

IIC, NCIDE organizes a Festival of Ideas for IGNOU Students

A Festival of Ideas was organized by the Institution's Innovation Council (IIC), NCIDE, for its students on February 28 and 1st March, 2019 at IGNOU, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi. In this Festival, an 'Idea Competition' was held to showcase and recognise the innovative ideas of the IGNOU students.

For the **Idea Competition**, over one hundred IGNOU students had submitted their original and creative ideas, which can solve the problems of daily life in the fields of Food, Agriculture and Rural Development, Clean Energy and Alternate Fuel, Clean Water and Water Management, *Swacchhata* Initiatives and Waste Management, Health Care and Hygiene, Education and Open University System, Smart Transportation and Traffic Management. Before the Festival, these ideas were evaluated and selected on the basis of their novelty, complexity, clarity and details, feasibility, practicability, sustainability, scale of impact, cost effectiveness and future prospects, etc. The selected students were invited to participate and present their ideas in the Festival.

In the inaugural session, Dr. O. P. Sharma, Director, NCIDE and President, IIC, said that this kind of event was organized for the first time at IGNOU and hoped that the students benefitted from it. Dr. Jyotsna Dikshit, Deputy Director said that the students should enthusiastically carry out the spirit of innovation forward. Dr. P. V. Suresh, Associate Professor, SOCIS said that the students have been rigorously evaluated and this effort of NCIDE is laudable. Such kind of events should be organized frequently, he added. Dr. Sujata Santosh wished the students all the success in their endeavour of transforming their ideas into innovations. Prof. P.K.Biswas congratulated the students for getting selected and hoped to interact more with them in the Festival. He brought to the attention of the students the need to be empathetic while generating innovative ideas.

A poster exhibition and oral presentations of the ideas were organised during the Festival. A panel of judges evaluated the posters and prototypes. The oral presentations of the participants were also evaluated by the judges. Three winners were selected on the basis of the criteria of clarity of idea, background research, implementation strategy, social relevance, cost effectiveness, do-ability and business potential. The three selected winners were awarded trophies and certificates.

Further, the students were mentored and nurtured through a workshop for developing a business plan to work on their ideas. A session on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) was taken by Dr. Suneet K. Srivastava, Assistant Professor, School of Law, IGNOU. She explained the different types of IPR and elaborated on the patents. She explained how patents could be obtained, and the do's and don'ts of IPR. A talk by Mr. Rajnish Prajapat, a 22 year old successful entrepreneur who has created successful startup companies, was arranged for the students. His talk was about his journey as an innovator and entrepreneur. His talk motivated the students. A session was organized on Design Thinking, in which the resource person was Professor Prabir Kr. Biswas, Professor, STRIDE, IGNOU. He elaborated on the various steps of the design thinking process and explained how this method could be used to carry out innovations. He emphasized on empathy and the need to know the needs of the end user while designing innovations. Dr. Anupriya Pandey took a session on Business Plan development where she explained the need and the process of developing a business plan. She elaborated of the different elements that needed to be taken into consideration in developing a business plan. The final session was taken by Dr. Sanjiv Mittal, Professor, GGSIP University, Delhi on Business

Plan analysis. He explained how to examine the elements of the business plan thoroughly to bring out a well-designed business plan for investors.

This Festival provided the IGNOU students a unique opportunity to showcase their ideas and vision, and develop business plans for transforming their unique ideas into innovations.

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Convener IIC, IGNOU





