

# B-schools protest fee norms

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**Feb. 10:** Business schools in AP are up in arms against the recent directions of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) empowering 'all states to regulate admissions and fee structure in B-schools.

The B-schools argue that the new rules will take away their autonomy in admissions and would in turn lead to a decline in the quality of education in B-schools.

Several top B-schools have decided to challenge the AICTE rule in the High Court and join hands with other B-schools across the country to fight this erosion of their authority in the Supreme Court if need be.

At present, prominent B-schools in AP such as Siva Sivani Institute of Management, Dhruva College of Management, Badruka Business School, Magnus School of Business, and Dhruva College of Management offer a post-graduate diploma in management (PGDM). They conduct their own entrance tests for admissions and decide their own fee structure.

The new directive issued in December 2010 disallows private B-Schools from conducting their own admission tests as well as group discussions and personal interviews.

"The AICTE directive will adversely impact the quality of management education. We have decided to move the court within a week to challenge the directive," said Mr H. Chaturvedi, president of the Education Promotion Society of India (EPSI), a body of private management institutions. He said delegations of EPSI and Association of Indian Management Schools have already met the Union HRD minister, Mr Kapil Sibal, to lodge a strong protest.