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SAMPLE SIZE: 268
AGE GROUPS: 20-30: 30+
MALE: 503
FEMALE: 701
MARRIED: 725
UNMARRIED: 94

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Engg colleges defy govt, charge extra fee

Some colleges also display extra fee on their website

RASHMI BELUR @ Bengaluru

Many had surrendered seats

In 2012, the extra fee charged by engineering colleges became a major issue and complaints were filed against about 158 colleges. Several students had even surrendered their seats as they could not pay the excess fee. The then Executive Director of KEA, V Rashmi, submitted a report to the Higher Education Department which asked VTU to issue a circular restricting colleges from collecting any additional fee.

DESPITE directives from the Union Ministry for Human Resource Development, Visvesvaraya Technological University, Bengaluru, and even the state Higher Education Department against collection of excess fee from CET students, many colleges are continuing to do so.

The first round of admissions to under-graduate engineering courses were completed recently and the second round is going on. Several students who have got seats at some of the engineering colleges in the city allege that the colleges are demanding excess fee in the name of facilities like library, e-journals, laboratory, wi-fi, skill training, IT support, etc. This ranges anywhere between ₹6,000 and ₹35,000.

The Admission Overseeing Committee, appointed by the government and headed by retired High Court judge Anand Byrareddy too has been getting such complaints, sources said.

Some colleges have even announced details on the additional fee on their websites. For instance, R V College of Engineering is charging ₹35,400 for those who got admission under Common Entrance Test (CET) quota. Students from outside Karnataka have to pay ₹36,900 and those from outside the country have to shell out ₹46,900 for this academic year.

As per information available, other colleges which are allegedly collecting excess fee include NITTE Institute of Technology, Saptagiri College of Engineering, PES University south campus, Dayanand Sagar College of Engineering.

Earlier this year, private engineering colleges had demanded a 25 per cent hike in fees but the Higher Education Department managed to convince them not to hike it. But now, colleges are demanding excess fee to be paid during admission though the CET students have paid the tuition fee at Karnataka Examinations Authority.

The college managements are justifying the excess fee saying, "This is collected for the extra facilities available and provided at the campuses and is not part of the regular tuition fee."

"The additional fee is not only for the first year. We have to pay for all the four years. What is the use of getting a seat under government quota by clearing CET if we end up paying such huge amounts," questioned a student.

What students pay at KEA is just the tuition fee and what colleges collect is towards development fee, library fee, NSS-NCC fee, etc. We have been collecting this for several years. This year, VTU increased the affiliation fee following which some colleges increased the development fee

M K Panduranga Setty, secretary, Karnataka Unaided Private Engineering Colleges Association

How much the colleges want

College	Excess Fee
RVCE, Bengaluru	₹35,400-₹46,900
NITTE Institute of Technology, Bengaluru	₹30,000-₹35,000
Saptagiri College of Engineering, Bengaluru	₹33,000
PES University south campus, Bengaluru	₹25,500

(As per the consensual agreement between the government and colleges, the annual fee for CET students is ₹50,500 and for COMEDK it is ₹1.70 lakh.)