

AICTE to train 400 engg faculty for open book exams

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NEW DELHI: The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) plans to train around 400 senior faculty from major engineering colleges across the country to frame questions for open book examinations in engineering exams. The move is part of AICTE's initiative to overhaul the way exams are conducted.

"The regulator has realised that the first training sessions for examination reforms need to be given to teachers. Therefore, it has been decided that special sessions will be held for faculty members of engineering colleges on the art of framing question papers. It is expected that as many as 400 teachers will be trained...", a senior official who did not want to be named, said.

According to AICTE officials, open book exams often take more time than the conventional exams. A decision will have to be taken to choose a format where a lesser number of questions which test a variety of concepts or a longer exam format. Initially, colleges may be asked to go for open book exams only for elective subjects, another AICTE official said. The AICTE exam reform policy, released by the HRD minister Prakash Javadekar, itself stresses that areas for which open book exams are to be held should be carefully chosen.

"...Open book exams shall do away with the requirement of rote learning...", said eminent educationist and University Grants Commission ex-member Prof Inder Mohan Kapahy.