

# AICTE aims to encourage students to work in villages

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**T**he All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has partnered with the Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC) to provide Engineering students with internships that would require them to work in the countryside and contribute towards changing the lives of people living in rural areas through technological intervention. Students from the non-Engineering background can also avail these internships.

Speaking to *Education Times*, Anil Sahasrabudhe, chairman, AICTE, says, "We have made internships for Engineering students mandatory for the last three years because creating these opportunities for students by providing exposure to the industry practices and startups etc is essential for making them employable. Under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, running for the last five to six years, we encourage Engineering colleges to adopt at least five villages and make an attempt to improve the lives of people through technological intervention."

The institutes are expected to work in upgrading general education, girl education, entrepreneurship, sani-



tation, health and hygiene, providing value addition to their existing products, improving in agriculture practices and finding ways to overhaul the village economy and doubling their income. Training in digital literacy is also undertaken. "Students can get internships in all domains where KVIC is operating and will be given a stipend of about Rs 10,000. This includes various interventions in handicrafts, textiles, small scale units and the value addition to the produce."

"We have been on-boarding various start-ups and big and small-scale industries on AICTE's internship portal. Now KVIC shall also be on-boarded. In addition to this, we

have also been providing internships to students through government departments such as the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Transport Ministry and Ministry of Railways etc," adds Sahasrabudhe.

A majority of the country's population lives in rural areas where opportunities can be increased through technological interventions by the students. "Internships may not guarantee employment, but if some openings exist in some small scale & medium scale industry, KVIC, startups and the particular student who has experience in the required area, shall naturally become a preferred candidate to get employment," he says.