

IIT-Gandhinagar, Japanese students discuss how to teach Amdavadis road rules

Notebook: office

Created: 08-Jan-19 3:12 PM

URL: <https://www.dnaindia.com/ahmedabad/report-iit-gandhinagar-japanese-students-discuss-how-to-teach-amdavadis...>

IIT-Gandhinagar, Japanese students discuss how to teach Amdavadis road rules



Road Safety A police inspector gives a talk on road safety to students on Thursday

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Updated: Dec 14, 2018, 06:45 AM IST

Seventeen students of Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar (IITGN), and Japan Advance Institute of Science and Technology (JAIST) are working on solutions that is bugging Ahmedabad city traffic police for months. The students are on a mission to compel Amdavadis to wear helmets, else shell out fine.

All of this is a part of an Indo-Japanese workshop on 'Design intervention for Behavioural Change' which is being held at IITGn.

The aim of the workshop is to find local solutions to problems such as pollution, traffic, gender discrimination and sexism which involve multiple stakeholders.

The students discussed traffic as one of the biggest problems and visited traffic control room to understand the ground situation, said professor Leslee Lazar, coordinator of the workshop.

"DCP Traffic (East and west) Sanjay Kharat and Akshay Raj Makwana, DCP (Traffic) addressed the students. One of the problems were non-compliance of traffic rules and challan payment. Only 25 per cent Amdavadis pay fine. However, in Mumbai 70 per cent people pay fines. Another problem is not wearing helmets. Jaipur witnessed an increased in percentage of helmet use. How do we increase Ahmedabad statistics? Speeding on the road also needs to be tackled," he added.

Eight students and two members of faculty from JAIST, along with 9 students and 2 of the faculty team from IITGn, are working on design solutions.

A first-year post-graduation student of IITGn, Prashanti Ganesh, at Centre for Cognitive Sciences said, "This course is a well-designed one which allows a blend of many disciplines like psychology, neuroscience, philosophy, computation and so on. It encourages interdisciplinarity and intense research outputs. The course also provides multiple opportunities to learn cognitive science and solve real-life issues. Our trip to the traffic control room was interesting in terms of understanding the challenges of the police force. We are looking at issues such as low compliance of citizens to traffic fines and to reinforce better driving behavior."

Students at the workshop also discussed the problems faced by their society and work. The participants come with various backgrounds such as engineering, cognitive science, chemistry and humanities and study how to alter the behaviour of the people for the better through design interventions.

THE TAKE AWAY

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