

**PETITION FOR EQUALITY IN ACCOMMODATION
FOR
POST-GRADUATE MEN AND WOMEN**

The Director
IIT Bombay
Mumbai - 400076

Date: July 23, 2010

Subject: Petition against disparity in accommodation for PG boys and PG girls in our institute.

Dear Sir,

We, the undersigned, seek to bring to your notice that there is an acute disparity between the accommodation facilities extended to PG boys and PG girls in this institute. **While male Ph.D. students are being granted a single room on Day 1 of their stay in the institute, female Ph.D. students are still awaiting their chance to get a single room, even in their second year. While male M.Tech/M.Sc students are getting a single room at the end of their first year, female M.Tech/M.Sc students are expected to stay in double rooms till the end of their tenure.** Even in the case when M.Tech/M.Sc. students are expected to share a room (for emotional and moral support reasons), they should be expectedly sharing a double room, and not sharing a small single room.

The above facts bring out a pattern of **(as yet unacknowledged) discrimination** against PG girls. This discrimination, even if unintentional, is causing undue stress on research environment of PG girls and the facilities available to us, like messing facilities, bathrooms and other basic amenities.

The earlier petition that we wrote was addressed to Chairman, HCU, our request being that one of the smaller hostels (say, Tansa or new wing in H-12 or H-14) be released to us. However, nothing concrete has come out of it. We have only been assured that new building construction is set to start soon, and that our accommodation problems may be alleviated in a couple of years.

Our stress is more immediate and we can not wait another 2 years in the hope of new buildings (whose construction has not even commenced in the past whole year). It is our concern that, when male PG students are comfortably nested in single rooms, why should female PG students face such hardships? Any problems that prohibit Tansa/new wing allocation to girls, should be dealt with and resolved, instead of being wished away by abandoning PG girls to adjust with whatever is "available".

Considering the urgency of the situation, we earnestly request you for an immediate redressal of the grievances of PG girls, and to take a stand on the issue of equal treatment for men and women in Post Graduate programmes in the institute.

Yours sincerely,
Undersigned

Date: 23.07.2010