

Building a Sustainable Future, Together



- Insights from Architecture students on improving sustainable practices



Executive Summary



When it comes to sustainability, the skewed metrics that the world has seen until now are righting themselves as all sectors are doing their bit to combat the ill effects of climate change. In particular, it is the younger generations that have been leading the charge towards a cleaner and greener future. Godrej & Boyce conducted a survey among **132 architecture students across 22** schools to understand how the construction and infrastructure industry can improve sustainable practices by incorporating green measures early into the cycle, reinstating the right tools and skillset in the syllabi and encouraging consumers to choose sustainable products.

The construction and infrastructure segments are among the leading contributors to pollution, and the whitepaper sought to find how sustainable practices can be ingrained within the early stages. Keen to take up the mantle of sustainability, respondents of the whitepaper are mostly equivocal about one thing --- architects and designers should be equipped with the right technical knowledge and skills, which is as important as encouraging end-consumers to opt for green projects. Most believe in inducting sustainable means at the very onset of projects --- in the architectural foundation.

While the awareness is there, most

students believe that mandatory regulations are not sufficient to drive sustainability in the construction and infrastructure segment, because people are not educated properly about them. The whitepaper found that although the intent is in place, there is a strong need to equip students with the right knowledge and skills at the early stages to drive green innovations in India.

The whitepaper has also unearthed how educational institutes need to update their curriculums more regularly to include the recent innovations in the space of green construction for students to be future-ready to drive sustainable development and add case-studies on best uses of green construction techniques. They should increase engagements with industry experts to provide experience-based knowledge to students and bridge the gap between institutional learnings and practical usage of the knowledge gained.

In an age where every decision and step taken by the industry influences the environment, the importance of sustainability needs to be drive into the young as they embark on their careers as designers and architects. While green technology is making great strides, it is important to keep educating the masses about them if indelible changes are to happen.

Key Findings



1

Views on immediate priorities that need to be addressed to develop sustainable projects

Summary

The whitepaper explored what 132 architecture students across 22 schools think about immediate priorities that need to be addressed to develop sustainable projects.



Finding

- Of the total 132 respondents, **56.1% (74 respondents)** believe that architects and designers need to be equipped with the right technical skills, **56.8% (75 respondents)** believe in the need for increased awareness amongst end-consumer for them to opt for sustainable projects, and **45.4% (60 respondents)** believe that there is a need for regulations making sustainable practices mandatory
- **18.9% (25 respondents)** respondents agree on the need for equipping the architects and designers with the right technical skills, increased awareness amongst end-consumers to opt for sustainable projects and regulations making sustainable practices mandatory
- **9.8% (13 respondents)** respondents agreed on the need for equipping the architects and designers with the right technical skills and increased awareness amongst end-consumers to opt for sustainable projects
- **3% (4 respondents)** believe in the need for equipping the architects and designers with the right technical skills and regulations making sustainable practices mandatory
- **6% (8 respondents)** believe in the need for increased awareness amongst end-consumers to opt for sustainable projects and regulations making sustainable practices mandatory

Key Findings



2

Awareness on the technologies that would accelerate green innovations in the architecture and design segment

Summary

When asked if Indian architecture and designing students are aware about the technologies that would accelerate green innovations in the architecture and design segment, the answers revealed that more work needs to be done in enlightening the youth about them.

46.2%

Confident that they are aware about the technologies that would accelerate green innovations in the architecture and design segment.

47%

A whopping 47 % were unsure about it, signaling a knowledge gap.

Finding

- Only **46.2%** of respondents were confident that they are aware about the technologies that would accelerate green innovations in the architecture and design segment
- **6.7%** of the respondents believed they were not aware about the technologies that would accelerate green innovations in the architecture and design segment, whereas **47%** of the respondents were unsure about it

Key Findings



3

How equipped are the students with knowledge and skills to drive green innovations in the country

Summary

Skilling up the existing student pool with knowledge and skills to drive green innovations in the country seemed to be a hot topic.

53.8%

Believed they were fairly equipped with the right skills and knowledge to drive green innovations,

31.1%

felt that they were confident enough to drive green innovation in the architecture and design segment.

Finding

- **31.1% (41 respondents)** of the respondents believe they are well equipped to drive green innovation in the architecture and design segment, whereas **15.1% (20 respondents)** of the respondents believed they were not equipped with the right knowledge and skills
- Majority of the students (**53.8% | 71 respondents**) believed they were fairly equipped with the right skills and knowledge to drive green innovations

Key Findings



4

Can current curriculum empower students to develop sustainable projects in the country

Summary

The question of sustainable practices in the design and architecture sector begs the element of current curriculums, and how adaptable they are to incorporate information about innovative sustainable technology to address the current need for developing projects in the country.

25%

Said that the current curriculum can empower them to address the need for developing sustainable projects in the country.

31.1%

Think that there is a need for increased awareness amongst end-consumer for them to opt for sustainable projects

43.9%

Believes that there is a need for regulations making sustainable practices mandatory

Finding

- Only **25% (33 respondents)** of the respondents believe their current curriculum can empower them to address the current need for developing sustainable projects in the country
- On the other hand, **31.1% (41 respondents)** of the respondents believe that their current curriculum will not empower them to address the current need for developing sustainable projects in the country
- **43.9% (58 respondents)** where unsure on whether their current curriculum will not empower them to address the current need for developing sustainable projects in the country

Key Findings

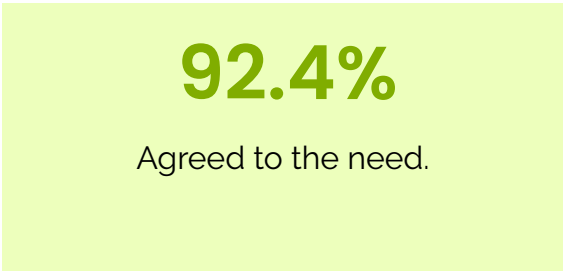


5

Corporates' engagement with students through guest lectures, dedicated sessions, and internship opportunities

Summary

The corporate question was a success in the whitepaper. When asked if corporates should increase their engagement with students through guest lectures, dedicated sessions, and increased internship opportunities



Finding

- **92.4%** of the respondents agreed to the need for corporates to increase their engagement with students through guest lectures, dedicated sessions, and increased internship opportunities

Key Findings



6

Additional knowledge / skills / support needed in curriculum to drive green innovations

Summary

When asked to comment on what additional knowledge / skills / support are needed in the curriculum through industry players for students to gain to drive consistent green innovations and build sustainable architecture

75.8%

said that they needed industry experts to share on-ground experience for them to be better equipped to drive green innovations

32%

said that case-study based modules, projects and assignments set by the institute are equally important.

Finding

- Over **75.8% (100 respondents)** of the respondents said that they need industry experts to share their on-ground experience for them to be better equipped to drive green innovations, of which **32% (32 respondents)** of the respondents believed case-study based modules and projects and assignments given by the institute are equally important
- Of the total respondents, **41.7% (55 respondents)** of the respondents said case-study based modules would help them be better equipped to drive green innovations
- 48.5% (64 respondents)** of the respondents believed projects and assignments given by their institutes can help them be better equipped to drive green innovations

Key Insights



- Majority of students believe that equipping architects and designers with the **right technical knowledge and skills** is as important as encouraging end-consumers to opt for green projects. There is a strong need to equip the students with the right knowledge and skills at the early stages to drive green innovations in India
- Most students believe mandatory **regulations are not sufficient to drive sustainability** in construction and infrastructure segment
- Institutes need to update their curriculums more regularly to include the recent **innovations in the space of green construction** for students to be future-ready to drive sustainable development, and add case-studies on best uses of green construction techniques
- Institutes should increase their engagements with industry experts to **provide experience-based knowledge** to students and bridge the gap between institutional learnings and practical usage of the knowledge gained

