



Students' Senate (2017-18) Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur



To consider revised proposal of

Cycle Pool

Proposed by: Pranshu Garg, Senator BT/BS Y15

The proposal of cycle pool was brought to the floor of Students' Senate/2016-17 in its 3rd meeting. The senate agreed to the proposal in principle and wanted to probe further into the initiative. Since then, we have deliberated a long way to a way more solid proposal. While the detailed logistics plan is still under deliberation to give a rough estimate of the same, the cycle pool system will comprise of cycle stations build at various places of interest in the campus from where one can rent a cycle through the interface of a mobile app/smart card and automatic locks. After the ride, people can park the cycle at any other station of their choice. We would no more have to worry about the maintenance of the cycles while we will get reliable service of a 'first hand' cycle.

MOTIVATION

The cycle pool proposal will solve various problems which are already existent in campus in subtle ways and may crop up as a huge one in future.

Such as, it will solve the problem of parking spaces of cycles and the inconvenience associated with it once and for all. Not only we face a crunch of parking space in hostels (and lack of parking sense as well), we go through a lot of inconvenience in the academic area as well due to the same reason. This juggernaut of cycles is only increasing by the years. The general ill treatment of cycles in such conditions further elevates the cost of maintenance for the students.

Our community has people who can't afford a good quality first hand cycle and maintaining it over the years. Besides, paying out more than 4000 bucks at one go is more problematic compared to deferred payment based on use.

For students in the master's programmes, the cost of cycle per year turns out to be pretty high too.

COST PLAN

We have been in deliberation with Namma Nimma Cycles, a non-profit organisation which has several successful city implementations of this system and another implementation in IISc Bangalore. We have reached to following rough cost plan for the rent of cycles based on duration:



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TIME	COST(₹)	TIME	COST(₹)
0 - 15 min	2	4 – 6 hours	50
15 - 30 min	5	6 – 8 hours	75
30 - 60 min	10	8hrs + Full day	100
60 - 120 min	25		

While other slots are of concern too, we are currently focused on the cost of 0 – 15 min ride cost as this will be the major chunk contributing to cost for the students.

For our estimates, using the cycle 4 times a day, 5 days a week for a regular semester costs ₹ 5,500 for 8 semesters of stay. Considering that a good quality cycle costs for ₹ 4,000 and the maintenance goes to around ₹ 2,000 for the same period. This seems to be a profitable investment. We are deliberating more with the firm to further reduce the price of this slot to 1.5 per ride.

Apart from this, we plan on opening the cycle pool system for participants in the festivals too. Charging them anything above our cost price would turn out into profit which will be invested back into our own system for the benefit of the students of our campus.

PILOT PROGRAM

While the proposal is presented, it requires considerable capital investment.

Since almost all students on campus needing a cycle own one, introducing the system in full-fledged mode altogether would not be viable. We will need to launch a small pilot program. This experiment will allow us to absorb students into the system and slowly increase the demand for cycles which will allow us to grow the pool big enough to support the entire campus.

Once we have a successful implementation to some extent, we may advertise it amongst the incoming students which will further help us in sustaining the whole system. Over the coming years, as the facilities will improve due to rising demand. In the long term, we will have the entire campus using this pool of cycles instead of their personal ones.

The current plan for the pilot includes introduction of 100 cycles into the campus and stations at Halls of Residence 7, 8, 10, 11, GH1 and 12 apart from stations near New SAC, Lecture Hall Complex, New Core Labs, Library/Faculty Building, Western Labs, CC/RM Building and IIT Main Gate. This plan may be deliberated upon based on the locations of labs and other facilities.