



With the support of the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union



Diversity report: IITG

India has long been known as a land of myriad cultures, languages, and traditions. The geographical expanse of India encompasses diverse landscapes, climates, and ecosystems, giving rise to distinct regional cultures and traditions. It is home to a vast array of languages, with over 1,600 dialects spoken across the country. The Constitution of India recognizes 22 officially recognized languages, reflecting the linguistic plurality of the nation. Northeast India comprises of 8 states, and is home to over 200 ethnic groups, each with its own distinct customs, traditions, and languages. It shows remarkable linguistic diversity with languages from the Tibeto-Burman, Austroasiatic, and Indo-Aryan language families spoken across the region. This entire area is comparatively under-developed and less represented in scientific discourse.

Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati is the sixth member of the prestigious IIT fraternity. Established in 1994, IIT Guwahati is the first- and one- of its kind in the North-east region of India. It is situated in the state of Assam, a state in India known as the gateway to the North-east India. As such, the focus of the iBrain activities carried out by IITG targeted these less represented areas of North East India.

Since the commencement of the project in June, 2023, IIT Guwahati has conducted numerous workshops, lectures and information sessions. A total of 507 participants took part in the events in total. 57.5% of the participants were males (see Fig. 1).



Figure 1: Graph showing gender division of the participants

The participants came from various educational backgrounds, mostly from various fields of engineering (such as mechanical, civil, environmental, computer science, electrical, etc.), linguistics (which included students from various branches like psycholinguistics, syntax, phonology, etc.), branches of humanities and social sciences (like developmental studies, economics, liberal arts, etc.), bioscience and neuroscience, psychology, cognitive science, etc (see Fig. 2).

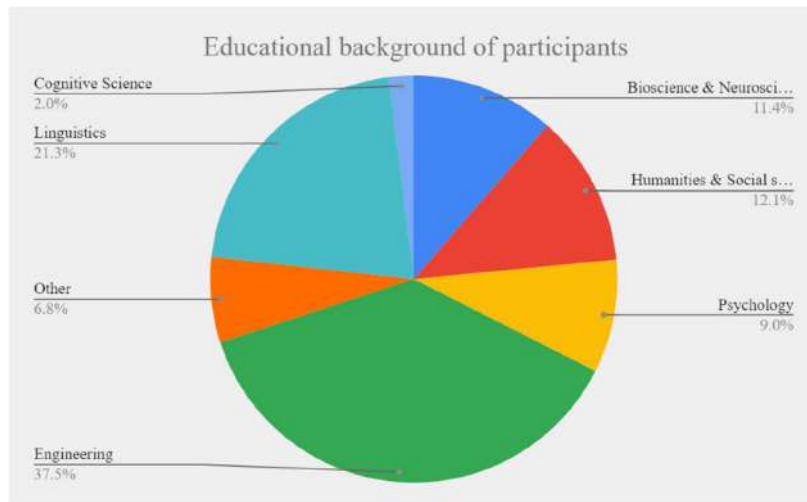


Figure 2: Graph showing educational background of the participants

Most of the participants who attended the various sessions were at least at the master's level, but a lot of undergraduate students in campus also showed an interest in the various topics discussed in the sessions, leading us to open the events to include and engage a wider audience (see Fig. 3).

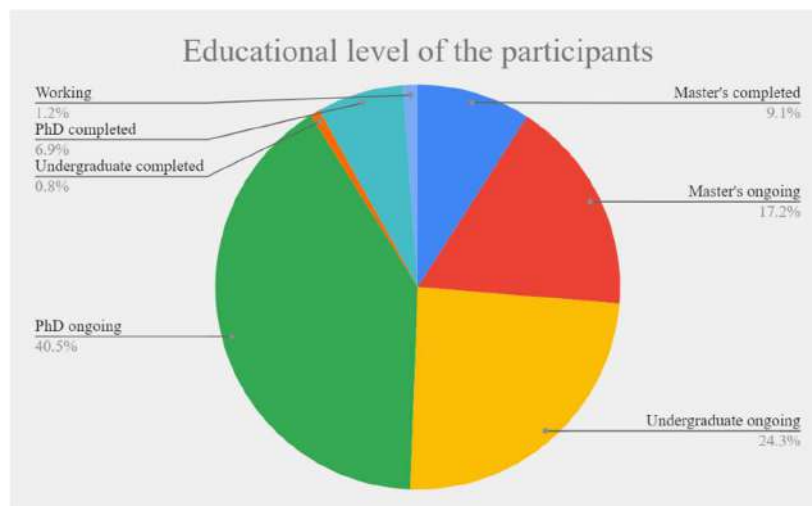


Figure 3: Graph showing educational level of participants

One of the aims of the project with respect to IIT Guwahati was to spread awareness on cognitive science and its research potential among the north-east regions of India. This was successfully fulfilled with a majority of the participants (67.8%) being from the North-east India (see Fig. 4).

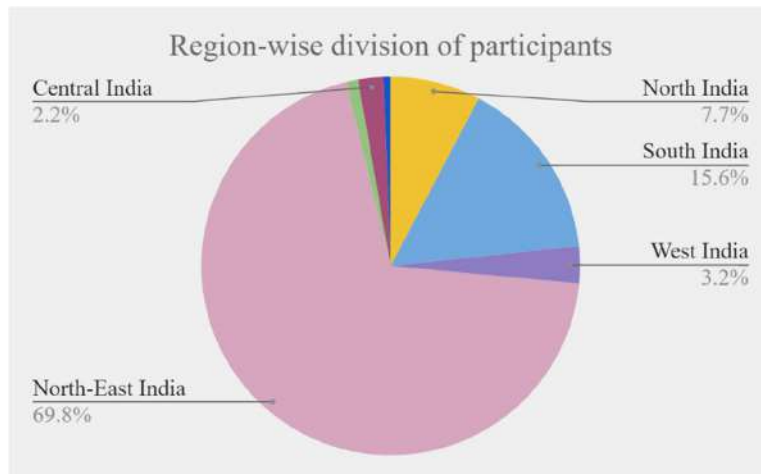


Figure 4: Graph showing region-wise division of participants

The sessions were conducted in hybrid mode and participation was seen in online and offline modes almost equally (see Fig. 4).

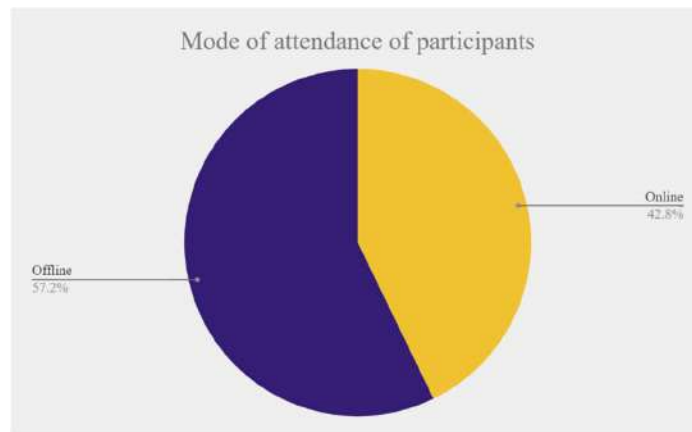


Figure 5: Graph showing mode of attendance of participants

To sum up, it can be said that the efforts of IITG within the iBrain initiative has been successful in reaching out to a diverse range of participants representing gender, culture, languages and other demographics clubbed within the *less-represented* domains.