

Entrepreneurship Workshop, 25th February 2012



On 25th Feb 2011, GTU organized its first entrepreneurship workshop. The workshop was attended by both faculties and students in large numbers. The workshop marked the beginning of the new initiative in entrepreneurship –S4: Student Startup Support System- by GTU. Under the initiative GTU will instill the culture of entrepreneurship in the students of GTU and turn them from job seekers to job creators.



Hon. Vice Chancellor, GTU, Dr. Akshai Agarwal delivering inaugural address

The event was inaugurated by Honorable Vice Chancellor of GTU, Dr. Akshai Agarwal. During his inaugural address he said that entrepreneurship is the next logical step after innovation. The innovations by the students need to be commercialized and converted into entrepreneurial ventures to complete the full cycle of innovation, commercialization and value creation for society. He asked students to address the unmet needs of Indian society through social innovations and social enterprises. He said these needs have gone un-noticed

since years but young people must no longer ignore such problems. He also encouraged the students to start young as entrepreneurs and add value to not just themselves but also society.



Dr. Virkram Parmar, Joint –Director, VentureStudios

Dr. Vikram Parmar, Joint-Director, VentureStudios also explained to the audience about the process of organized scaling up of entrepreneurial ventures. The event was also attended by two young entrepreneurs from Ahmedabad- Mr. Sharad Parikh and Mr. Manish Lunja. These young entrepreneurs told students their story of failing and trying again to set up their own ventures.



Sharad Parikh, Founder-CEO, Solex Enterprises
interacting with students

Sharad Parikh who is still pursuing his engineering is already successfully running a company with its turnover running into millions. He said that those who are thinking of starting up as entrepreneurs must take out the idea that to be an entrepreneur you need to hail from great education institutes. He said that anybody who has the courage must plunge into this field.

Manish who is running an outsourcing startup also retraced his story of how he experimented with different business models and different combinations of partnerships before his present venture worked. How he was deserted by his friends, even cheated during his entrepreneurial journey but he just kept learning and kept moving forward.

The interactions with these young entrepreneurs were held to convince the students that they can start early as entrepreneurs and therefore must not wait but start thinking for their entrepreneurial ideas right away.



Manish Lunja, Founder-CEO, Tippling Lead interacting with students



Students and Faculties listen to the experiences of entrepreneurs



Students interacting during the idea generation session

The second half of the workshop consisted of an idea generation session where the students were split into teams from different colleges. The students were asked to think of a business idea in a short time among them. The teams independently came up with interesting business ideas within a short span of time and presented them to all others team. The session allowed the students to brainstorm and think in an entrepreneurial manner.



Students Brainstorming







The team ideas were then discussed by all the teams and two best ideas were chosen by all the teams in a democratic fashion along with the inputs of the judges. However more than the ideas generated it was the initiation of the process of entrepreneurial thinking among the participants which was the main highlight of the session.

The students enjoyed the session and all students stayed till the end of the day long workshop. Some students have written back to us after the event that the event inspired them to take up their ideas seriously and turn them into ventures.

“Before 4 days I had nothing, not great whopping marks, nothing fancy. I only had one good idea and attending entrepreneurship work shop, I am in process of commercializing it”

- A student of Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Technical Education and Research Center - MGITER , Navsari

