
RESEARCH PARK IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS - WHY?

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Abstract

Today success in the global market place means creativity and applying new knowledge – which is to say new technology-faster than ones competitors. World winners will be those who develop talent, technologies, techniques and tools so advanced that there id no competition. The paper prescribes “dream big” for universities and colleges. They should aim at technology generation, technology diffusion, which is achieving his significance in enabling a nation to win. This paper emphasizes adoption of new organizational inventions like Research Park-technology work, which when implemented will contribute to India’s international competitiveness.

Keywords: *Research Park, Teaching, Profit Center, Meeting Minds, Global Competitiveness*

Introduction

Good teaching in classrooms and labs is necessary but not enough. It has to be supplemented with learning innovation, creativity and research skills for which a research park is necessary. Institutes and industry are interdependent. One without the support of other cannot stand high. Research Park is a project to be established in partnership preferably with the alumni entrepreneurs and industry. All the partners, namely colleges, alumni and industry could share development and its management besides the cost and benefits. Research, innovation and testing of materials labs which are costly could be established as common facility centre. It generates wealth and employment. Research Park is a source of income. It is not a financial liability. As is fees from students so Research Park an income source for college. It increases rate of return from investment in college. Besides, it is a mechanism to build synergy between industry and institutes. Establishment of Research Park in universities and autonomous college is recommended by Anil Kakodkar committee in its report to government of Maharashtra. The report says China in the recent past has installed more than 300 Research Parks. It is more an account of them that the institutions have become innovative in character. This paper explains how to go about.

Research Park – The Meaning

Research Park is a joint effort between an academic institution and industry. It provides a common platform of both industry and academic personnel for innovation, creativity, technology generation and product/process development. It binds together the two namely industry and institutes for mutual growth and prosperity. It is a place where innovative minds of students and professors and one hand are matched with innovative minds in industry on the other. Research Parks are play driver’s role in development of China. Research Park found to be a means of convert intellectual capital of both the university and industry into usable goods and services.

Research Parks in Educational Institutions – Why?

Knowledge is power. It changes lives of people. It converts a liability into asset. The world due to rapid advances in science and technologies in changing fast. Change is accelerating by globalization and liberalization. The changes are essential to make a need of the Research Park as follows;

Research Park as Profit Centre

It generates wealth and employment. Research Park is a source of income. It is not a financial liability. As is fees from students so is Research Park an income source for college. It increases the rate of return from investment in college. Besides, it is a mechanism to build synergy between industry and institutes. In addition it enables university to upgrade quality of UG, PG and Ph.D programmes. It converts research output into patents and IPR and makes their commercial exploitation. It generates surplus after meeting all the expenses and plough it back in continuing basis to further research. It enables university to be the 'Light House' for industry.

Research Park as a Place of Innovative Meeting Minds

Research Park is a common platform, where innovative minds for industry and innovative minds from academics meet. Professors of university and colleges along with scholar students meet industry personnel to exchange each others progressive ideas and stretch imagination to bring them to reality. It is a place meant for cross fertilization of ideas in addition to giving feedback for making education more relevant and purposeful. Research Park is meant more for giving birth to new technology based firms.

Research Park Increase Institutions out Reach Far and Wide

Institutions world over with Research Park are observed to be enriching them and augmenting new ideas besides budget support for future growth. They are getting well integrated with society and industry. Universities by virtue of Research Park and knowledge in it have moved to the center of development, they have become drivers of economic and social prosperity. The vision and mission of the universities then become dynamic, adaptive based on sharing off the shelf irrelevant prescriptions. Programmes and events in the park are consciously designed to encourage networking among innovators, entrepreneurs and investors.

Incubating Talent for Global Competitiveness

Universities abroad essentially have Research Parks, Science Parks, incubators, patent and IPR centers, entrepreneurship centers which get majority of universities in India do not have. In the absence of which innovation talent remains idle and under developed. Returns from investment in university and colleges are less. We are importing technology and foreignness are exporting. Bright students are migrating to greenest pastures. Knowledge IPR has become more important than resources. Indian universities may like now to be more innovative in character

and become enterprising. It should enable the talent to grow to the level it is capable for. Research Park is a magnet to attract and retain talent. It has the potential to arrest brain drain and bring back provisionally gone, to convert it in brain grain.

Research Park Organizations – The Organization

Public private participation model consisting of some or all of the following is recommended.

- Local industry association,
- State industrial corporation,
- Leading banks,
- Leading industrialist,
- Leading persons from IIT incubators, STEP IIT, UKT as advisor,
- Organizational head and professors,
- Municipal cooperation.

Developing Research Park – The Steps

The following steps should follow to develop Research Park in any type of educational institution.

- Develop awareness among industry and academic personnel,
- Prepare a project proposal,
- Discuss and make critical analysis of the proposal,
- Obtain approval from government, obtain grant,
- Appointed head,
- Collaborate nationally and internationally,
- Appoint expert advisors,
- Appoint a separate governing board,
- Depute people to attend international conferences of Association of Science/Research Park.

Research Parks – The Steps

It is mostly used to make the individual effort and skills on researches on industries. The list of purpose of Research Park is given below,

- To provide an organizational base.
- To transfer technology through start-UPS in Hi-tech.
- To attract and stimulate research, innovation patent and IPR and centre of excellence in close collaboration with industrial world.
- To develop entrepreneurship culture, research and innovation culture.
- To enable students to reach out to industry at global level.
- To reduce time gap between invention and its applications.
- To conduct strategic research in conjunctions with industry.
- To make both the university and industry more enterprising.

- To develop bond between institute and industry.
- To apply findings of research done in industry.
- To create knowledge based society that is to say technological society.
- To enable university graduates to start companies.

Conclusion

India dreams to become a technology power in the world which could be made possible by adopting world best policies and practices and not without them. The sermons of national knowledge commission must forthwith be heard and implemented. Institution must be governed, managed and maintained by following world proven academic principles. Permitting mobility; of professors and establishing transactional collaborations between the institutions is essential. Professors should be enabled to rise to international standards for which suitable schemes must be designed. "The success in international competition depends now on turning intellectual strength into marketable commodities for which Research Park is the mechanism".

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