
REORIENTATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM IN INDIA THROUGH INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY

Dr. Preeti Agrawat

Assistant Professor, Department of Public Administration
IIS (deemed to be University)

A well planned and well implemented policy of higher education plays an indispensable role in an overall development of any nation in imparting knowledge and requisite skills so as to enable the students to broaden their perspective to understand and analyze. The Indian Higher Education System is one of the largest system in the world and has grown in a remarkable way, particularly in post-independence period. Now it's time to create and reorient a new wave of Institution building by paving the way in for educated people who are skilled and can drive our economy forward. There is a need to build strong professional cadre for teachers to promote their comprehensive professional development and developing more effective pedagogy for better practical orientation. To impart strong educational support to bring out innovators and technopreneurs among the youth, the Government should work to collaborate efforts of Industry and Academia. This kind of interface between industry and universities can bring about practical orientation in our education system leading to new products and business opportunities through research. Moreover, for reorientation of higher education system, the government should take steps as academic interventions like- Updating University Curriculum regularly, faculty upgradation, mandatory apprenticeship, credits to MOOCs, distribution of technology kits to promote the basics of computer science and electronics in schools and ignite the imagination of students through Do-it-Yourself projects.

Keywords- Industry-Academia Collaboration, Technopreneurs, Academic Intervention

Encouraging entrepreneurs to start new businesses should be the focus for any government and is increasing in importance as nation grow, becomes self-reliant and overcome economic uncertainty. These are multi-dimensional objectives that can be fulfilled by promoting entrepreneurship in any economy, but in India, they are of utmost significance because of the size and age of the population. India ranks second in terms of population after China and with 28% of its people are aged between 10 to 24. The country has millions of young people that are either at the start of their careers or soon will be (UNFPA, 2015). Hence, it is of the national interest to provide education, support, and facilities that can help guide this large and young segment of the population towards careers in entrepreneurship and to help them build and grow their own businesses. In such scenario, providers of education, educational institutions are well suited to deliver both training and opportunities to students and encouraging young people to pursue entrepreneurship as a career. Thus, in India, the role of higher education institutions is undergoing a fundamental change to better encourage and support young entrepreneurs.

Any startup is not purely based on technical and non-technical aspects but is based on idea. Creation of a platform where students could bring up an idea and provided with support will be an ideal for them .The University must provide a way to handle governmental paperwork, like setting up a company, filing taxes or

registering for patents. A one stop solution from the university for all governmental paperwork and permission must be set up. Academics is not much entrepreneur friendly and hence a proper academic support is needed from the university which would bond the students who are experts from the respective fields which in turn would help achieve a complete solution to a problem.

Start up Policy - Definition & Eligibility

Startup means an entity (Private, Public, Proprietary, Partnership Firm), incorporated in India,

- a) As a private limited company (as defined in the Companies Act, 2013) or registered as a Partnership firm (registered under Section 59 of the Partnership Act, 1932) or a limited liability partnership (under the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008) in India; and
- b) Not prior to seven years and in the case of Biotechnology Companies this period shall be up to 10 years and with annual turnover not exceeding INR 25 crore in any preceding financial year
- c) Working towards innovation, development or improvement of products or processes or services, or if it is a scalable business model with a high potential of employment generation or wealth creation.
- d) Provided that such entity is not formed by splitting up, or reconstruction, of a business already in existence and should not have been formed by the demerger or reconstitution of a business already in existence, provided that such entity is not a holding company and it is not a subsidiary of any firm already in existence or except the subsidiary of any startup;

Exit Conditions

- a. If the company is found guilty on any charges of fraud or if the company is found to have made any false declarations to claim any benefits from or derived under this policy. Legal action shall be initiated to recover all financial assistance provided to such an entity.
- b. Once an entity ceases to be recognized as a start-up; the Government or entity through which the Government makes its investment will be eligible to exit its investment in the start-up and guidelines for exit will be framed for channelizing investments into the start- up.

Pillars of the Policy :

Infrastructure Augmentation ; Fiscal Support ; Fund of Fund;

Regulatory Easing ;

Student Entrepreneurship.

For Student Entrepreneurship, quality of higher education system should be provided which requires revamping and reorientation of the Education system.

It is the primary responsibility of the State to provide the eligible students with good quality higher education at reasonable cost. There shall be no withdrawal of the State from this responsibility. s. Industries may be encouraged to be partners with educational institutions directly for the development of human resources dedicated to their interests. This could happen in the areas of creating infrastructure, faculty sharing and direct



support with funds. For this a High Power Committee to explore these possibilities and to workout the modalities for such a partnership must be created. The industries belonging to a specific discipline or related disciplines shall be encouraged to establish state of the art Research and Training centres to develop the necessary specialized man power. Existing Public and Private Institutions and possible new Institutions may generate ample provisions for partnerships in this regard. A Committee shall work out the modalities and norms for this.

Promoting Student Entrepreneurship

According to the suggestion of University Grants Commission, inculcating the habit and embedding the idea of innovation and entrepreneurship in the minds of citizens in every aspect of economic activity is essential for promoting the culture of innovation. Which could be achieved through strong educational support to bring out innovators and technopreneurs among the youth. The Government should work with universities, educational institutions and the industry to provide pre-trained manpower in emerging technologies and to foster a culture of entrepreneurship in all sectors through:

Academic Intervention :

Updating University Syllabus:

The Universities should be advised to upgrade the course curriculum to be in tune with the emerging technologies and align to the requirements of the Startup sector, and to introduce courses in skill training and entrepreneurship development. Entrepreneurship can also be introduced as part of the State School Syllabus to give students a general introduction to entrepreneurship and skills needed at early stage.

Faculty Upgradation:

A special training programme shall be designed for faculty development to make them equip with the know-how of start-ups in order to cultivate entrepreneurship intellect

Apprenticeship:

All educational institutions offering under-graduate courses especially in science, commerce and professional streams shall implement a mandatory scheme of internship/ apprenticeship with the Government departments or other enterprises in the last year of the course under the aegis of Industry department. This may be waived off for students who are setting up their own startups in Incubators

Credits to MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) :

The Universities should build system to give credits to the students who successfully complete notified online courses. The University in conjunction with Incubators operating in the state shall decide the number of credits and evaluation methodology for such courses. Students should be free to learn electives from first year of college as part of degree completion even though electives are available only from third or fourth year

Gap Year - concept of Student Entrepreneur in Residence:

Universities may introduce the concept of Student Entrepreneur in Residence. Students who wish to pursue entrepreneurship can take a break of one year, after the first year, to pursue entrepreneurship full time. This may be extended to three years at the most and these three years would not be counted for the time for the maximum time for graduation. An approved scheme by the University would allow the parents to be comfortable and confident. The Gap Year facility may be given to ensure syllabus continuity at the time of joining back and after an appraisal process by an Incubator where the student is attached



Distribution of Technology Kit:

Distribution of micro controller or microprocessor based Startup boxes to students to promote the learning of basic computer science and electronics in schools and ignite the imagination of students through Do-It-Yourself (DIY) projects. The schools in the state should be encouraged and helped to distribute such kits like, Raspberry Pi, Arduino, Little Bits & others. The Government should also make efforts to bring in private sector and utilize CSR funding for this purpose.

An accreditation system for individuals in various disciplines may be thought of. Indeed, GATE and NET examinations with limited objectives are forerunners of such a system. The performance of students in such examinations may be made an important parameter for the accreditation of the institution. The idea of allowing students to do Diploma or Certificate courses side by side with their Degrees, recently put forward by the UGC, is a welcome step towards empowering the students to take-up work soon after their Degree courses. This is an area where private initiatives can come up to augment the activities of the Colleges. The Colleges can develop in-house faculty and other facilities for this purpose and make these facilities available at a reasonable cost. Such a measure will turn around many Colleges from the non-performing class to the performing class. There shall be a mechanism to accredit these courses and facilities to ensure quality. This is an area where public/private partnership has a creative role to play.

It is important to realize that we live in a fast changing world, dictated by the developments in technology. Quick access to information has made knowledge creation fast, and the multiplier effect has made it even explosive. It is increasingly difficult to anticipate changes and respond to them with creative purpose. Designing courses with relevance to the future and developing the necessary manpower to deliver them is a challenging task. All this calls for a team of professionals in different areas to come together to develop proactive strategies for higher education to meet the future demands. A Strategy Planning Body and an Institution to design and develop futuristic courses for transferring them to the Universities and Colleges may be created.

Good Faculty is a must for any higher education institution aspiring for Quality. It is high time that an Indian Higher Educational Service, along the lines western education should be reoriented By giving quality control of the teaching faculty for higher education. A new Human Resource Development Policy shall be evolved to facilitate this. This could assure that there is continuous infusion of young blood in to the teaching cadre; which is not happening at the moment. With some restrictions on faculty appointments, the present evil of inbreeding can be eliminated. The inbreeding has destroyed many departments at Indian Universities.

.Private Universities are a reality now and, as such, strong regulatory mechanisms are to be put in place immediately to monitor and control their activities with the objective of ensuring quality and social accountability. Higher education is a Public Good and cannot be left to the market forces to control. Those who venture investment in this area shall be properly scrutinized. Those with commercial interests dominating over the interests and ethics of higher education shall be eliminated. The present archaic administrative practices need a thorough reform. According autonomous status to all performing institutions will facilitate rapid development of efficient and state of the art higher education institutions.

The Governmental control in the Universities must be reduced, so that the University autonomy and accountability are strengthened and academic decisions are taken on merit. Complete transparency should be maintained in the working of Executive/ Academic Bodies and other Governing Councils of the Universities. There is an urgency to review the University Acts in different States and revise the same in the light of the new requirements and the challenges being faced by the Universities.. New technologies of information and communication should be utilized for obtaining administrative efficiency. .Higher Education should be developed as an infrastructure for social and economic growth of the Country. Students involvement in the area of University/College governance should be encouraged. Political interference in the appointment of University teachers and administrators should be totally stopped.





In an environment of global competitiveness it is important that Indian products of the higher education institutions are as competent as graduates of any other country, not only in their scholastic attainments, but also in terms of the value system and richness of their personality. Unless the quality and standard of Indian higher education institutions is enhanced zealously and sustained at a high level through innovation, creativity and regular monitoring, it seems to be difficult for the Indian academics/professionals to compete in the World scene.

