

50% engg grads worse at Eng than Class 7 students

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NEW DELHI: India may be the biggest producer of engineering graduates across the world, but about half the number can't match Class 7 students of the Central Board for Secondary Education (CBSE) when it comes to English grammar skills.

Nasscom, an IT industry body, pointed out this problem in 2011, when it stated that almost 50% of the engineers in India were unemployable. Only a meagre 25% of the graduates were found worthy of employment without in-house training.

An evaluation of the Aspiring Minds Computer Aptitude Test (ACMAT) on 55,000 engineering graduates — held in 2011 — has further accentuated this issue. Around half the engineering students were unable to differentiate between the words 'had' and 'have' in the context of a simple sentence. One-third were unable to answer entry-level math questions.

"Their poor English and Math skills indicate low learning levels," said Himanshu Aggarwal, an IIT-Delhi alumnus who co-founded Aspiring Minds.

SS Mantha, chairman of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), does not agree. Though he expressed concern, Mantha said the sample size of 55,000 candidates was too small to arrive at a definite conclusion. Around 7,50,000 engineers had graduated in 2011.

The study showed that 47% were unable to write grammatically correct sentences, less than 48% understood moderately sophisticated words, and 52% were not even acquainted with simple English terms.

Hope, however, is on the horizon. **Dilip Chenoy, managing director of the National Skill Development Corporation, said the government has joined hands with the industry to resolve the issue.**

QUESTIONS THEY COULDN'T ANSWER

- There is a dearth of woman doctor in our state. We may have to recruit some from other states.

Only 47% of engineering graduates were able to select the correct answer 'women doctors'.

- For many teachers, having the freedom to teach what they desire most, is more important than drawing a handsome salary.

Only 27% managed to rephrase the sentence, making it read better.

- Did you cereal for breakfast?

Only 50% were able to give the correct answer – have. Also, 30% of the engineering graduates did not know the meaning of the word ‘exhaust’.