

NPIU

National Project Implementation Unit



A Report on TEQIP-III sponsored technical visit to Innovation and Entrepreneurship Cell, IIT Gandhinagar.

Following four faculty members,

Prof. Sunil A Bakhru: Computer Engineering,

Prof. Narendra M Patel: Computer Engineering,

Prof. Ajay A Daiya: Electronics Engineering

Prof. Zakhna Shah: Information Technology

visited the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Cell IIT Gandhinagar, on 17/07/2018.

The purpose of the visit was to see the various activities of the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Cell (IIEC Cell) at IIT Gandhinagar, with a view to consider possible implementation of some of the activities at our own institute.

As a part of the visit, we received information about the way students carry out projects at IIT Gandhinagar, and the steps undertaken by the institute to create and enhance the innovation and entrepreneurial ambience.

We were taken to the Tinkering Lab of the IIEC cell, where it was fun to see students trying and developing novel gadgets out of old and outplaced technological equipment of the institute.

Students carry out projects by:

1. Trying out ideas in the tinkering lab.
2. Taking a project with the industry,
3. Getting funding from the Institute for the project, based on the strength of the project idea.
4. Carrying out internship at IIT Gandhinagar itself, under a faculty, under one their highly successful scheme known as Summer Research Internship Program (SRIP).

To take up these projects for the commercialization and thus to promote the entrepreneurial culture at IIT Gandhinagar, the institute offers various elective subjects in such areas and also offers a minor-ship program in management, where few subjects of entrepreneurship are bundled together.

Institute also offers a subject of Design Engineering across all engineering disciplines, for making students get deeper insight into designing people centric products.

The IIEC Cell conducts some short courses such as those spread over one or two weekends. These course, however carry no credits.

IIT Gandhinagar students are encouraged to take up Summer Internships under the institutions highly successful Summer Research Internship Program (SRIP), under which students work on project ideas floated by the IIT Gandhinagar faculty members work during summers. Many successful works are taken further to satisfy requirements for the Project subject.

We visited the Incubation cell of IIEC, where for the students who are interested in taking up the project idea further for commercialization. This Centre welcomes the technological idea from any student from India including students from IIT Gandhinagar. Here candidates are offered space and development infrastructure, connectivity to professionals, investors and business networks, connecting them to the right mentors to develop and scale up their technology or products, offering help in identifying their market, for legal and intellectual property related guidance and also for limited finance.

IIEC Cell conducts a two-yearly event such as INNOVATION@IIT Gandhinagar under which it invites innovative project entries from students of all IITs, and best entries are selected for further encouragement and possible product development. Gradually the institute plans to open up this event for all engineering colleges of India. We actually attended a presentation by one of the participant teams.

We were fortunate to meet and interact with the participants at the centre's Tinkering lab, Incubation Cell and few candidates of the INNOVATION competition.

We were introduced to Mr. Nirmal Jha, adviser to IIEC cell, who takes keen interest in organizing events like INNOVATION@IIT Gandhinagar.

We were also taken around institution's Creative Learning Initiative lab where teaching is imparted to school children through creative toy like models.

Our team received a very encouraging response from Mr. Anand Pandey, Manager, Commercialization, who took us around all the laboratories and enthusiastically discussed with us all the activities of the IIEC cell and IIT Gandhinagar initiatives in such areas.





Report by Prof. Sunil A Bakhru with inputs from all the participants.