

MANY HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN THE COUNTRY ARE INSPIRING AND NURTURING YOUNG MINDS TO BECOME INNOVATORS AND FUTURE-LEADERS THROUGH EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING PROCESSES AND BY EXPOSING THEM TO NEW IDEAS, AND CONCEPTS

Teaching Lessons on Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Priya C. Nair
@timesgroup.com

Technological advancements, transformation in communication patterns and changing geographical boundaries, are bringing in drastic changes in the socio-political-economic scenario across the world. The ability to think ahead, out-of-the-box thought processes, and an innovative mindset are prerequisites to succeed in this ever-evolving world.

Education aimed at integrating the development of a student covering his/her physical, mental, and aesthetic spheres of life have a major role in transforming a student into a globally competitive, resourcefully talented, socially committed citizen who could be a proficient technocrat, manager, entrepreneur or innovator, with a progressive vision to serve humanity. When the industry and the business demand diverse skills, qualities, and right attitudes, learning has to be more experiential and inspiring. Education can no longer remain the traditional one-dimensional transfer of knowledge from the faculty to the students in classrooms. With remote learning process becoming the new normal, it is breaking all traditional barriers of the concept of time and place.

With the introduction of the new National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the education sector in the country is going to witness a revamp. Changes are expected to happen in everything related to the teaching and learning process. The policy aims to provide skill-oriented education and groom young adults as future-ready, out-of-the-box thinkers.

According to Dr Paul Mundadan, an education expert, "Fostering entrepreneurship has become a topic of highest priority in public policy now. This is due to the widespread recognition that startups are a driving force of economic growth and significant job creation. Successful universities in the US underline the important role of academic institutions as catalysts for high-technology startups. Considerable attention has therefore been paid to formal entrepreneurship education at the university level.

promoting aspirations for entrepreneurship among young and highly educated people."

GROOMING INNOVATORS

The focus now is on innovation and fostering student entrepreneurship. Educational institutions need to keep pace with innovation to groom future leaders. The Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA), an initiative of the Ministry of Human

Resource Development (MHRD), Government of India, was launched to spur innovation in the country. ARIIA ranks education institutions and universities primarily on innovation-related indicators. It considers all major indicators commonly used globally to rank most innovative education institutions and universities globally, including the creation of IPR, innovation, startup and entrepreneurship, pre-incubation and incubation infrastructure, annual spend on promotion and supporting innovation and entrepreneurship activities, courses on innovation, IPR, and entrepreneurship development, and so on. While announcing ARIIA-2020, Vice President, M Venkiah Naidu emphasized the need for India's higher education system to play the role of an enabler and force-multiplier to drive Indian innovation and startup ecosystem.

"Innovation must become the heartbeat of education. Quest for excellence must become the norm. Our educational ecosystem must constantly nurture the innate spirit of inquiry and innovative problem-solving. The NEP has made several recommendations that will foster innovation. It has outlined a new vision that can vastly improve the quality of teaching and learning as well as research," he said. He also urged educational institutions to reinvent themselves to create essential conditions for innovation to thrive and creativity to blossom. As per ARIIA 2020, the focus on innovation is happening in non-aided colleges in the deep interiors of the country as much as the publicly funded higher education institutions. Most innovation projects by institutions focus on creating a sustainable innovation ecosystem that addresses the



© GETTY IMAGES