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CET fee structure in limbo

By Sridhar Vivian, Bangalore Mirror Bureau | Dec 12, 2013, 01:00 AM IST



Pvt colleges asked to individually submit a fee structure by Dec 31. A committee would then decide the fee for each college

The cost of an engineering or medical seat could rise astronomically. With the government and private colleges announcing that fees charged will vary from college to college, students preparing to enrol in professional courses next year wonder if they would ever get into a top institution.

Until now, private colleges and the government mutually decided on a fee structure which was applicable to students choosing seats under government quota through Common Entrance Test (conducted by Karnataka Examinations Authority). The fee was also the same for all colleges.

This year though, each college has been asked to submit a fee structure to a committee headed by retired judge Ajit Gunjal by December 31. The committee would then fix the fees the college can charge. This will mean the fees charged by PESIT will be different from RVCE and from MSRIT and so on.

Colleges are now calculating the cost of enrolling a student and other factors with their auditors and cost accountants. "We are in the process of calculating the fee and will shortly arrive at a fee structure," D Jawahar, director of the PES group, told Mirror.

M K Panduranga Setty, secretary, Karnataka Unaided Private Engineering Colleges Association (KUPECA), said, "In RVCE, the cost of educating a student is Rs 2.35 lakh per year. However, we cannot charge that amount. We are calculating a fee. The fee to be fixed now will be applicable for the next three years. We will file the amount shortly."

With the new arrangement in place, the future of CET too seems uncertain. Setty revealed that KUPECA would conduct COMED test and select students based on the results. CET, he said, might be relevant only for government and aided colleges. But there are only a handful of colleges under the government quota and students are worried over the number of tests they may have to take next year to secure admission.

Ranjit Kumar, a II PU student, said, "If I rank within the top-100, I will automatically qualify for a top engineering college. But if the top colleges charge a fee of Rs 1 lakh year, then I may not be in a position to pay. The point is, should I settle for a lesser-known institution since I cannot afford the fee?"

An official said, "the government may bright students a subsidy, but nothing concrete has been decided so far."

However, students didn't think much of the plan. "Previous subsidies announced by the government have not reached students. We cannot rely on government subsidies," said Divya Kulkarni, another II PU student. Meanwhile, Setty said private colleges are also thinking of offering 'freeships' or 'semi-freeships' to attract students. "We do not want our classrooms to be filled with moneybags," Setty said. "Perhaps we can offer free seats to a few students. But, nothing has been decided."

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