

BUILDING REGIONAL INNOVATION AND STUDENT STARTUP ECOSYSTEM

Date: 02nd January 2018

Venue: Birla Vishwakarma Mahavidhyalaya, V.V. Nagar

INTRODUCTION:

Under the innovative leadership of Hon' Vice Chancellor, GTU, Dr. Navin Sheth and Honorary Director, GIC, Dr. Hiranmay Mahanta, GTU Innovation Council has established regional centres for Innovation and Startups at Ahmedabad, Baroda, Surat and Rajkot. The prime objective of GTU Innovation Council is to inculcate creative mindset that enables to solve the problems of industry as well as the society. Through this program, GIC aimed to improve the quality of final year projects and also helped students to start thinking differently with an innovative approach that adds value to the society. GIC also encourages the development of close linkages with industries that will help to develop improved products, processes and research work among students which indeed creates startup ecosystem in colleges. GIC works as a catalyst to rejuvenate the technological education. Today, GIC seems to be successful in igniting the spark of innovative thinking among students and that has driven them towards Startup Revolution, by organizing workshops like 3-D printing, Robotics and many more.

OBJECTIVE:

The purpose is to decentralize the student innovation and startup support ecosystem so that innovators can fetch the benefits at their doorsteps. With the presence of overall 30 GTU affiliated colleges of Engineering, Pharmacy, MCA, MBA and with over 24 Sankuls in V.Vnagar (Zone 3)[Fig 1.1], GIC felt the need to sensitize its students and give them the opportunity to realize their full potential in order to know that they can think, explore beyond boundaries and limitations.

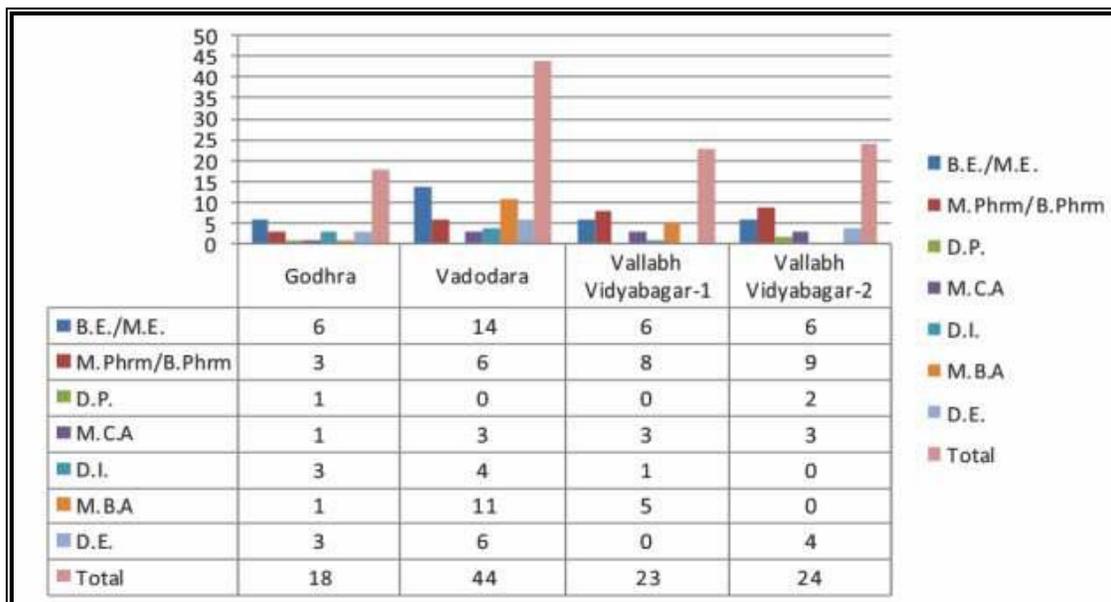


Fig. 1.1 Lists of Sankuls in Zone 3

ABOUT THE EVENT:

The program consisted of 3 phases that dealt with the importance of creating Innovation and Student Startup Culture which was then followed by a panel discussion between the academicians and the Startup committee; and lastly the Joint Action Agenda for innovation clubs in zone 3.

The commencement of the occasion was done by Dr. Bhargav C. Goradiya, Head of the newly formed Incubation Cell at BVM Engineering College, along with the keynote address of the honorable chief guest by Dr. Tejal R. Gandhi, Principal of Anand Pharmacy College who briefly articulated her views regarding the different stages of Design Thinking. Dr. L. B. Zala, Dean of III (Industry Institute Interaction) at BVM College, thereafter expressed the dynamism undertaken by the College to promote Industrial Interaction among Students. Further, Mr. Nikhil Suthar, Founder of Profism Startup, who enthralled the young minds to think innovatively even from customer’s perspective which will enable them to solve the problems of society in general. Lastly, Prof. Tushar Panchal, GIC Coordinator elucidated the initiatives taken by GIC to promote Innovation and Student Startup Culture.



- **What different one must do to become an innovator and Start-up early in life**

The panel composed of Mr. Mohak Kabaria, Founder of Somras; Dr. Ketan Tamboli, Head of Mechatronics dept. , GCET College; Mr. Rohit Dave, International Motivational Speaker; Mr. Dhananjay Suthar, Founder of Sahaay & a GIC Associate; Dr. Bhargav C. Goradiya and Mr. Nikhil Suthar and the discussion was led by Prof. Tushar Panchal Sir. Dr. Bhargav Sir gave a problem to the audience which enabled them to think differently which could solve the problem of marketing behind Auto rickshaws while travelling which could have the potential to outreach a greater community. However, Dhananjay emphasized the current generation to change from within in such a different manner that empowers them to be the driving force of this Innovation Revolution. Mr. Mohak Kabaria shared his entrepreneurial journey of ups and downs, how he tried to overcome the hurdles faced by him, inspite of the limitations to access the necessary resources. Lastly, Mr. Rohit Dave concluded the panel discussion by saying that India is a country, that foreign countries look for when it needs human resources; he created an impulsive impact on the minds of students and the faculties, that we have the potential to reach great heights, besides if we use the modern technological resources available to us, wisely and effectively.

There might be question in the readers' mind, what if an individual is interested in supporting the Student Startup culture; that's when Anushka Shah and Hetang Bhavsar elucidated the GIC Student Associateship Program. Subsequently, Vivek Kewalramani briefed the Action Plan for Innovation Clubs and Local Ecosystem Stakeholders where club coordinators are supposed to organize at least 3 workshops on latest technologies every month and conduct capacity building workshops for students. Moreover, the clubs were told to meet every week, in order to maintain the progress and inspect the impact created in their respective

institutions. In conclusion, based on the received feedback, the event was effective enough to leave long lasting impression regarding Innovation and Ecosystem Building.



FEEDBACKS:

“Audience was really enthusiastic and students had a really creative mindset, some of them had great ideas and were really interested in getting it implemented.”

-Dhananjay Suthar

“The work done by GIC is really inspiring since past years and it was really fruitful interacting with them as I got knowledge of some really great ideas and methodologies and the working system.”

-Jay Raval

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“Innovation is my interest area and I have been into it since past 2 years and was looking for mentoring and assistance; it was great meeting and getting to know about what GIC does. I got a lot of guidance and would want to associate with them sooner.”

-Maitri Panchal

“It was my first time when I had to present among such huge audience but GIC helped me gain the confidence and helped me do something out of fear. The response was really great and looking forward to do many more such events.”

-Anushka Shah

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