

“Utilizing Lockdown Time Towards Nurturing Research & Innovation Mindset”

Report by: Rukhsar Munshi

11th Startup Sathi Webinar organised by i-Hub dated 19th April, 2020

Speaker: Dr. Unnat Pandit, Program Director, NITI Ayog

Moderator: Mr Hiranmay Mahanta, Director, GTU Innovation Council

Objective: The objective of the webinar is to deliver the proper direction to nurture research & innovation skill by taking the best advantage of opportunities and fulfil the need of serving our societies in the current scenario of lockdown.

Topics of discussion:

- ❖ Lockdown period is the best opportunity to explore and learn new things for researchers & innovators.
- ❖ Importance of Research & Innovation activity: R & I is not just realising your imagination, idea and innovation journey, if you are connected with any infrastructure and physical laboratory, your paper work can really sharpen your skills. Innovative mind only requires the perception and can really design useful things for serving society.
- ❖ SSIIIP is wonderful initiative that helps to shape our idea. After doing basic research, we can convert into business model by nurturing our design, develop & manufacturing skill. Instead of just knowing the problem, we should visualised it.
- ❖ In current outbreak, as social distancing is required to be maintained, we are trying to keep our self-protected.
Ex. How we can avoid touching an object and stop getting infected is a challenge today. Researchers may take it as an opportunity and can develop a touch free products like switches can be replaced with low frequency motion sensor which can be installed in elevators and houses.
- ❖ Social need & developing proof of concept are mainly considered & developed by individual. One has to understand the social need and utilise innovative idea.
- ❖ Best research includes 2 main things
How we can identify the problem, how we can design the solution with best of our knowledge
- ❖ You can design solution by
 - The kind of need which is required
 - Equipment
 - Plan of Experiments
 - What is known in literature
- ❖ Research skills: Information is flooding on internet; we can learn which is relevant information for us with right perspective. This is what research skill which helps us. Instead of just knowing the problem, we should visualised it.
- ❖ In the covid-19 situation we can develop a machine or a robot for helping whole community.
- ❖ Researchers need to nurture their innovation skill and mindset, this is the need of time.
- ❖ Start-up must convert their imagination to opportunity, we need the solution that can help the society and our ecosystem.

- ❖ We need to learn basic science and utilise it into the practice, we should also learn domestic design innovation.
- ❖ Researchers can take best advantages of opportunities by identifying the right problem, which is the need of time
Ex. Mahindra Group started manufacturing Ventilators
- ❖ Initiatives taken by Atal Group to promote start-up: It utilises learning in the benefits of society, going to create the creators and support the aspiring innovators.
 - Atal Innovation
 - Atal Incubation Centre
 - Atal new India challenges: It offers the opportunities to new such researchers and innovators. They define the problem statement and invite the problem solution from start-up, researchers & MSMEs.
- ❖ Mentoring: sometimes money can't do the things, Mentors can do. They organise online knowledge sharing sessions, this time is best opportunity for them also.
- ❖ Start-up India: researchers can enrol them self, if they like to offer the solution in this covid - 19 outbreak situation. They can have commercial & financial support
- ❖ Conclusion: We are in the right time when opportunities are knocking the door. If you would like to explore the opportunities, it's time to nurture our research skills by designing health care products, medical devices and equipment and other needs of society We are in high demand of it, we should prepare our mindset for utilising lockdown period

Zoom Link: <https://tinyurl.com/ybwolngy>

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