Education hubs move 10 km away from Pune to Lavle-Nande

Top educational institutes are looking beyond Pune and at two villages to set up sprawling, self-contained campuses

Ashish Jadhav

Two villages on the outskirts of Pune are emerging as a major educational hub.

Lavle and Nande, the two villages in Mulshi taluka, hardly 10 km from the city, have attracted the attention of institutes like Symbiosis International University, International School of Business and Media (ISB and M) and Foundation for Liberal and Management Education (FLAME).

The availability of a huge tract of land, accessibility from the city and the picturesque view of the village are placers which attracted these educational institutes to set up their campuses here.

The ISB and M opened its campus at Nande village in February 2008 for courses in management and media. There are 300 students.

"We wanted to have a large campus so we chose this place. There is no large open space in the city to set up an educational campus," said president of ISB and M, Pramod Kumar. The campus is closer to the Pune-Mumbai bypass too.

The ISB and M campus is spread on 13 acres with a building area of around one lakh sq ft.

Shah Doshi is the architect of Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad, Indian Institute of Management Bangalore and the Delhi-based National Institute of Fashion Technology.

The institutes which set up their campus at Lavle and Nande villages acquired the land on their own. "In the next 10 years, there will be around 40,000 students studying in various courses at this hub," Shah said.

Flame has courses in communication, business and liberal education. There are around 260 students taking lessons on campus.

Symbiosis International University (SIU) has set up four institutes and the headquarters on the 300-acre sprawling campus. Symbiosis Institute of Technology, Symbiosis Institute of Business Management, Symbiosis Institute of Telecom Management and Symbiosis Institute of Media and Communication are located in Lavle.

Symbiosis Institute of Health Sciences will shift to Lavle from Sonarpur Bageshwar Road campus. "We have planned to set up a well-equipped 500-bed hospital," said principal director of Symbiosis Vidyasagar University.

Symbiosis was the first to set up the campus at Lavle, she said. "We wanted to have all our residential institutes under one roof. Considering the affordable land price we chose Lavle village," she added. However, considering the demand for high-end and job-ready education in animation and gaming, DSK Global Education and Research Private Limited has set up a campus in Pashan-Solapur Road, DSK Supinfocom International Campus conducts courses in animation, gaming, product design and automotive design and 3D design.

"Our faculty are industry experts and from European countries like France which is known as the hub of animation," executive director and marketing head Umesh Tashibarer said.

The institute has tied up with Supinfocom, the animation and gaming, and industrial design institute, from France.

The campus is on 22 acres and has accommodation, Wi-Fi connectivity and good infrastructure. "The student intake for all the courses for 2010-11 is 400 students," he said.