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In 19 yrs, VTU earns nothing from patents

Shortage of quality faculty main reason behind zero earnings from patents as well as lack of full-time PhD students

RASHMI BELUR @Bengaluru

IT has been 19 years, and the Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU), Belagavi, the only Technical University of the state, has not earned a single rupee from patents since its inception.

This has been revealed in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), which was released by Union Ministry for Human Resource Development recently.

As per the report, the earning of VTU through patents is zero.

Although it is not mandatory for a university to get a particular number of patents, when compared to its own affiliated colleges and autonomous colleges, it is far from getting patents.

"Being a university, we should definitely have got more quality patents. Shortage of regular faculty members was a major hindrance," said a senior official of VTU.

'Zero earnings' from patents is a reflection of lack of research activities by faculty members at the university. Faculty members are the ones who generally apply for patents of their research work.

"As there was a shortage of regular faculties at the university, it was difficult for us to apply for patent. Each faculty has to apply individually for patents for the research work done by them. The university received permission to hire regular faculties three years ago. This year onwards, we will apply for patents," said the official.

Another reason for the university's failure to get patents was non-availability of 12 (B) status all these years. Recently, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has grant-



No regular PhDs

Despite the university offering PhD degrees, the number of full time PhD degrees offered by the university in the last four years is zero. As per the data available in the report, in the current academic year 2017-18, 106 PhDs were registered but all are pursuing part-time PhD. This has also been attributed to faculty crunch.

PhD score at VTU

Year	Full time	part time
2014-15	0	16
2015-16	0	35
2016-17	0	55
2017-18	0	106

(students registered)



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Senior VTU official

ed 12 (B) status to VTU, under which the university will now be eligible to apply for Central funds, which also includes earnings from patents.

