COVER STORY

Budding trend

Indians now go abroad for studies at a younger age

BY SHARMISTA CHAUDHURY

Sonalika Reddy, 17, has little trepidation about leaving home and living alone in a foreign country. In fact, she is excited about it and had been working towards realising her dream of earning a degree in finance or business from Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and then an MBA from a top US university. She chose Hong Kong because of the quality of education the university offered and she wanted to experience a different culture. Although Sonalika is the first in her family to go abroad to study, she thinks it was the natural progression. "Most of my batch is opting to study abroad," she said.

Foreign education is no longer a privilege of the elite.

"For one, there is a lot more money in the system. As a result, people opt for undergraduate schools abroad. Second, there is a huge gap between the education offered in Indian institutions and the demand available," said Madhavi Desai of Madhavi Desai Consulting. Popular courses Indian students opt for include accounting, management and humanities.

Thanks to the proliferation of global boards at the school level, the transition from school to a foreign college has become smooth. Mohan Siddhartha, who studied at an international school in Hyderabad, is all set to join Carnegie Mellon University this August. He took the decision two years ago when he realised he would not be able to pursue his dreams in India. "I wanted to do research and all research opportunities are available in the US. Indian education is more focused on getting jobs," he said. Siddhartha, 17, wants to work in the field of artificial intelligence.

Interestingly, it isn't just the big city lads with deep pockets who are outward bound. "When we go to schools for counselling, we realise there is equal traction from cities like Chandigarh and Ludhiana where students opt for institutions in the US and the UK," said Varun Aggarwal, COO and co-founder, Unvariety.

TOP 76-128 COLLEGES ENGINEERING

#		College	City	Composite Score
76	P	SASTRA University	Thanjavur	238
77	P	B.S. Abdur Rahman University	Chennai	237
78	P	Vishwakarma Institute of Technology	Pune	234
78	P	Rungta College of Engineering and Technology	Bhilai	234
80	G	College of Engineering, Andhra University	Visakhapatnam	233
81	P	Army Institute of Technology	Pune	232
82	P	Kongu Engineering College (KEC)	Erode	230
82	P	MKSSS's Cummins College of Engineering for Women	Pune	230
84	P	Hindustan Institute of Technology & Science	Chennai	229
85	P	D.J. Sanghvi College of Engineering	Mumbai	228
85	P	Vasavi College of Engineering (VCE)	Hyderabad	228
85	P	Maharaja Agrasen Institute of Technology (MAIT)	Delhi	228
88	G	University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering	Bangalore	227
88	P	Guru Nanak Dev Engineering College	Ludhiana	227
90	P	MVJ College of Engineering	Bangalore	225
91	G	Chandigarh College of Engineering & Technology	Chandigarh	224
91	P	Karunya University	Coimbatore	224
93	P	Chitkara Institute of Engineering & Technology	Punjab	223
93	P	Sri Sai Ram Engineering College	Chennai	223
95	P	Easwari Engineering College	Chennai	222
96	P	Amity School of Engineering and Technology	Noida	217
97	P	Acharya Institute of Technology	Bangalore	212
98	P	Sona College of Technology	Salem	211
99	P	Jaypee University of Information Technology	Solan	207
100	P	Mepco Schlenk Engineering College	Sivakasi	206
101	P	Galgotias College of Engineering & Technology	Noida	205
102	P	Sri Ramakrishna Engineering College (SREC)	Coimbatore	198
103	P	Shri Ramdeobaba College of Engineering & Management	Nagpur	195
104	P	Nitte Meenakshi Institute of Technology	Bangalore	191
105	P	G. L. Bajaj Institute of Technology & Management	Noida	188
106	P	Muffakham Jah College of Engineering & Technology	Hyderabad	186
107	P	R.M.K. Engineering College	Tiruvallur	182
108	P	Padmasri Dr BVRaju Institute of Technology (BVRIT)	Narsapur	180
109	P	SCMS School of Engineering & Technology (SSET)	Kochi	179
10	P	Dayananda Sagar College of Engineering	Bangalore	178
111	P	VelTech HighTech Dr. Rangarajan Dr. Sakunthala Engineering College	Chennai	172
112	P	Rajeev Gandhi Memorial College of Engineering & Technology	Nandyal	167
112	P	MLR Institute of Technology and Management	Hyderabad	167
114	P	SNS College Of Technology	Coimbatore	166
115	P	SVKM's NMIMS, Mukesh Patel School of Technology Management & Engineering	Mumbai	165
115	P	Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Technology (MGIT)	Hyderabad	165
117	P	Sambhram Institute of Technology	Bangalore	163
117	P	Sri Venkateswara College of Engineering & Technology	Chittoor	163
119	P	CMR Institute of Technology	Bangalore	159
120	P	CMR College of Engineering & Technology	Hyderabad	157
121	P	Nehru College of Engineering and Research Centre	Thrissur	155
122	P	Sri Ramakrishna Institute of Technology (SRIT)	Coimbatore	150
123	P	Accurate Institute of Management & Technology	Noida	148
124	P	V.S.B. Engineering College	Karur	147
125	P	Jagannath Gupta Institute of Engineering & Technology	Jaipur	145
125	P	Kuppam Engineering College	Kuppam	145
127	P	KCG College of Technology	Chennai	142
128	P	Keshav Memorial Institute of Technology (KMIT)	Hyderabad	141