

Proposals
for the post of Vice President,
Technology Students'
Gymkhana,
Indian Institute of Technology
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Overview

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Proposal 1: Restructuring the workings of the Counselling Center

Overview:

While the existing Counselling Centre has played a significant role in helping people deal with mental health issues, it still has a long way to go. The Counselling Centre was set up in 2009 and it is still in its nascent stage. It operates with little help from any of the student bodies, which is an issue since students are the major stakeholder in this situation. I wish to collaborate closely with the existing student bodies on campus through this proposal and introduce some major structural changes in the way the counselling center functions. After consulting the stakeholders involved in the functioning of the Counselling Centre, the following observations have been made:

- 1. Lack of any basis for roommate allotment:** For freshers that newly arrive on campus, they face a serious transitional challenge. It is difficult for these freshers to assimilate into the KGP environment. However, this process is eased significantly if the freshers live in an environment that they are comfortable in and are around people with similar personalities.
Roommates are the first people a fresher meets and spend a significant amount of time with. It is important we ensure that the roommates are people who are compatible with each other and will help each other to better transition into KGPian life. Freshers currently are randomly allocated roommates which results in them pairing up with people with completely different preferences and lifestyles, such as sleep schedule, tolerance to noise, or how they study. This results in freshers who are already going through a hard time adjusting to a new environment, feeling even more uncomfortable. Due to this, they find it difficult to start socializing with more people.
- 2. Lack of any formal training centered towards mental health:** A large stigma exists around mental health issues in Indian Society. Most people are severely uninformed regarding these issues, to the extent that they might not even regard it as a real health issue. Students also come from various backgrounds, and may or may not have the right pretext around these issues. Due to society, negligence and ignorance around mental health creep into the students and thus they feel hesitant to ask for professional help. Further, it also becomes very difficult for students to identify people around them facing such issues, despite how close they might be. The student community is huge and continues to grow annually. However, the number of professionals is limited and it is practically impossible for them to identify every individual who requires their help and assistance.

3. **Absence of student collaboration with Counseling Centre:** The Counseling Centre in IIT Kharagpur works independently without any cooperation from the student community. The prevailing stigma around mental health in Indian Society, coupled with the lack of student representation in the Counseling Centre, makes them feel alienated from counselling, mental health in general, and the Counseling Centre in particular. This makes it even harder for students in need of counselling to turn up and ask for help. Moreover, the Counselling Center is understaffed and it is difficult for them to cater to the needs of 17 thousand plus students. Thus, it is next to impossible for them to take initiative to bridge the gap between themselves and the student body and eradicate the stigma around mental health.

Proposal:

1. **Introduction of mandatory gatekeeper's training:** A gatekeeper is someone who believes that depression and suicide can be prevented at the community level by intervention and is willing and trained to give their time and energy for this cause. I wish to increase the number of people with this mindset, so people suffering from these issues can easily be identified and given the required help. Therefore, I propose the introduction of mandatory gatekeeper training for 1 person from each batch from every hall of residence to equip them with the knowledge and skills to identify and provide timely help to suicidal persons. The training module empowers the gatekeepers in identifying persons at risk for suicide, assessing suicidal risk, immediate intervention for suicidality, and signposting and resource mobilization in the community. It discusses the difficulties of the participants in suicide risk assessment and interventions when they do role plays. Thus, imparting hands-on skills. I take inspiration from the Gatekeepers' training module by the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences and propose the following three-part training setup:
 - a. **Part I** – The training programme starts with a strengths game in which participants are paired and given 10 minutes to identify strengths in each other (which is self-reflective and reflects the strength of their partners) and reflect back on individual strengths even in a crisis situation.
 - b. **Part II** – Case Vignettes and Paired learning. Teaching assessment of risk and identifying the level of risk for suicide in the form of role-play followed by feedback from the client and gatekeeper.
 - c. **Part III** – Video-enabled learning focuses on interventions, signposting and resource mobilisation.

The training will be outsourced and conducted by a highly qualified and reputed Psychiatrist, a senior Psychiatric Nurse and a qualified Psychiatric Social Worker. This training will largely help the student community to get a better understanding of mental health issues and remove the myths surrounding it, which is one of the biggest problems that our society suffers from at the moment.

2. Introduction of a roommate matching questionnaire for roommate allotment:

Students with similar interests will tend to bond better. Further, different students have different preferences with respect to eating habits, hygiene habits, sleeping habits, and physical activity. Therefore, I propose the introduction of a mandatory roommate matching questionnaire that will be filled by the students after they are allotted their respective halls of residence and before they are allotted their roommates.

The students will be matched with their roommates based on their answers to the questionnaires. The matching will be done at the hall level i.e by the hall council. This process is already followed in many US universities and they have their roommate matching algorithms that are dependent on the questionnaire.

This questionnaire aims to make it easier to club students with similar interests together. Students are much more likely to end up with someone who they can easily be friends with, thus making it easier for them to expand their social circle. Further, the Counselling Centre will have direct access to the results of this test, which will aid them further to understand an individual better.

To ensure anonymity and protect privacy, all user form responses after the matching process is complete will be deleted. This will ensure that no personal information is retained, reducing the risk of any data breaches or misuse of user information. Additionally, we will implement appropriate security measures, such as encryption and access controls, to protect user data during the matching process.

3. Collaboration between student volunteers and the Counselling Centre:

I propose to make a team of students working directly under the supervision of the Counselling Centre who will be releasing posts that educate people about mental health and well-being. They will also be posting articles or infographics that normalise seeking out help for mental issues. All the posts will be reviewed and approved by the senior counsellors and then posted on the official Facebook page of the counselling centre. Therefore, by this, students are going to be involved much more closely with the Counselling Centre and its goal to destigmatize mental health related issues.

Impact

1. Introduction of mandatory gatekeeper's training:

- a. We, as a community, will be better able to identify students who are in serious need of mental help and assistance much earlier than we do currently thus reducing the chances of any unfortunate event occurring.
- b. Students will be better sensitised to understand the mental health issues that their other fellow students face and they will be equipped to know how to respond to their problems and concerns.

2. Introduction of a roommate matching questionnaire for roommate allotment:

- a. Freshers will face an easier transition to college life as they are matched with other students whose lifestyle is similar to theirs.
- b. Freshers are not going to be feeling alone and helpless when put in an unknown and unfamiliar environment. They will have a support system in the form of their roommates with the same preferences.

3. Collaboration between student volunteers and the Counselling Centre:

- a. Counselling centre will be destigmatised now that students know that other students are also involved in it and that it isn't an entirely alien and unapproachable place.
- b. There will be more awareness about mental health as the currently existing page of the Counselling Centre has been dormant and doesn't have a lot of posts.

Groundwork

- I contacted Rajasee Das ma'am, senior counsellor at Counselling Centre, IIT Kharagpur regarding what are the problems students face with regard to mental health and seeking out help and assistance. They identified 3 problems and suggested solutions to those problems:
 - Freshers face huge challenges assimilating in the KGP environment. This is due to them not finding friends who can ease the process of transition for them. The counsellor noted that in US colleges, a housing survey is conducted along with an induction programme and the results are used to allocate roommates and residences.
 - There is no community-level support system that identifies individuals at risk or individuals in need of mental help and assistance. They recommended modelling a system in line with WHO's "Preventing Suicide A community engagement toolkit" gatekeeper training resources and partnering with QPR institute for training. They clearly highlighted how it is not mandatory for students involved with welfare to undergo gatekeeper training. They recommended making it mandatory for all students and if not feasible, then for every student working associated with student welfare.
 - Stigmatisation surrounding the Counselling Centre as being an unapproachable place causes students to be very hesitant to seek out help or recommend help to others. The reason the counsellor highlighted this stigmatisation is no student involvement or collaboration with the Counselling Centre. They noted that in India, mental health is already stigmatised however seeing people who you know and relate to being involved with mental health services, makes you more likely to reach out for help.
- I contacted the executive head of the Student Welfare Group to ask about the feasibility of collaboration with the Counselling Centre to release posts. They were open to the idea if Counselling Centre is willing to provide guidance with the posts. I also contacted the former Secretary, Welfare Committee to enquire about any collaboration that student bodies have had with the Counselling Centre. They responded that they are only involved with information exchange and are not doing any direct collaboration. The counsellor also agreed to help overlook and approve posts if they get a student group working under them. Their only reason for not doing it already is that they are overworked.
- Roommates' housing surveys are already conducted at Duke University, the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), the University of Michigan, the University of Pennsylvania, and Boston University.
- I talked to the assistant warden, Rajendra Prasad Hall of Residence about the roommate matching questionnaire and if it is possible to implement something like that at IIT Kharagpur. They responded that it is possible to do it as it requires barely any more allocation of funds, has been done in other globally reputed colleges, and is recommended by a senior counsellor.

Proposal 2: Revamping the Existing Medical Facilities for Students

Overview

With the existing medical and healthcare facilities available for students of IIT Kharagpur, there are three extremely serious pain points:

- 1. Appointment booking and doctor's availability:** Booking an appointment through OPD requires students to visit BC Roy hospital and then get a date for their appointment. They then have to visit BC Roy hospital again on the date of their appointment where they are given a token number. The token number decides in what order the doctors will see the patients. Because of this, the students have to wait for hours at BC Roy hospital because they don't know when their appointment will come or how much more time they have to wait as the time taken for every appointment is variable.
Additionally, sometimes the doctors or specialists that the students have their appointment with are unavailable due to certain reasons. There is no way for students to know this without visiting BC Roy hospital in person and then coming back at a later time. This problem is aggravated even more so when considering that the students are unwell and suffering while this is happening and have to travel a lot to reach BC Roy hospital.
- 2. Lack of pharmacies:** As of today, there are only 3 pharmacies on campus. 1 in BC Roy hospital and the remaining 2 in the Tech market. This number is astonishingly low considering the campus is 2200 acres large and houses 22,000 residents. Also, both of these locations are very inaccessible for most of the students, especially students from VSRC, BC Roy, SNVH, MT, SNIG, RP, RK, MS and LLR Halls of residence. Additionally, these pharmacies are open for only for only 9-10 hours a day. As a result of the lack of pharmacies, students have to suffer a lot when they are sick and are unable to find necessary medicines and sanitation products. They have to travel to Tech Market or BC Roy hospital for medicines while they are sick.
- 3. Lack of mandatory and regulated first aid at the Halls of Residence level:** Currently there is no mandatory and regulated first aid inventory at the halls of residence level. Students in times of emergency, have to ask their wingmates and hallmates for basic first aid. This process is hectic and it is highly possible that the required items are not found. There is also no point of contact for students at hall level for specifically the first response and BC Roy emergency response.
Equipment such as nebulizers, inhalers, vaporizer and generic medicines are difficult to access urgently and even more difficult to access during night time.

The student community is in a dire need of a complete revamp of the existing healthcare infrastructure and facilities. The existing facilities are insufficient to deal with the population and size of the campus we have and this problem is going to further aggravate even more as the fresher intake size is increasing every year.

Proposal:

I have a 3-level proposal to address the above-mentioned problems faced by the student community:

- **Level 1: Digitalise Appointment Booking Procedure**
 - A portal will be created for all the stakeholders involved (students, BC Roy hospital, doctors and specialists, and faculty advisors). Each stakeholder can access the portal using their credentials and this portal will host features such as appointment booking, availability status, and medical certificate issuing.
 - **Appointment booking:** Students can log in to the portal using their credentials and book an appointment at the BC Roy hospital. To prevent misuse, students will have to visit BC Roy hospital to perform this step. This will generate an appointment date for them and provide them with their token number. Salient features of this platform are:
 - Online token generation.
 - Display of the current token number provides students with an approximate estimate of how much more time they'll have to wait for their appointment without them having to go to the hospital.
 - Shows the availability of doctors and specialists for the next 2 weeks so students can book appointments accordingly.
 - Generation of digitally signed medical certificates for appointments and absences for the students which will be sent to both the student and their respective faculty advisors.
- **Level 2: Setting up of more pharmacies on the campus**
 - Two 24x7 pharmacies will be set up around campus at the locations that are furthest from existing pharmacies.
 - One pharmacy will be set up in the upcoming Tikka complex whenever the handover is complete, so that students from VSRC, SNVH and MT can access it easily.
 - Second pharmacy will be set up near Billoo's so that students from SNIG, RP, RK, MS, LLR, VS and other halls around that area can access it.
 - These pharmacies will be opened via a tender passed by the institute. The existing pharmacies in Tech Market are also allowed to participate in this tender. If they win the contract, they will be allowed to operate these pharmacies as an extension of their own shops.
 - The pharmacies will have all the medicines that are available in the Tech market and will remain open 24x7 so even during emergencies students can purchase the necessary medicines and healthcare equipment
- **Level 3: Setting up emergency healthcare inventory at every hall of residence**
 - I propose to set up a basic medical inventory at every hall of residence which is more than the optional first aid kit that is currently available.
 - The emergency healthcare inventory will include items such as generic medicines, inhalers, steamers, nebulizers, bandages, and blood pressure monitors. These items will be available for use by every boarder of the respective hall of residence.

- The inventory will be managed by the guard on duty at the respective halls of residence. The inventory managing system will function exactly like the key managing system that is in place currently.
- I also propose to create a position of the student healthcare committee member who will be equipped with training and information about who to contact in case of an emergency. They will have all the necessary contact information of the relevant authorities, BC Roy hospital and ambulances. There will be three student healthcare committee members.

Impact

My proposal will improve the lives of students in the following ways:

- **Ease of access to BC Roy Hospital:** Students can now access BC Roy hospital much more easily. The ease of access works at the following levels:
 - Students need to make fewer trips to get appointments. They can now get an appointment date remotely using the portal. Currently, students have to manually visit BC Roy Hospital OPD while they are multiple times to get an appointment.
 - Students also don't have to worry about a particular doctor's availability. They have access to the doctors' schedules. They can now know beforehand if their doctor is going to be available on the day of the appointment and won't have to return back from BC Roy hospital without meeting a doctor.
 - Students have to wait for a lesser time in BC Roy Hospital OPD. They now have real-time access to what token number is currently seeing the doctor and when can they expect their turn.
 - Students don't have to make multiple trips to BC Roy hospital to get the medical certificates required to submit for absence. Their medical certificates will get directly sent to their Faculty advisor. This will reduce the hassle for students to convince their professors that their absence was due to genuine medical reasons.
- **Easy availability of medicines:** Students now have access to 24x7 open pharmacies closer to their respective halls of residence. This helps them in the following ways:
 - For most generic medicines for common illnesses, students don't have to travel 1-1.5km and they can access it within 5-minute walking distance.
 - During times of emergency, students don't have to be distressed about going to BC Roy to find medicines in the middle of the night.
- **Rapid and effective response at the Hall level:** Due to the availability of a mandatory and regulated medical inventory in every hall, students will benefit in the following ways:
 - Hard to access but extremely critical medical equipment such as nebulizers and blood pressure monitors will be available to every student of IIT Kharagpur
 - Students don't have to go door to door and make calls frantically to everyone they know in the hopes of finding the necessary equipment
 - Students don't have to run around trying to contact BC Roy hospital and arranging for ambulances in an emergency situation because student healthcare committee member will be there to help the students go through the entire procedure from calling an ambulance to arranging for admissions in the hospital.

- Common instance of this is that in cases of mental health-related emergencies, people rush to counselling centre, however, the protocol is to go to BC Roy hospital where the on-call counsellor will be called to assist the individual.

Groundwork

- People were contacted regarding their experience with using BC Roy hospital OPD. Students' complaints included long waiting times, unavailability of doctors, sometimes having to make repeated trips for the same appointment and lack of transparency and information about the exact time of their appointment which makes them block out 2-3 hours in a day for a 30-minute appointment.
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- The ERP office was contacted regarding the feasibility of a portal that can handle the appointment booking process for BC Roy Hospital. ERP office responded that it is feasible to create a portal that all the stakeholders can use within 2 months.
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- BC Roy hospital's non-medical staff was contacted and explained the proposed procedure. They responded that the proposed procedure is similar to what they follow. The only difference is that they keep a physical register that details all the appointment schedules and a physical notice that has the doctor's availability. Rest all the information provided on the portal is already accessible by students by coming to BC Roy in person.
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- Pharmacies operating in Tech Market were contacted regarding expansion and setting up new branches on the campus. The privately-owned pharmacy responded positively that they are interested in opening the pharmacies in the aforementioned spots. They only requested assistance from the institute with regard to permits and licenses.
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- Students were contacted to enquire about their grievances regarding the lack of medical equipment such as inhalers and BP monitors. Students expressed that they or someone they know closely has had an emergency and couldn't find the necessary equipment. This varied from minor issues such as needing a steamer for cold and cough to severe conditions such as difficulty in breathing and inability to find a nebulizer.
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- General Secretary Students' Welfare from multiple halls of residences were contacted regarding the feasibility of maintaining a medical equipment inventory. From their response, most halls can make a comprehensive inventory using their hall budget while some halls will need trivial financial assistance from HMC.

Proposal 3: Placement and Facilities for PG&RS Students

Overview

The PG & RS community faces multiple issues currently. These issues need urgent attention to make sure the PG & RS community doesn't suffer and can actually make the most of their experience at IIT Kharagpur. The problems that were identified after talking to multiple PG&RS students as well as representatives are listed below:

- 1. Placement and career opportunities:** Many PG students' primary ambition to join a prestigious institute such as IIT Kharagpur is to have better career opportunities for themselves. The RS students who prefer going into industry or academia are either left with little to no campus placements or forced to go for post-doctoral research. The existing administration has provided them with systems in place through which they can access those career opportunities. However, there are several areas in which the current system has proved insufficient:
 - a. Lack of awareness:** Many PG and RS students are unaware of the process of placements. Even the open house conducted sees lesser participation from PG and RS students. Additionally, within the process, they don't know about CV building, shortlisting, and testing processes.
 - b. Lack of proportionate representation:** In the current placement committee, for UG students, there is 1 representative for every 100 students, however for PG&RS students, this number is astonishingly low at 1 representative for 500 students. This lack of representation leaves the placement committee unequipped to deal with the problems faced by PG&RS students specifically.
 - c. Lack of companies coming in specifically for PG&RS students:** Due to the lack of representation, there is a lack of companies for PG&RS students. This is due to a lack of information about what specific roles and specialisations PG & RS students have as 1 representative for 500 students cannot be reasonably expected to know about students pursuing higher studies in highly specialized fields.
- 2. Lack of transport facilities to areas of work:** PG&RS students live in halls that are far away from their place of work. This problem is even more serious for RS working in an advanced manufacturing technology center and the School of Medical Science and Technology. Their only ways of travel are either cycle, walking or spending money to avail of other means of transportation. Additionally, the current existing bus services have incompatible timings with their schedule.

Proposal

To address the aforementioned problems, I propose the following:

- **Increasing the representation of PG&RS students in the placement committee**

I propose to create 4 additional posts in the placement committee for PG&RS students. This will increase the representation of PG&RS community members in the placement committee and make it at par with UG representation. However, merely increasing representation is not going to be sufficient for solving the issues. This is why the following considerations are important:

- **Creation of position:** 2 additional positions will be created for exclusively PG students and 2 additional positions will be created for exclusively RS students. The current existing 5th position will remain dynamic i.e. it can be either for PG students or for RS students depending on the number of students from these groups sitting for placements. These posts will be at the same position in the hierarchy of CDC as the existing PG representative position.
- **Selection procedure:** The selection process for the additional PG&RS students will remain the same as existing process. The eligibility criteria will be the same as well. At the end it is at the discretion of CDC chairperson to decide who are selected to the placement committee.
- **Funding:** student placement coordinators have a daily allowance of 150rs for 120-180 days. There are around 3000 students who register for CDC internships and placements. The current training and placement fees is 1500rs. To create 4 additional placement committee member positions, per head marginal cost will be 36rs as a conservative estimate. Even after including overhead charges, this number is unlikely to exceed 50rs per person, a mere 3.3% increase.

- **Introducing a PG&RS specific CV building session**

- Similar to CV building session that introduces UG students sitting for placements and internships to different profiles, how to prepare for them, and how to build CVs for those profiles, I propose to hold a similar session for PG&RS students.
- This session will be taken by people who have experience appearing in placement for these profiles or have received offers in these profiles.
- These profiles are PG&RS student-specific i.e. industry research and professorship. The PG&RS students will be given a brief overview of these profiles, and the selection process for most companies coming to recruit from these profiles.
- Given that Career Development Centre already conducts sessions for exposing students to what the process is, expanding the scope and target audience of their existing initiative is something that will help CDC fulfill their goal much better.
- The workshop will also inform the PG & RS students about the role of student placement coordinators. This will clear any misconceptions PG & RS students have about the student placement coordinators. The session will also aim to address any doubts or confusion that PG&RS students have about the placement process.

- **Creation of new bus routes**

- I propose to expand the existing bus routes to be more accommodating of PG and RS students who have to travel 3km to their department. The bus route is going to go through the following locations in this order:
VSRC, BC Roy hall or residence, SAM hall or residence, RLB hall or residence, MS hall or residence, LLR hall or residence, MMM hall or residence, LBS hall or residence, PAN Loop, SNVH, VS hall or residence, Academic area, Takshashila Complex, Nalanda Complex, Centre for Railway Research, Centre for excellence in advanced manufacturing.
- The buses will start their trip at 7:40AM, 9:40AM, 1:40PM, 3:40PM.
- The buses will start their return trips at 12:15PM, 3:15PM, 7:15PM, 10:15PM.
- The above timings and routes will run on a pilot basis and will undergo a reassessment after 1 month to see if any modification is needed.

Impact

- **Increasing the representation of PG&RS students in the placement committee**
 - This will instill more trust in the PG & RS community in the placement cell and thus they have more confidence in the process and the institution
 - Since they have more representation, there will be more efficient and specific distribution of work. This will lead to things like seeking very niche and specific core companies in the placement processes
- **Reducing workload from UG Student Placement Coordinators**
 - As there will be PG and RS student placement coordinators who are more aware and better equipped to deal with PG&RS specific problems, UG student placement coordinators have some burden taken off their shoulders.
 - This will result in the student placement coordinators being able to focus on dealing with issues specific to UG students better. The overall impact of this is that PG&RS students can get better placements, student placement coordinators aren't overworked and UG students get student placement coordinators working exclusively for them.
- **Ensuring the PG&RS students are equipped to go through the placement process**
 - PG&RS students won't be overwhelmed with the process and the steps in it. Additionally, even if they feel overwhelmed, they will have more representatives who will address their specific concerns and act as their point of contact.
- **Convenient transformation**
 - PG and RS students will have much more convenience in going to their place of work. They no longer have to exhaust themselves by cycling multiple kilometers and working hard and then cycling back completely exhausted after a productive day.
 - The effort and energy saved by the PG and RS students will allow them to pursue other activities and interests that the campus provides them with. This means that PG&Rs students can participate more enthusiastically in sports and cultural activities.

- PG students will also be able to better prepare for their placements and other career-related activities.

Groundwork

- I contacted multiple PG&RS students to ask about their grievances regarding placement. The biggest concern pointed out by PG&RS students is that they aren't aware of the CDC process and that having only 1 point of contact is not feasible for them as it takes more time to have their concerns addressed.
- PG&RS students also mentioned that they will prefer to have more PG&RS student placement coordinators as they find it easier to explain issues pertaining to them to PG&RS students.
- I discussed with Dr. Rajib Maity, vice chairperson Career Development Centre about the feasibility of having more student placement coordinators. They informed me about the reason for not increasing the number like it is in IIT Delhi and IIT Bombay (100-150 student placement coordinators) is due to funding. They advised that to increase the number of student placement coordinators, training and placement will have to be increased.
- I contacted some student placement coordinators regarding conducting workshops for PG&RS students. They responded positively to the proposal. I also contacted Dr. Rajib Maity who responded that conducting such sessions is going to be helpful for PG&RS students as their profiles are different from UG students.
- I contacted Mr. Amit Roy, Senior Technical Superintendent, Transport Unit regarding the creation of new bus routes. They informed me that there are enough vehicles to ply the routes I discussed with them. Their only concern was that the buses should have an average occupancy of 50%.
- I contacted multiple PG&RS students inquiring about their schedules and offices. The most common times of leaving for work and coming back to halls as well as the locations they commute to frequently were asked. Based on the responses, the bus routes and timings were decided.
- I asked the PG&RS how willing they are to use buses. They said they are okay with using buses if buses are regular. Additionally, they noted that it will be extremely helpful in extreme weather conditions such as rain and hot temperatures.

Proposal 4: Summer School

Overview

A summer term is a great opportunity for students to utilize their time and learn new skills. During the summer break, students can enroll in various courses offered by institutions covering a wide range of subjects such as computer science, electronics, mathematics, physics, and humanities. They can choose the courses based on their interests and requirements.

Timeline: The summer term will typically **start in May** and last for about **6 to 8 weeks**. Apart from regular courses, the summer term also offers a range of other activities such as workshops, seminars, and internships. These activities are designed to provide students with **hands-on experience and exposure** to real-world scenarios. For instance, students can attend workshops on robotics, artificial intelligence, and entrepreneurship. They can also attend seminars on current topics and trends in the industry. Not only that, students can get industry-level experience by working with multiple industries.

The summer term will also be a great opportunity for students to interact with **faculty members** and other students from different backgrounds. This helps them broaden their horizons and develop a better understanding of different cultures and perspectives.

To enroll in the summer term, students will be able to **register online on the institution's website**. The fees for the courses and activities would vary depending on the program and duration. Students will also be able to avail of scholarships and financial aid if they meet the eligibility criteria.

Overall, a summer term is a great opportunity for students to learn and grow during their summer break. It helps them gain knowledge and skills that are relevant in today's fast-paced world and prepares them for future challenges.

Proposal

I have a 3-level proposal to address the above-mentioned proposal:

- **Level 1: Encourage Academic and Research Activities**

We propose to establish a summer school program at the Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, India. The summer school program aims to offer students an opportunity to engage in academic and research activities that go beyond the regular curriculum. The program will cater to undergraduate students across various disciplines, providing them with a unique experience that complements their academic pursuits.

- **Level 2: Scholarships and Faculty Involvement**

The summer school program at IIT Kharagpur will have a duration of **6-8 weeks** during the summer break. Students can choose from a range of courses that are relevant to their field of study. The program will also offer hands-on training in various research domains through projects, workshops, and industry visits.

Scholarships and Funding:

We understand that students from all backgrounds may not have access to the same resources. Therefore, the summer school program at IIT Kharagpur will offer scholarships to eligible students based on their **academic performance and financial need**. In addition, we will explore **funding opportunities from government and industry partners** to make the program accessible to all deserving students.

CGPA Criteria:

To be eligible for the summer school program, students must have a minimum CGPA of **7/10**. However, we encourage students with a lower CGPA to apply and demonstrate their interest and motivation through their application.

Faculty Involvement:

The summer school program at IIT Kharagpur will involve faculty members from various departments who will teach the courses and guide students in their research projects. In addition, we will also invite experts from industry and academia to deliver guest lectures and workshops.

- **Level 3: Social and Cultural Reach**

In addition to the courses and research activities, the summer school program at IIT Kharagpur will also offer **cultural and social events** to enhance the overall experience of the students. The program will organize **field trips** to local historical sites, museums, and other cultural destinations. Moreover, we will also provide opportunities for students to interact with local communities and understand their socio-economic dynamics.

We aim to make the summer school program at IIT Kharagpur a flagship event that attracts students from across the country and beyond. Therefore, we will also engage in promotional activities, including social media campaigns, and outreach programs at schools and colleges.

In conclusion, the summer school program at IIT Kharagpur is an opportunity for students to expand their academic horizons, gain practical experience, and develop their social and cultural competencies. We believe that this program will enrich the academic landscape of IIT Kharagpur and create a platform for students to excel and contribute to society.

Impact

The summer school program at IIT Kharagpur is expected to have a significant impact on the students, faculty, and the institute as a whole. Here are some expected impacts of the program:

1. Student Impact:

- The summer school program is expected to have a significant impact on the students who participate in it. The program will provide students with practical exposure to various industries and enhance their skills in areas such as critical thinking, problem-solving, and teamwork.
- The students of IIT Kharagpur can enroll in their core courses during summer school and start the process for **early graduation**. IIT Bombay has a procedure in place for early graduation. Students can also apply for SAP, SEP, SAIP and SAPP easily.
- The program's interdisciplinary nature will enable students to develop a broader perspective and gain a deeper understanding of the subject matter.
- The students pursuing their post-graduation will be able to complete extra credits during summer school thus enabling them to expand their core knowledge in the respective research areas.
- The PG/RS students get a chance to **explore various other domains**, which are otherwise constrained owing to the current academic curriculum.
- The students will also be able to indulge in **social and cultural sciences** which are otherwise proved to be insufficient in the current academic curriculum.

2. Faculty Impact: The program will provide an opportunity for faculty members to design and deliver high-quality courses that provide a balance of theoretical knowledge and practical experience. The program will also provide opportunities for faculty members to collaborate with industry partners and explore new research areas.

3. Institute Impact: The summer school program will help IIT Kharagpur strengthen its reputation as a premier institute of higher education in India. The program will attract talented students from across the country and provide opportunities for the institute to collaborate with industry partners. The program will also enable the institute to develop new research areas and contribute to the development of local and national economies.

4. Industry Impact: The program will provide industry partners with an opportunity to engage with talented students and collaborate with faculty members on research projects. The program will also help industry partners identify and recruit talented students who can contribute to their organizations in the future.

5. National Impact: The summer school program will contribute to the development of the national economy by producing skilled graduates who can contribute to the workforce. The program will also contribute to the development of new research areas and technologies that can benefit the country.

Groundwork

- I contacted multiple BITS Pilani Student Representatives to ask them about their Practice School - 1 and Practice School - 2. Their primary goal is to provide their students with the chance to try their hands on corporal jobs and gain real industrial experience. The students are shortlisted based on their merit in academics.
- I asked various PG&RS students to ask about their grievances regarding credits and courses. The major concern that rose was about their credit limit being short and how they aren't able to take up courses which they are very keen to learn.
- The summer school program at IIT Kharagpur will explore various **funding opportunities** from government and industry partners to make the program accessible to all deserving students. Here are some possible sources of funding:
 - **Government Schemes:** The Indian government offers various schemes to support research and education initiatives. The summer school program can explore funding opportunities through schemes such as the Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE), Prime Minister's Research Fellowship (PMRF), and the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) grants.
 - **Industry Partnerships:** IIT Kharagpur has strong industry partnerships with various organizations. The summer school program can collaborate with industry partners to secure funding for the program. The industry partners can also offer internships, workshops, and guest lectures to the students.
 - **Alumni Donations:** IIT Kharagpur has a large alumni base who are passionate about giving back to their alma mater. The summer school program can leverage this network to secure donations for the program. The alumni can also offer mentorship and networking opportunities to the students.
 - Some other notable organizations include -
 - National Skill Development Corporation
 - Future skills prime
 - University Grants Commission
 - Tata Trusts
- Yale University offers a summer session for students who wish to enrich their academic experience or accelerate their progress toward a degree.
 - Course offerings: The summer session offers a wide range of courses across various disciplines, including Humanities, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, and Engineering.
 - Application process: The application process is pretty straight forward and streamlined. Account creation followed by course selection and application submission with the required documents. The admission decision is typically made within two weeks.
 - Tuition and financial aid: Tuition for the summer session is based on the number of credits one takes. Financial aid is available for those who qualify. Yale also offers a flexible payment plan to help students spread out the cost of tuition. This can be taken up by IIT Kharagpur.
 - Extracurricular activities: In addition to coursework, Yale offers a range of extracurricular activities for summer session students. These include social events, cultural activities, and recreational opportunities.

- Academic support: Yale provides academic support services for summer session students, including tutoring, writing assistance, and academic coaching. This will benefit IIT Kharagpur student community a lot.
- IIT Madras had its first edition of the Summer School (2017) which brought social entrepreneurs from domains such as health, livelihood, microfinance, agriculture and energy. Faculty from IIT Madras engaged with the participants on a variety of topics from 'Theories of Social Entrepreneurship' to 'Business Models' and 'Design Thinking'. This was interspersed with field visits to local social enterprises in Chennai and other parts of Tamil Nadu. The course helped the participants to gain a good understanding of the current trends and challenges in the social entrepreneurship ecosystem. This was offered by the Center for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship.
- IITK Foundation for Continuing Education & Training (IFACET) is a company incorporated by IIT Kanpur, to administer, operate and manage all activities related to continuing education for students, researchers, faculty, industry professional, institutions, industry and other individuals. They provide courses in exchange for some fee.
- BITS Pilani offers a portal where a student can register for the Practice School (PS) - 1 and 2. Where they can apply for industrial experience in a well-established firm in the upcoming summer break (PS-1 for summer break after sem 4). They can apply in various industries according to the listed profile. The shortlisting is done on the basis of CGPA. They can secure 10 credits worth of grades which makes their upcoming semesters less loaded and can also help sort the uncleared previous courses.
- IIT Bombay Summer School offers only 4 courses but in great depth and with high-class faculty. The courses offer a deep knowledge of the concerned topics. 500+ registrations from students across various countries compassing multiple degrees (mainly UG and PG).

Proposal 5: Improvement in the Career Development Centre platforms

Overview:

The placement body of IIT Kharagpur i.e. Career Development Centre platforms has been fairly successful in the internship and placement drives it conducts. However, there is still scope for improvement in the CDC process. I personally have talked to a lot of students who have sat in multiple CDC processes and they have their fair share of grievances out of which I have identified a common few problems:

1. Absence of any convenient centralized notice board:

In the previous years, during the intern and placement drives, people had 2 ways of checking the notices, which were either checking the noticeboard in ERP or the MFTP google group. Checking the ERP noticeboard was a big hassle because you had to log into ERP almost every time to check the noticeboard, and the interface was also not very good. All of this adds to the anxiety and frustration of the students. Moreover, now that MFTP is closed, students have no other options.

2. Lack of avenues of communication:

This problem is something that is specifically felt by everyone. No one really knows exactly the structure and flow of the selection process, only known to the student placement coordinators. But, this can't be communicated simply because of the lack of a centralized platform. The current CDC noticeboards only communicate things like deadlines and shortlists and nothing more than that but I think that the student community misses on a lot of information that would otherwise help them be calmer and organize their schedules better especially during the stressful times of placement and internship drives.

Proposals:

- 1. Creating a noticeboard web portal:** I propose to create a web portal that essentially serves as a noticeboard that only people who are enrolled in the CDC process can log into. You have to log in only once during the initialization of your account, and thereafter you can check your CDC notice updates on the go, especially given the fact that from next year a great chunk of processes will be conducted in an offline manner, which requires a web portal as people have to rush from one interview booth to the other and relying on ERP which has slow loading times is a very big hassle.

- 2. Revamping the CDC portal:** As stated in the overview, currently the noticeboard provides only a limited amount of information. Moreover, the noticeboard is very clunky. The renewed portals aim to integrate the whole of the test and the interview timeline of a particular interview process and ancillary information about it. Illustrating a little on this, for example, company X will be conducting a test and 3 interviews, then the portal will have the following presented visually in a chronological manner:

Step	Date	Process	Description	Status	Result
1	DD/MM/YY	Test	Coding/puzzles (50 mins)	Completed	Shortlist attached
2	DD/MM/YY	Interview round 1	Coding round (25 mins)	Completed	Shortlist attached
3	DD/MM/YY	Interview round 2	Coding round (30 mins)	Completed	Shortlist attached
4	DD/MM/YY	Interview round 3	HR Round (15 mins)	Ongoing	N/A

Note that all of this information is contingent on whether the HR of the company provides all of such information to the student placement coordinator. The above information cannot be provided if not conveyed by the HR or if the placement committee unanimously comes to a decision that a certain piece of information is sensitive and chooses not to make it public.

Impacts:

- **Easy/quick access to information:** So far the current ways of communication between the CDC and the student community have been pretty cumbersome to use. I plan to bring change to it by making the flow of information more rich and structured.
- **Better preparedness for placement/interview processes:** Access to such structured information would mean that now students can be mentally prepared, they have a rough idea of the schedule of the day and they can prepare according to the format of the process.

Groundwork:

- I have talked to a couple of student placement coordinators and got the problem validated along with a lot of people who sat in CDC internship/placement drives themselves.
- I talked to the Enterprise Resource Planning Chief System Manager, Mr. Ajit Kumar Das, and discussed with them the convenience of the proposal and the specification of the portal, and they were of the opinion that the app could be prepared in 2 months, which if everything works out well is within the timeline of the next internship season.
- Due to CDC policy, I didn't receive information about how much technical proficiency is required to handle the backend of the portal. In case the technical proficiency and efforts required are very high, we can create an additional post of web secretary in the Placement committee who will solely handle the backend logistics.