Maduravoyal By Pass, Mogappair, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, Pin:600095		
State (राज्य) :	Tamilnadu	Country (देश) :	India
Phone Number (फोन नंबर) :	Details not provided	Mobile Number (मोबाईल नंबर) :	+91-9597367239
Email-ID (ईमेल-आईडी) :	thirumalaidasan.k@gmail.com		
Status (स्थिति)(Rural/Urban) :	Urban	Education Status :	Above Graduate
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Request Pertains to (अनुरोध निम्नलिखित संबंधित है) :	Dilip Boro		
Information Sought (जानकारी मांगी):	<p>Sir/Madam, The attached news report is self explanatory. The reality on the ground is not conducive to the students, especially suppressed class and female students in IIT (M). This is something different from other institutions across India.</p> <p>WRT above I would like to have the following information</p> <p>1) The details of students of the below categories admitted in NITs,IITs and IIMs across India in Academic Year from 2011 to 2019, both UG and PG in all courses</p> <p>a. Male and Female</p> <p>b. General, OBC,SC, ST</p>		

c. Differently / disabled
2) The details of Faculties Female and Male in NITs,IITs and IIMs across India as of now .
Thanking You

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**Original RTI Text (मूल
आरटीआई पाठ):**

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Less than 2 out of 10 IIT-M students are girls

In the wake of Fathima's suicide at the institute, Express looks into gender ratio at IITs, speaks to stakeholders

SUSHMITHA RAMAKRISHNAN
@Chennai

THERE are less than two female students among every 10 students at the Indian Institute of Technology - Madras, reveals data submitted by the institute to the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) for 2018-19.

These top institutions are a rather lonely place for women, with few female students and fewer female role models and mentors to reach out to during times of personal distress.

The data shows that only about one in 10 students at the undergraduate level are women. While the figures marginally improve over postgraduate courses, the figure staggers it best with 18 per cent of the three-year post graduate courses being women. That is still only two women in every ten students.

Female teachers and students of the institution Express spoke to said while they do not face overt gender discrimination, the culture remains largely male dominated. In the wake of suicide of Fathima Latheef, a post-graduate student of department of humanities, IIT - Madras, Express looked into the gender ratio at IITs and spoke to its stakeholders on how this poor gender ratio affects everyday life of students.

In the academic year 2018-19, the percentage of women in IIT-M was 12.96 per cent in undergraduate courses, 15.35 per cent in the two-year post-graduate and 18.73 per cent in three-year PG course. The trends in the academic year 2016-17 were similar. The gender ratio at the Ph D level for this academic year was not available. No data were available for academic year 2017-18, despite writing to the institution.

2014-15 using the same source showed that only nine per cent of UG students, 19 per cent of PG students and 27 per cent of PhD students were female, only 11 per cent of faculty members were women.

Female students at IIT - Madras said while they are not at the receiving end of overt discrimination or misogynist

comments, they still felt left out as the culture is largely male-dominated. "For instance, majority of class toppers are male students. This is because, problem solving is done first at the tutorial sessions by peer-learning, then students reach out to teacher assistance and finally mentors to seek clarifications. It is easier for guys to solve a large number of problems together. Their access to the top-five students is easier. This way since girls are smaller in number, it is difficult to crack that competitive social network," said a female student studying in the penultimate year of a five-year UG course at IIT-M.

She said that as time passes, female students get used to the male-dominated atmosphere in classes and "adapt" to it. She, however, said that in departments which have better gender ratio, this problem is lesser. "However, students have many common lectures which cuts across departments. Sometimes, it helps expand their network, but mostly they get used to the poor gender ratio," she said.

Students also added that the number of female mentors or friendly-faculty members who are easily accessible are abysmally low at the institute. "It is easier to access a male faculty at the institute as opposed to female

Environment far from conducive for women?

SUSHMITHA RAMAKRISHNAN
@Chennai

WHILE the poor gender ratio, may not be a direct indicator of misogyny in these premier institutions, it is still a reminder that top scientific institutions in the country are far from conducive incubation grounds for women.

V Geetha a feminist scholar, said the western stereotype that women are inferior to men at mathematics and sciences, does not work in India and the rest of South Asia as women generally perform well in these subjects. "While I do not know if these institutions are lonely places for women, the question I have is, are these places welcoming to female students?" she said.

The families which send female students to such institutions have a lot of expectations from their wards. Considering there are fewer women as compared to men, they feel more pressure to perform better in order to not be seen as a weaker sex, she said.

"These women find it particularly harder as they are already among a group of highly competitive individuals and are pushed to outdo their male peers even in their small collective numbers," she said pointing out the stress on female students.

A senior engineering faculty member from IIT-Madras

primary care-takers at home and therefore female faculty members end up spending more time on household affairs than their male-counterparts, who have that time to focus on academics and student-interaction. She, however, said the recruitment procedure at IIT - Madras was fair and did not deliberately rule out women for faculty positions.

The faculty argued that even as the gender ratio was poor, female students showed equivalent performance as male students on average. "Once female students make it into the system, their participation in most activities are on a par with male students," she asserted ruling out the culture at the institution was to blame for the poor gender ratio.

Another younger female faculty from the institute, said one cannot however ignore that entry of female students into the system is bottle-necked by regressive patriarchy. "Most of the students who make it to IIT, have taken coaching classes.

"The number of parents who spend extra for a girl child's career is really low. Further, many parents do not want to send their female children far away from them, so many female students do not even attempt writing the exam. So the ones who do



AMIT BANDRE

PROGRESS CARD REGRESSIVE			
Year	UG courses	PG courses	PhD
% OF FEMALE STUDENTS AT IIT-M			
2018-19	12.96	15.35	NA
2016-17	12.36	16.71	NA
2015-16	12.65	16.87	28.53
2014-15	12.59	19.49	29.06
2013-14	12.40	19.15	27.01

12.96

per cent of students in undergraduate courses are women at IIT-M in the academic year 2018-19.

Most of the students who make it to IIT, have taken coaching classes. The number of parents who spend extra for a girl child's career is really low. A female faculty member at IIT-Madras