

GTU INNOVATION COUNCIL

300 plus faculties participated during one day program for faculty on “Strategic Innovations in Academia in Indian context.”

LJ Group of Institutes held a one day program on 6th July 2012, for all its faculty members on *Strategic Innovations in Academia in the Indian Context*. The program was attended by faculties from all departments and streams at LJ group of colleges which included MCA, Degree Engineering, Polytechnic, Management and Pharmacy. Mr. Rajesh Kankipati, IAS showed how India can lead towards a true India class innovation ecosystem followed by a talk of innovation-investment and enterprises by Mr. Yash Saxena. Hiranmay Mahanta stressed on youth centric user-led innovation model which Indian ecosystems may master and lead the innovation satyagrah !



“Innovation is the ability to see change as an opportunity and not a threat. It arises from ongoing circles of exchange, where information is not just accumulated or stored, but created resulting in generation of knowledge. Interestingly, Entrepreneurs use innovation as a tool. We have decided to set up a huge Innovation Center at our campus and invest with our maximum capacity so as to nurture the ideas of our students and faculty members.”

Dr. Manish Shah,

Vice president, Lok Jagruti Kendra, L.J. Group of Institutes, Ahmedabad

“I appreciate the GTU initiative of setting up the Innovation Council. Our Institute has made innovation as an integral part of its program and activities including system design and to program delivery.”

Dr. P. K. Mehta,

Director – L.J. Institute of Management Studies

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The morning session of the program was taken by Mr. Rajesh Kankipati. He discussed with the participants the concept of innovation and creativity among people. He defined the *long tail of innovation* as innovations that meet many needs of a few people (i.e. innovations that can meet a large number of diverse needs of a large segment of society). For example: customized healthcare. Similarly he pointed out that the high nose of innovations refers to innovations that meet a few needs of many people in the society. These can be some very common needs of many people in the society. An example may be of providing standard cars to all segment of the society.



Mr. Rajesh Kankipati an IAS officer of 2011 Gujarat cadre addressing 300 plus faculties

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He explained that the innovations along the long tail of innovation can promote equity and help in meeting those niche needs of the consumer that would not be met otherwise due to limited demand nature of these innovations.

He also highlighted many rural innovations as well as the role of rural innovations in transforming the society from below. He asked the faculties to work with their students on innovations from the rural sector.

The second half of the program was taken up Mr. Yash Saxena and Mr. Hiranmay Mahanta from Techpedia. Mr. Yash Saxena pointed towards the burgeoning young demographics of India and said that failure to promote innovations will lead to loss of economic growth. Only a high rate of growth over the next couple of decades will enable our society to meaningfully engage our young population. Therefore it is crucial that we harness the energies of young India into ushering in innovations that can transform our society and secure its future. The later part of the presentation highlighted the role academic institutions can play in forging together an innovation eco-system to kickstart the engine of innovations. He also highlighted how **not just academic institutions but only academic institutions** can become the lynchpin of any innovation eco-system. He also gave cases of Silicon Valley and route 128 which have educational institutes at their heart.



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He also highlighted the role of faculties and teachers as transformers. They can play a great role in building an innovation eco-system. The case of Prof. Terman, the pioneer of present day Silicon Valley and Prof. Vijay Chandru, an Indian teacher, who along with fellow teachers, co-founded one of the most innovative companies in India were discussed.

Later Mr. Hiranmay Mahanta also took a session wherein he highlighted the effort, faculties and students can put together, to achieve the vision of transformation through innovation. He brought attention to some very persistent problems in India and how whiles our technology progresses, such problems persist. For example while we have now developed technology to find water on moon, the problems of finding water in areas of Kutch, Gujarat still persist. He asked the gathered faculties why our students can't work to innovate and solve a number of similar problems in our society.



“Through innovation creative mind accelerates the progress of science and technology as well as development of our country and solves our industrial problems indigenously and generates engineering expertise. GTU Innovation Council provides such platform to the students and faculty members.”

Dr. C. R. Maiti,

Director – L.J. Institute of Engineering and Technology

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The session ended with a small note by Mr. Manish Shah, vice president of the LJ group of Institutes where he whole heartedly welcomed the agenda of innovation in LJ group of institutes and assured full support to the agenda of GTU Innovation Council to further the efforts of innovations in academia.

He also declared that LJ institutes will work towards making a co-creation and innovation centre in the LJ group of colleges, where the students from across the departments will collaborate together to work on cross-domain innovations.

It was well appreciated after the session that teachers can play a critical role as a transformer during the innovation council movement. Special efforts were made to make it happen by trustee of LJ Mr. Manish Shah and Prof. Manish Gaharwar. More than 300 faculties participated during this mega efforts. All the principals of the campus supported the program:.

- Dr. P.K. Mehta, L.J. Institute of Management Studies.
- Dr. A. R. Prasanna, L.J. Institute of Computer Applications.
- Dr. C.R. Maiti, L.J. Institute of Engineering and Technology.
- Dr. Pundarikaksudu, L.J. Institute of Pharmacy.
- Prof. Jayant Deshpande, L.J. Institute of Pharmacy.
- Dr. Mahesh Kella, L.J. Institute of Polytechnic.
- Prof. Viral Shah, New L.J. Institute of Commerce.

“We will ensure to wipe out plagiarism in student projects by closely tracking individual students and will put in sincere efforts to eradicate paid project elements which are mushrooming in academic environment and henceforth contributing to academics in a way of its kind. We are making all possible efforts involving all our stakeholders and envisaging students as change makers. We will bring in experts from industries, academia and policy every month to interact with our students and faculties to keep them engaged and work even on some small but elegant practical challenges of MSMEs as suggested by GTU Innovation Council ”

Prof. Manish Gaharwar,

Head – L.J. Industry Interaction and Placement Cell, L.J. Group of Institutes

“Engineering; where Art, Creativity and Technology meet together, that converts into Innovation. And that Innovation requires Planning, Designing, Executing and Managing. Innovation is the field of study and a professional practice. With extraordinary improvement in the field of science and technology, Innovation has become an essential part in Engineering. Engineers with innovative approach are increasingly in demand.”

Dr. Mahesh Kella,

Director – L.J. Polytechnic

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Drafted by : Mr. Pinak Gajjar , Team GTU innovation Council and Mr. Yash Saxena

Special Thanks to Team GTU Innovation Council (GIC), who planned and executed the 1st of its kind attempt on “Teachers as a transformer “.

“Innovation should lead to deliverables then only they have some meaning and purpose.”

Dr. Pundarikaksudu,
Director – L.J. Institute of Pharmacy

“Our MCA students can look into real life problems of society and can apply their software engineering skills to solve them; also they can find various techniques for code optimization.”

Dr. A. R. Prasanna,
Director – L.J. Institute of Computer Applications