

# Where do girl toppers vanish?

■ Boys outnumber them in medical, engineering, management courses

SANDEEP DABHEKAR  
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"There are so few boys," quipped a parent as the toppers lined up for a group photo at the Somalwar High School, Ramdaspath. He was referring to the small number of boys in the 90-plus percentage club, dominated by the girls, in the just declared State board's SSC results.

The dominance of the girls wasn't limited to just the Somalwar High School. Across the city, girls outnumbered the boys in the topper's list of schools. The story was no different in the HSSC results declared earlier this month.

The tale of girls' ascendency in the board exams is inspiring. However, equally curious is the case of their low numbers in higher study courses. Lokmat Times found that when it comes to higher studies — across different fields — the trend is completely opposite. The number of male students is much higher in all the professional courses, be it engineering, medical or business management.

At Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology (VNIT), the 2021-22 BTech batch of Computer Science & Engineering has just 27 girl students as compared to 95 boys. A total of 912 students took admission

## TELLING NUMBERS

College	Men	Women	Total students
<b>VNIT</b>			
BTech	688	224	912
CSE	95	27	122
<b>IITN</b>			
CSE	191	15	206
ECE	118	14	132
<b>IIMN</b>			
MBA	197	60	257



CSE: Computer Science & Engineering;  
ECE: Electronics & Communication Engineering

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— DR BHIMARAYA METRI,  
Director, IIMN

at VNIT in the last academic session. Of these, 224 were women, while the rest 688 were men.

The gender ratio is even more skewed at the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Nagpur. The 2021-22 batch of the institute has 338 undergraduate students pursuing BTech courses in two streams — Electronics & Communication Engineering and Computer Science & Engineering. The batch has just 29 girl students as compared to 309 boys.

The Government Medical College, city's premier healthcare education institute, too has a 65:35 ratio favouring the men. Same is the story at Indian Institute of Management

students as compared to 197 men comprise the 2021-22 batch of the IIMN.

Educationists Lokmat Times talked to blamed the mindset of parents and society in general for the skewed gender ratio in higher studies. Bhimaraya Metri, director of IIMN, said the number of girl students has been increasing over the last few years.

"However, we are far from the ideal scenario. Somewhere, the mindset of the society needs to be changed. No matter how talented or bright their daughters are, many parents are not ready to send them to other cities for higher studies. Our society doesn't give priority to higher education of girls," Metri said.