

Engineering no more a 'coveted' career as enrollment drops

Percentage of students choosing the field has dipped constantly, hitting 15% in 2015-16

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New Delhi: An analysis of the last six years of higher education data, circa 2010, shows how engineering as a career choice has been losing its charm.

The percentage of students opting for engineering has gone down. In 2010-11, 18 per cent of students pursuing higher education opted for engineering. The percentage of students choosing this field has been dipping constantly, hitting 15 per cent in 2015-16. The country-wide data provided by the Ministry of Human Resource and Development shows how commerce and humanities are taking over engineering as a career choice.

Experts claim that the main reason the stream lost its charm was an excess of engineering colleges coming up. As per data, over 27 lakh seats across various engi-



STUDENTS PURSUING VARIOUS STREAMS

neering institutions were vacant in the last three years. The government has taken this seriously and plans to shut down institutes that have recorded less than 30 per cent admissions in the past five years. "In the past few years, the AICTE has been actively working on reducing the number of engineering institutes across the country due to poor demand and falling quality of education," said Dr Anil Sahasrabuddhe,

Chairman, AICTE.

"Engineering was never a lucrative career option. Even 10 years ago, B Tech were doing calling jobs in MNCs. I think people are gradually realising that they don't need to spend so much money on a bad quality college just for these kind of jobs. The number engineers will go down further in future," said Professor Dheeraj Sanghi, Member, Academic Senate, IIIT Delhi.

2010-11

Engineering and technology

18%

Medical Science

3%

Commerce

13%

Arts/Humanities/social science

47%

2015-16

Engineering and technology

15.57%

Medical Science

3.30%

Commerce

16.04%

Arts/Humanities/social science

36.24%