

# It's project time for engineering students

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**W**ith looming deadlines, the final semester students of engineering colleges, in the City are engrossed in completing their project works. The final exams are scheduled to start in June and the students have to submit their projects by this month-end to the college.

As Project Lab is a separate subject in the final semester with 200 marks, colleges let their students work on their projects by restricting theory classes to only two or three days in a week. Depending on their interests and convenience, some students prefer to complete their projects under the guidance of a college faculty while others join industries for better exposure.

Those who join companies, have to work under an internal guide from the respective organisation while a faculty member from the college keeps track of the students' works. And such students genuinely toil to accomplish their task.

However, there are also some students who end up buying projects from outside and enjoy their time throughout the semester. Harsha, a computer science student of New Horizon College of Engineering, has done his project in a software company along with three other friends. He says that he hardly wasted his time during the semester. "We have been running around to



**REACHING DEADLINES** Final semester students busy completing their projects.

meet our guide from the college and to get a nod from the company guide, where we are working. When you are under corporate vigilance, you have to be very punctual and regular. And there is no chance, one can copy the project from somewhere else. I didn't waste my time on unnecessary things as I was keen on finishing the work on time so that I could start preparing for the exam," he says and adds, "every student wants to enjoy the last semester with friends. We also used to meet up once in a while. Such meetings helped in easing stress."

Anil, a telecommunication student from Dayananda Sagar College of Engineering (DSCE) has done a project on 'Image Processing' under a senior scientist from the IISc. "I really enjoyed working on this topic. It was more of software work and simulation. I



**Anil**

used to be busy but I never missed the company of my friends. We met whenever we wanted to and on the Internet we were always in touch. I don't have any idea how students, who buy the projects, spend their time. By buying projects, they are missing a fantastic opportunity of learning things. They may get marks in the exam but will lack the first hand experience. If they apply for off campus



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jobs, they will be caught during the interview," he says.

N Shesha Prasad, a professor at BNMIT says, "If one wants to join foreign universities, the project experience becomes the prime criterion for getting admission. Foreign institutions value industry experience. However, it is seen that students who have already been placed in companies at the end of their sixth semester, don't take interest in research as they already have job offers.

Hence, to fulfill an academic requirement, they buy the projects and complete the formalities of viva and presentation." Apart from doing the projects, the students also need to present them well to the examiners. "Sometimes those, who have sincerely done their work, fail to present well and end up with poor marks. Ironically, those who purchase the project fare well and earn good points," says Anil from DSCE.

**Sudha Hegde**