

S4-S4 Debate on National Entrepreneurship Policy

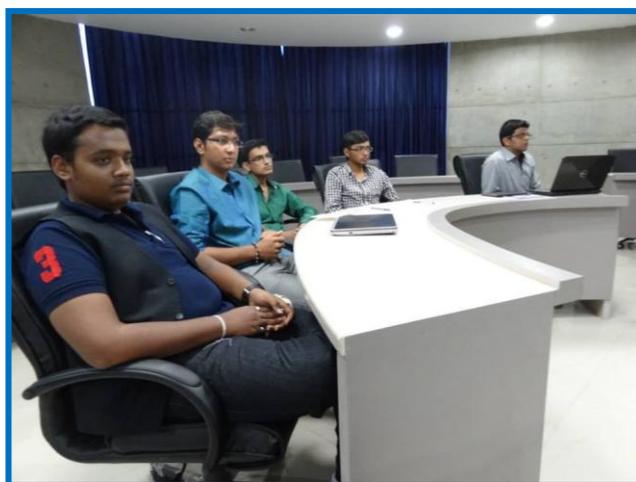
25th October 2013

In the proposed National Entrepreneurship Policy, the student start-ups have not been given due focus. At a S4-S4 meeting, the issue was discussed to take into account the concern of young start-ups in their pre take off stages, from across Gujarat. We were amazed to find that while the young start-ups articulated the needed policy issues clearly, our policy makers as well as the patrons from the industries missed the bus. Hon'ble VC, GTU Prof Akshai Aggarwal , Director GTU, Prof M.N.Patel, Co-chair Gandhinagar Sankul, Mr. Hiren Shah and other experts were present during different part of the debate. Mr. Jatin Chaudhary, founder e-chai moderated the 1st session. Mr Yash Saxena , Founder OpenFuel made a sketch of the modifications, required to the prescribed national entrepreneurship policy. Dr Akshai Aggarwal, Hon'ble VC, GTU asked that the outcomes of the session may be published on the GTU web for further reference. He said that the brought had brought out the fact that the policy makers needed to talk to 100s of such young student ventures before fixing the nail. Mr. Hiranmay Mahanta moderated the debate. He pointed out that Kerala government has allocated 1 % of the budget of the state to support the student start-ups. This, he said, was a commendable initiative.

Mr. Haren Shah, Co-Chairman (Industry), GTU Innovation Sankul, Gandhinagar took an active part in the discussions. Mr. Yash Saxena, Founder, OpenFuel, prepared the report on the suggestions, made by the participants.

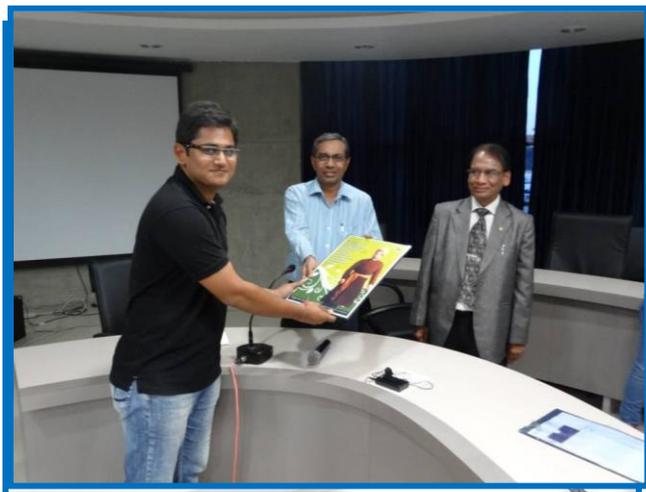
SUGGESTIONS about the proposed National Entrepreneurship Policy:

1. A two- year program in entrepreneurship, after the pre-final year of higher education, just like that at National Institutes for Technology and Management, may be planned. Industrialists and Entrepreneurs should be involved as guest faculty during the last two years of higher education.



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2. Entrepreneurship and IPR may be included as a part of the final year project work.
3. UGC should provide grants for Incubation Centers. Every college should have Incubation Centers in addition to Placement cells.
4. Banks should be asked to set up Incubation Centers at colleges, as a part of their Corporate Social Responsibility. They may be able to find several healthy industry clients to finance.
5. Engineering and other colleges should have integrated industrial complexes. Such complexes, co-located with the college, can provide excellent financial arrangements, knowledge sharing, HR grooming, etc.
6. Universities should consider instituting awards, forums, and recognition platforms for young start ups.
7. More Entrepreneurship Development Centres (EDCs)) among the professional colleges should be established. (At present there are nearly 200 EDCs, while there are 33,000 institutes.)
8. Structural Interventions
 - i) EDCs should be administered by student driven bodies or quasi-student driven.
 - ii) Provision for office space within the institute should be made for helping the student entrepreneurs.
 - iii) Alumni – entrepreneur support should be made a part of the process.
9. Social Entrepreneurship / Bottom of Pyramid Innovations should be promoted in a systematic manner.
10. Financing of start-ups at early stage is required so that creative ideas can be saved.
11. Non-continuation of family entrepreneurship should be issues of serious case-studies.
12. Special high-level cell of decision and policy makers to accept and resolve grievances of new entrepreneurs. Start-ups are more susceptible to procedural hurdles.
13. ICT or Knowledge based entrepreneurships have less financial risk and need less time for launch. Such entrepreneurships should be nurtured separately.
14. ERP & Business Intelligence software help entrepreneurs bring systems, efficiency and predictability in their operations. But such software is very expensive and takes a long time to implement. Government should offer investment subsidy to entrepreneurs for purchase and implementation of such technology support systems.
15. For failed entrepreneurs, the age and qualification criteria, for absorption into employment, should be relaxed. They might have acquired much more knowledge and relevant experience than a traditional employee.
16. Turn-over can be and should be non-criteria for several government projects which do not include infrastructure or operations management set-up. Government should not impose any turnover criteria for such purchases. We have seen Rs. 100 crores criteria to eliminate small and micro entrepreneurs from the government supply. The large corporate acquire the order and sub-contract them to small entrepreneurs.

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