

# IIM-C parity blow as fewer women make cut

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**Kolkata:** The admission of fewer women in Indian Institute of Management-Calcutta (IIM-C) this year has come as a blow to the premier B-school's attempt to strive towards gender parity in its flagship two-year MBA programme.

Whereas 35% of the 2020-'22 batch were women, the ratio has dipped to 31% in the 2021-'23 batch, the same level as four years ago. The ratio of women at the institute was barely 16.6% in the 2016-'18 batch before efforts were made — in pre-interview screening and through increased weight in shortlisting — to

improve the ratio to 31% in the 2017-'19 batch.

The other major IIMs — IIM-Bangalore and IIM-Ahmedabad — had also posted better gender and discipline diversity that year.

Faculty members at IIM-C expressed disappointment at the dip in gender ratio.

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“The IIMs have been continuously aiming to achieve gender parity and encourage more women students to join the institute. This dip in numbers this year is disheartening. We hope that more women make the cut into IIM-C next year,” said a faculty member.

# Only 149 in batch of 480 at IIM-C are women this session

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This year, 149 in the batch of 480 students are women, down from 171 in 2020. A year prior to that, in 2019, only 144 in the batch of 480 were women.

In 2017, there were 145 women in a batch of 462, up from barely 77 women who had joined in 2016.

It isn't confirmed whether fewer women took the Common Admission Test (CAT) this year, sociologist and Presidency University professor emeritus Prasanta Roy felt one of the reasons behind

the dip in the number of women students making it to IIM-C could be due to families' hesitation in investing in Common Admission Test coaching, given the further investment of Rs 23 lakh required for the MBA programme thereafter.

"An admission to IIM involves monetary sacrifices for families. In a pandemic year, when everyone is impacted, the situation becomes more acute. Some could have reconsidered and made a choice to not enrol their daughters due to budgetary constraints," he said.

## 'DIP IN NUMBER DISHEARTENING'

Year	Women students' percentage
2021	31
2020	35
2019	30
2018	26
2017	31
2016	17



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—A faculty member