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IIT Goa may keep out F grade in first yr

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Panaji: The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Goa, is out to set a new example in the country by becoming the first IIT to give no grades, instead of an F grade to underperforming first year students.

“F grade has a stigma attached. We will just say that you are underperforming so you get no grade. At least, the student will study to learn something without the fear of failing. We will take the anxiety out for the students and parents. It will be a unique experiment in the country,” IIT Goa director B K Mishra said.

The move has been triggered after IIT Goa, like Madras and Hyderabad, hired the virtual counselling services of

A NEW BEGINNING

Behavioural indicators that led to the no-grades system:

- > Refusal to go home during vacations
- > Not offering a helping hand to one another to cope with hostel life
- > Worrying about pay packages while still in second year
- > 20-30% students struggling with studies
- > Feeling lonely as they are

on their own for the first time in their life

> Unable to come to terms with an entirely new atmosphere

> Depression due to problems related to love affairs



Your Dost in January. The feedback said over 30% students of IIT Goa had contacted them with both academic and non-academic issues like career advice, difficulty in coping with the syllabus, dealing with life alone for the first time and love affairs.

IIT Goa shells out around Rs 40,000 a month for the services of Your Dost, where students can use a proxy name and chat with counsellors anonymously online.

“We want to take preventive measures rather than waiting for the worst to happen. So

me universities abroad have already successfully adopted the no-grades system for non-performing students. We are hoping the learning outcome will be better now,” said Mishra.

The IIT began operations in 2016 and enters its third academic session this year. Mishra said the plan is to implement the no-grade system for underperformers from the new batch that begins from mid-July.

“In IITs, the stress is on understanding the concepts. Students, who are used to learning differently in Kota and other coaching centres, suddenly come here and can’t cope with the fact that they aren’t doing as well as they were doing in coaching centres. This can lead to depression,” said Mishra.