

City students look at avenues abroad

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March 21: More students from Bengaluru go abroad for studies than from any other city in the country. A recent survey shows that 50 per cent of Indian student abroad are from south India and almost 40 per cent from Bengaluru. The Princeton Review (TPR) has said that the southern metropolitan cities account for the highest profits among its 20 education centres across India, with Bangalore topping the list.

“Bengaluru has the largest study-abroad market in India. The city has for the past three years accounted for the highest number of students going to colleges abroad,” said TPR executive director Nidhie Modi, adding that several factors led to this trend, particularly the fact that south Indians are more inclined to opt for quality education. “They seem to place a lot of emphasis on asset building or effective return on investment,” she said. “The fact that there are many engineering colleges in the city and that Bengaluru is home to top IT companies could also contribute to the high number of students

seeking to study abroad.”

Three major locations covered in the study are Bengaluru, Chennai and Hyderabad with a mix of students opting for tests like GMAT, GRE and SAT. GRE market steals the attention, constituting more than 60 per cent of the test taking study abroad market, according to the survey.

RV Engineering College, PES Institute of Technology and BMS College, said the study has displayed a constant growth in postgraduate applications abroad. “While in Hyderabad, studying abroad is still considered as a status symbol, Bengaluru is quality conscious and looks for universities that focus on academics and can enhance future employment prospects,” Ms Modi said.

The economic slowdown has not deterred the trend, not in Bengaluru at least, the study shows. In fact, students and working professionals are looking at overseas education to enhance skills and prepare themselves for a good job opportunity once the slowdown recovers. The slowdown is used to polish ones skills for a more lucrative job. Education that can elevate ones qualification is a trend that is prevalent in south India.