Students Start-up Support System (S4)

MAKING FINAL YEAR PROJECTS MORE INNOVATIVE

Two days Workshop for GTU Innovation Club Coordinators

Development of **Innovation Framework** for Final Year Projects in BE

Date: 2nd & 3rd August 2014   Time: 10:00 A.M to 17:00 P.M

Venue: Room-126, GTU S4 Co-Creation Center (S4-C3), ACPC Building, LDCE Complex, Ahmedabad-15

   GTU Innovation Council (GIC) organized 2 days workshop for faculty members on how to guide students for making final year projects more innovative. The workshop began with an interesting networking effort so that 117 faculty members get an idea about the efforts at different Colleges. Mr. Hiranmay Mahanta discussed the agenda and strategies being adopted at GIC and S4, keeping the students as the primary focus. He explained why and how IDP/UDP is important for final year students.

Ateet Bajaj and Mr. Kumar Manish took the faculty members through the tour of the process of crowd funding. He explained how after selecting the eight entries, a 4 week program was launched. During week-1 students got their projects right by properly finishing them. Week-2 included the incentive model which decides the target audience of the projects. The pitch presentation strategies were taken up during week 3. It included making a video of 2-3 minutes on their project. Week-4 was the final step which was to elaborate their ideas and to make a pitch for funds.

Picture: *Mr. Hiranmay Mahanta & Mr. Ateet Bajaj explaining crowd funding facilities for student projects to the faculty members during the 2 day workshop.*

Mr. Hiranmay Mahanta and Mr. Ateet Bajaj took the faculties through a tour of projects made by students during the recently finished CFI (Crowd funding Initiator) Program. They showed the videos and explained how very simple looking projects can bring major revolutions in the society.

Then a student named Yash shared his experience. who had created e-swasthiya, a student start-up, supported by S4 at GTU. Using e-swasthiya, patients can order their medicines by uploading a photo of their prescription using their smartphones. Another student named Karan who has created www.studentdesk.in where students can find their required study material and exchange them for free presented, how he succeeded in this goal with the support of S4. Then 2 final year students from NSIT-Jetalpur gave a power point presentation on how they found their project topic through the canvas method developed by GIC, based on the canvas at http://www.gtu.ac.in/circulars/14Jul/07072014_01.pdf

During the after lunch session, Mr Amit Patel explained various IPR related interventions like PSAR, PDE etc and their relevance during the innovation value chain. The faculty members were divided into 16 groups for the co-working tasks through which various innovation pedagogies were tested. The faculty members were asked to think from a student's perspective. Each team was given a topic and they were asked to find challenges and opportunities as students do in their IDP/UDP through the design thinking approach. Then the feedbacks of faculty members were taken to know what they have done through this method and what should be done further to improve these design thinking canvases to make the process more efficient and handy for the students.

Picture: *Mr. Hiranmay Mahanta with the GTU Innovation Club Coordinators during hands on exercises to test the innovation frameworks.*

Speakers /Mentors at GIC (GTU Innovation Council) during the workshop:

At the end of the first day the participants departed with enthusiasm since they were inspired by the approach and what they had been able to do for the students.

Day-2 (03/08/2014)

The session was conducted by Mr. K.Thyagrajan on the power of lateral thinking, after the breakfast networking meet at S4-C3. He appealed to all to believe in innovations and set new goals. He advised not to think that ' no one has done ' so 'you also cannot do'. Dr. Thyagrajan said 'Let us not kill the innovations and imaginations of students by old and classic excuses'.

Mr. Thyagrajan gave several examples of advantages and usefulness of lateral thinking over only logical thinking. He demonstrated that how students could can find their projects from the surrounding environment. Problems are around and we just need to see them and benchmark them. The skills of students can be polished by the experience and helping hand of the faculty members. Sometimes a spark is needed for an innovation. He advised to try to solve student's curiosity and shared that students become curious when introduced to the new things in the proper manner.

He added that "don't murder the ideas of the students, listen to them, understand their problems and show their innovations a right direction. Try to achieve same passion as a student, know their capabilities and last but not the least motivate them at a regular interval."

The next speaker, Mr. Ankit Machchar of iCreate, was introduced by Mr. Hiranmay Mahanta. Mr Machchar said that an inspiring ecosystem is a must for the development of the next generation. The existing ecosystems to promote student innovations were explained by a power point presentation during this session followed by questions and answers by all participating faculty members from various Innovation Clubs.

Then Mr. Yash Saxena a start-up expert and mentor of many design interventions at S4 took the next session on developing the canvas prepared during the 1st day of the workshop by the faculty members and explained the logic and impact of such efforts. He told them to log on to www.openfuel.org to upload their canvases with several pre-defined details. He elaborated on how to make product effective and comfortable for the users. He also explained the kind of special features, which should be added and which should not be added.

Then after the lunch Mr. Kaushik Akiwatkar from GIC gave a short presentation on various events that are conducted at S4-C3 space regularly to support the said policy interventions in the short and the long run. He described events like **Flash Venture, Business Model Canvas, Design Driven Innovation through Design Thinking and Crowd Funding Initiator**. He talked about the importance of S4 & C3 and how can they can promote S4 activities in their campuses through the **GTU Innovation Clubs** and **S4 Extension Centers**.

Then Mr. Hiranmay Mahanta, Honorary Director of GTU Innovation Council took the final session of the 2 days workshop telling about the various facets of the innovation holy grail. He said that S4 is a much needed intervention to create university innovation ecosystem. He discussed about the importance of innovations, direction of innovations and motivation by faculties to the student in positive direction. He added that there should be a reward system for every innovation (not necessarily monetary) as it will inspire many more to innovate. He told about the **golden triangle of creativity** which includes **Innovation & traditional knowledge**, **Enterprise** and **Investment** as conceived by Honeybee network and others. He said 'problems are around us and wished all to try to find them and solve them

rather than living with them for decade and waiting for someone to solve them'. Through a power point presentation, hHe showed some examples related to his talk. He said that given a full support to the young innovators within colleges across GTU, many dozens of teams can successfully convert their final year project to successful student start-ups. He shared about various policy interventions happening in Kerala and other states.

The GIC team shared that **such interventions are 1ˢᵗ of its kind in the history of affiliated type universities in India.** He wished that GTU should maintain a significant lead in such endeavors by banking on the support from each GTU Innovation Club coordinator and help India in harnessing its true potential of demographic dividend.

Faculty members were very pleased by such type of efforts made by GIC to develop the ecosystem and help bringing in new pedagogic interventions. The GTU Innovation Club Coordinators said that they had learnt many new things and were willing to implement them across their colleges. They all committed to train every single final year team doing IDP/UDP after going back to their respective colleges.

FEEDBACKS

from faculty members/GTU Innovation Club coordinators after this two days workshop to develop and test various innovation pedagogies for final year students

Workshop organized during 2nd and 3rd August, 2014 gives more clear idea about fusion of ideas into engineering in a structured manner. This process would clarify to the students their target area of research along with important aspect that need to be taken care of while carrying out their work. So far, they felt confusion of "what and how to carry out work?" More and more capacity building (for faculties) in a structured and systematic manner is required if we are looking forward to have result from clubs.

Prof. Bhasker Vijaykumar Bhatt
(042-Sarvajanik College of Engineering & Technology, Surat)

This kinds of activities will be very much useful to students. They will improve their ability by making their projects innovative. Such activities should be organized for students once in every two months.

Prof. Anirudhdha M. Nayak
(012-Gandhinagar Institute Of Technology, Gandhinagar)

This kind of activities will help the students to some innovative works. Moreover students know what engineering is all about. It was a good experience and we tried and succeeded in ideation canvas chart. Such type of activities should be organized once in a month.

Prof. Ravi Khatri
(103-Om Institute of Technology , Panchmahal)

It was really a good experience. Such activities should be repeated often. It will bring good results & help to create innovative projects. Such type of activities should be organized once in a month.

Prof. Ghiwala Gopal D.
(Samarth college of Engg & Technology, Himmatnagar)

Report Compiled by: Meet Soni, Jaydeep Zala, Zeal Shah (NSIT Students and GIC fellows)

Kaushik Akiwatkar (GTU Innovation Council)