

# No food for IIM-C students till afternoon as canteen shuts, workers stop app delivery

Poulami.Roy@timesgroup.com

**Kolkata:** Students at the Indian Institute of Management Calcutta went without food till the afternoon on Tuesday after the disgruntled canteen staff stopped food delivery firm partners from entering the campus. The canteen had closed down on Monday due to strife by the canteen workers' union. The matter was resolved in the afternoon after cops were posted at the gate to ensure free access to the institute by food delivery agents. No complaints have been lodged with the police station.

The students' council that operates the canteens at IIM-C hostels had appointed a new contractor after multiple complaints against the previous one. However, when the contractor arrived to join work last week, the staff of the earlier contractor blocked them. Faced with harassment, the new contractor quit on Monday night. From 6am on Tuesday, the unionised staff blocked the gates and prevented food delivery boys from entering the campus.

There are nearly 90 people who have been working in various hostel canteens for almost 20 years. Boarders of hostels and the students' council have had lots of complaints against the quality and taste of food served, including allegations of contamination that left some students ill. Nearly all students had stopped having food from there. For the past two months, the 170 students residing in

## 170 STUDENTS AT HOSTELS



Canteen workers blocked the gate at IIM-C and stopped food delivery agents from entering the campus

There are some issues between students and workers. We have our own set-up but they (union workers) did not want us to work there. So, it is very difficult to work in such a situation

**Contractor of the canteen**

The workers do not listen to anyone, neither students' representatives, nor contractors. They don't even pay heed to the administration. Police did step in but the union workers stood at the main gate and continued to threaten food delivery agents

**A hostel boarder**

Administration is trying to resolve the situation. Food was arranged for the students

**Manish Thakur | IIM-C**  
STUDENTS' AFFAIRS CHAIRPERSON

the hostels have been ordering food from outside.

The last hostel contractor left on September 1 and the student's council appointed a new contractor on November 4. But unable to operate in the hostile environment, the latter left on Monday.

"There are some issues between students and workers. We have our own set-up but they (the union workers) did not want us to work there. So, it is very difficult to work in such a situation," said the contractor.

One hostel boarder said the unionised workers lacked professionalism and refused to work properly since they know they cannot be replaced. "The workers do not listen to anyone, neither students' representatives, nor contractors or even the administration. Police did step in but the union workers stood at the main gate and continued to threaten food delivery agents," he said.

IIM-C students' affairs chairperson Manish Thakur admitted there was an issue over a stir by hostel workers.

"The administration is attempting to resolve the situation. Food was arranged for students," he said.