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AICTE fixes 1:15 faculty-student ratio for deemed univs, autonomous colleges

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Chennai: The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has fixed 1:15 faculty-student ratio for deemed universities, autonomous colleges and accredited engineering colleges. The approval handbook for 2020-21 was released on Wednesday.

The latest move of the AICTE, which in 2018-19 diluted the 1:15 faculty-students ratio to 1:20, resulting in more than 22,000 faculty members losing their jobs in Tamil Nadu alone, is expected to increase the demand in TN. Many teachers from the state are now employed in states such as Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, say sources. "Deemed universities and autonomous colleges are not the same as other institutions.

They were given special status for providing quality education. So, they need to ensure 1:15 faculty-students ratio," a senior AICTE official said. However, the decision to relax the faculty-student ratio for PG courses from 1:12 to 1:15

KEY POINTS IN HANDBOOK

➤ In any technical institution, 60% of eligible courses shall be accredited in next 3 years, **else AICTE won't give approval**

➤ If admissions are less than 30% of approved intake in past 5 years, **council will cut 50% of intake**



➤ Council relaxed **faculty-student ratio for PG courses from 1:12 to 1:15**

➤ Engg colleges shouldn't demand **original degree certificates from faculty members while joining**

may not affect many, say faculty members, pointing out that PG admissions have come down and many faculty members have already been given pink slips. The AICTE also said technical institutions should have 60% of their courses to be accredited in the next three years and asked the expert committee to en-

sure faculty availability by the annual salary paid statements in addition to their physical presence. Institutions should not demand original degree certificates from faculty members at the time of joining the institution, it said, adding that doing so would attract punishment including ban on admission for one year and withdrawal of approval. This follows the suicide of T Vasanthanatham on November 12, 2018, after he was denied the original certificate from a city college where he had worked.

K M Karthik, founder of All India Private Colleges Employees Union (AIPCEU), said the new faculty-students ratio would bring down unemployment. A few autonomous colleges said it would be difficult to recruit 25% additional faculty before the March 5 deadline. "We may have to recruit more than 50 faculty members. It is difficult to recruit more members before first week of March. We need more time," said B Chidambararajan, principal of Valliammai Engineering College, Chennai.