

ADVERTORIAL, EDUCATION PROMOTIONAL FEATURE

Engg students suffer due to lack of lab training

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Most Engineering students who are graduating amidst the pandemic are missing out on practical training in the laboratory as institutes are strictly following the online mode for technical subjects. Ever since the pandemic began, Engineering colleges, including the Delhi Technical University (DTU), had barely opened for a couple of months before closing for physical academic activity due to the Omicron variant. Instead of conducting the practical sessions in a lab, students are being sent YouTube videos of experiments for training by their professors. Parents and educators are concerned about stu-

dents not being able to physically access Engineering institutions. They say that if central government institutions and the IITs can continue in the hybrid mode and also manage the lab work then why can't other institutions do the same. IIT Jodhpur managed to bring students in a staggered manner to campus and gave them access to labs. "Smaller batches of 25 students each were created and were also allowed in the labs. Our semester started in July, after the second wave subsided, we brought the students to campus, quarantined them, got the RT-PCR tests done. If none were found positive they were allowed to join the regular group of students on campus. Currently, all physical classes are su-

spended and we are waiting for the situation to normalise. We might revise our academic calendar if required," says Kaushal A Desai, assistant professor, IIT Jodhpur. "Students who took admission in 2019, attended college only for four months, from August-December 2019. From 2020 onwards, the students have been at home mostly, even though there were months when the rate of infection came down," says Munish Maheshwari, an electrical engineer and parent of a student who is pursuing BTech in Chemical Engineering. "What is the point of students being double vaccinated with the COVID 19 vaccine. What else can the students do to attend colleges in person?" asks Maheshwari.