

## Outside students keep off, 69% Comed-K engg seats go vacant

**Bengaluru:** With students from outside Karnataka staying away from professional college admissions this year due to the pandemic, as many as 69% of engineering seats vested with Comed-K have remained unfilled after counselling ended on December 31, reports **Sruthy Susan Ullas**.

Besides, many private engineering colleges have so far surrendered about 7,000 seats to the Karnataka Examinations Authority. This includes seats to be allotted through Comed-K and under the management quota. According to details given by the Consortium of Medical, Engineering and Dental Colleges - Karnataka (Comed-K), total engineering seats available under Comed-K was 15,020. Of this, 10,309 are vacant.

Contd pg 1 7/11/2020

## 'Vacant seats will be returned to colleges'

► Continued from page 1

The story wasn't very different in 2019 when 9,782 of 16,216 seats remained unfilled.

MK Panduranga Shetty, secretary, Karnataka Unaided Private Engineering Colleges' Association, said: "The vacant Comed-K seats will be returned to colleges. Karnataka Examinations Authority can now fill up the 7,000 seats we handed to the government."

The maximum hit is taken by traditional engineering streams of civil and mechanical. Of 2,111 mechanical seats up for grabs, a whopping 89% are vacant. In civil engineering, only 184 seats of the 1,700 were taken. In many colleges, only one or two seats in these streams have been filled.

Many engineering colleges withdrew their seats from Comed-K counseling and offered them for lesser fees through CET. "For Comed-K quota, aspirants from outside Karnataka form a large proportion of students. With the pandemic, parents are apprehensive about sending students. This is true even with students who have taken admission. They prefer online classes," said BV Ravishankar, principal, BMS College of Engineering.

The Karnataka Examinations Authority has announced another round of counseling for engineering. Comed-K has said it will not conduct any for this academic year.