

IIT-H to appoint 1 more counsellor in bid to reduce student stress

Hyderabad: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad has decided to appoint an additional psychological counsellor and coordinators in hostels for students going through a stressful time and for those seeking help from fellow students or management in the campus.

The decision to prioritize mental health comes after the institute witnessed three suicides by students in the last year.

Unveiling the 'IIT Hyderabad's Vision for 2024', Prof BS Murthy, the new Director of IIT Hyderabad said, "Major emphasis is being placed in reducing stress levels of students. We are going to add an additional psychological counsellor on the campus and appoint a pod coordinator for each floor of the hostel where one student will be made in charge and provided financial support to organize regular meetings to just gather students of their hostel floor and have a small get together and open up by just talking to each other."

Murthy informed that IIT Hyderabad is also taking measures to have faculty and alumni mentor students, conduct 'stress relieving' sessions by psychologists and motivational speakers and introduce shared accommodation for first year UG students.

Dr C Krishna Mohan, professor of computer science and engineering and dean of public and corporate relations said, "We are appointing one male psychological counsellor on the campus apart from the two female counsellors that we already have. We also have class advisors and one teacher for every three students to discuss their concerns. We are taking all possible measures to reduce suicides." The institute has set a target of generating Rs 200 crore per year for funding research by 2024. The current level of research funding stands at Rs 50 crore a year.

Source: The Times of India

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