

Workshop on Entrepreneurial Universities: The Future of Indian Universities

CONCEPT NOTE:

Historically, universities have been a place of imparting education and pushing the frontiers of knowledge. In addition, universities have also contributed to the local economic development through employment generation, skill development and skill enhancement of the workforce. However, with an increase in challenges to the concept of the university as '*protected place for individual research and teaching in pursuit of truth*', universities started responding with relevance in research in terms of application and commercialization for the benefit of the society at large.

Creation of new ventures to commercialize university research is potentially a significant mechanism to attach meaning to research output which can be of benefit to the universities as well as society. Governments in various countries have introduced many initiatives to promote university spinoffs by way of legislative changes/modifications, economic support in the form of university funding and enabling technology licensing. In the Indian context, commercialization of research is rather new and unfamiliar activity. Creating a successful university spinoff requires different competencies when compared to core academic missions of teaching and research. To add to this, legislations to promote commercialization have been debated.

At macro level, role of government in promoting entrepreneurial universities cannot be undermined. The most well-known and celebrated example being the Bayh-Dole Act of 1980 of the United States of America which assigned the ownership of IPR to universities. The subsequent rise in patenting and licensing at US universities proved the importance of such legislation empirically. Bayh-Dole later on was emulated by the majority of European countries where IPR ownership was assigned to universities, rather than being held by academics. However, Canada follows a different model that provided for individual universities to formulate and effectuate intellectual property policy frameworks to encourage researchers for the creation of entrepreneurial ventures. The bedrock of both the models was the creation of enterprise but the pursuit was through different paths.

If observed at the country level, investment freedom, ease of doing business and unemployment rate are strong predictors of the success of the nation. Flow of investment capital for individuals and firms to move their resources into and out of specific activities can determine the success of

a research output. Higher-levels of bureaucracy may hinder entrepreneurial behaviors, especially the intention and likelihood of entry. Similarly, countries with higher unemployment rates, may originate less high-tech entrepreneurship compared to those with lower rates.

At the university level, control factors, when it comes to determination of commercialization of research outputs are foundation year, university size, sponsored research expenditure, prior knowledge of technology transfer activities and intellectual eminence. It is easy to believe that older the university, the higher the prestige and higher its impact. There has also been proof that universities with higher number of faculty, research staff and students may effectively predict and transfer research to market. Amount of money secured by university from for-profit firms which are takers of commercialized research also dictate the success of spinoff to a great extent. Intellectual eminence in terms of research publications are also a strong predictor of spinoff generation and success.

This Workshop is aimed to act as a potential platform for thought leaders from government, bureaucracy, industry and academia to share their views and explore potential modifications at institutional, country and legislative level for promotion of entrepreneurial universities in India. The Workshop will also facilitate identification of knowledge and practice gaps. The deliberations would provide opportunities to all those interested in creating and sustaining entrepreneurial universities.

The Workshop is designed keeping in mind dialogic mode of inquiry. Three panel discussions around key themes would invite distinguished guests from government, industry and academia.

THEME 1: CONCEPTUALIZING ENTREPRENEURIAL UNIVERSITIES IN INDIAN CONTEXT

Though the term entrepreneurial university has existed for over a decade now, yet there is no consensus on the definition of entrepreneurial university. The west has taken an approach which encompasses a holistic understanding of entrepreneurial university as place which fosters a culture of creating public value through university research. It also advocates role of various stakeholders such as government, universities, public investors and business firms. In Indian context, it becomes very important for stakeholders at all levels to have an operational understanding of what entrepreneurial universities mean. This panel discussion aims at generating an operational understanding keeping a multitude of audiences in mind.

THEME 2: RESEARCH TO REALITY: POLICY DRIVEN FACILITATORS

While evidence is aplenty when it comes to usefulness of Acts like Bayh-Dole Act of 1980 in creation of entrepreneurial universities little has happened in India on policy front. In the year 2008, a bill called “The Protection and Utilization of Public Funded Intellectual Property Bill” was moved. It was drafted by the National Knowledge Commission and was heavily inspired by the American Bayh Dole Act. It proposed a set of directives for the inventions, innovations or

technologies derived from state funded research. Enshrined in its objective, it sought "to provide incentives to increase innovations, collaborations, licensing and commercialization in India." The Bill aimed to motivate research in universities and had provisions to facilitate transfer of technology to the industry for commercial purpose. University startups would be a natural outcome. The Bill subsequently lapsed raising concerns over the intention of the legislature.

THEME 3: CREATING ENTREPRENEURIAL SCHEMATICS: UNIVERSITY LEVEL CHALLENGES AND POSSIBILITIES

While universities can do little when it comes to factors beyond their control such as year of establishment, conducive government policies, etc. They can certainly try and increase their focus on application of research that is done within their campuses and laboratories. Reporting of research outcomes to interested stakeholders and communicating the same to the industry might also help in commercialization of research output. This panel discussion will aim at generation of much needed insights on *what* universities can do to sail smoothly in the turbulent waves of increased scrutiny, external pressures and fund raising.

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| Welcome Address | |
| KEY NOTE ADDRESS | Changing Realm of Universities to Entrepreneurial Universities |
| TEA BREAK | |
| PANEL DISCUSSION - 1 | Conceptualizing Entrepreneurial Universities in Indian Context |
| LUNCH | |
| PANEL DISCUSSION - 2 | Research to Reality: Policy Driven Facilitators |
| TEA | |
| PANEL DISCUSSION - 3 | Creating Entrepreneurial Schematics: University level challenges and possibilities |
| Vote of Thanks | |