

Report of

InnovationClub@IGNOU

(2015-2016)



**National Centre for Innovation in Distance Education
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Introduction

InnovationClub@IGNOU

Innovation is considered to be the key for growth and development of an institute. In order to promote the culture of innovation in the country, the Government of India has declared this decade as the innovation Decade. Moreover, recently the Hon'ble President of India as Visitor of Central Universities has also emphasized on the need of innovation in the education sector. Hon'ble President of India as well as the Hon'ble HRM has asked all the central Universities to constitute Innovation Clubs in the Universities. In view of this, the NCIDE also formulated an InnovationClub@IGNOU in April 2015. Though the NCIDE has already being promoting innovation in the university, the formation of InnovationClub@IGNOU will further strengthened the drive to create the culture of innovation in the University and monitor the faculty and students to do innovations.

Objectives of the InnovationClub@IGNOU

The basic objectives of the InnovationClub@IGNOU are as follows :

- to contribute creatively and actively in the innovation related activities of NCIDE,
- to generate awareness about creativity and innovations in the ODL System,
- to identify the grass-root level innovations by the faculty and the students of IGNOU as well as the ODL System, and
- to create a network of innovators and create a culture of innovation.

Proposed Activities of InnovationClub@IGNOU

In order to meet the objectives of the InnovationClub@IGNOU, a verity of activities are organized on regular basis. Some of such important activities initiated by the Club are as follows :

1. Organizing periodic meetings of the club members to generate new ideas and explore and identify innovations by students, faculty, and staff of IGNOU and the ODL System.
2. Invite students, teachers and staff members to share their innovative ideas and skills and showcase their innovative products and processes.
3. Organizing awareness campaign on Creativity and Innovations within IGNOU and across the ODL System in the country.
4. Organizing various competitions like quiz, debates, posters, etc. on innovation and creativity.

5. Provide a platform to the students, faculty and staff to be engaged in the activities and programmes related to NCIDE.
6. Contribution to the e-news letter/journal on innovation published by NCIDE.
7. To set up and coordinate the innovation club at Regional Centres/Study Centres of IGNOU.

Members of InnovationClub@IGNOU

Initially the following were the founder members of the proposed club :

1. Prof. S. V. S. Chaudhary, Professor, School of Education
2. Prof. Anu Aneja, Director, SOGDS
3. Prof. Madhu Parhar, Professor, STRIDE
4. Prof. M. K. Salooja, Professor, SOA
5. Dr. C. K. Ghosh, Regional Director, Dwarka
6. Dr. Shubha Gokhale, Associate Professor, SOS
7. Dr. Biplab Jamatia, Assistant Professor, SOHS
8. Ms. Neerja Sood, Assistant Professor, SOHS
9. Dr. Hemlata, Deputy Director, NCDS
10. Dr. Shubhangi Vaidya, Assistant Professor, SOITS
11. Ms. Jatinder Jit Kour, Producer, EMPC
12. Dr. Mukesh Kumar, Assistant Professor, SOA
13. Dr. Nisha Singh, Deputy Director, IUC
14. Dr. Moumita Das, Assistant Director, NCIDE
15. Ms. Sujata Santosh, Assistant Director, NCIDE
16. Dr. Jyotsna Dikshit, Deputy, NCIDE
17. Dr. O. P. Sharma, Director, NCIDE

However, the club aims towards engaging as many students, faculty and staff as possible in the innovative activities of the university.

Brain Storming meeting of InnovationClub@IGNOU

The first meeting of the InnovationClub@IGNOU was held on April 13, 2015 at the conference room of NCIDE. The basic objectives of the meeting were to discuss the activities visualized for the club and get feedback and suggestions of the members in this regard. Total 14 members were present in the meeting.

First of all, Dr. Jyotsna Dikshit, then Director, NCIDE welcomed the members and gave a brief introduction about the genesis of the club, its objectives and the proposed activities. She informed that in order to promote the culture of innovation in the country, the Government of India has declared this decade as the innovation Decade. Further she said that recently the Hon'ble President of India as Visitor of Central Universities has also emphasized on the need of innovation in the education sector. Hon'ble President of India as well as the Hon'ble HRM has asked all the central universities to constitute Innovation Clubs in the Universities.

All the members appreciated it and hoped that it will inspire others towards innovation. Some of the members wanted to know about the innovative activities done by the NCIDE. In response to it, Dr. Jyotsna Dikshit briefed them about the innovations and prototypes developed at NCIDE. Thereafter, the members were requested to give their views and ideas to make the club more effective and useful for the students, faculty and the staff of the university. After discussion on different aspects of the club, following suggestion points emerged :

1. Prof. Madhu Parhar suggested that the innovation club activities may be extended to other Open Universities and even to the directorates of distance education in other universities.
2. Further she said that the club can be a good platform to discriminate the innovations done by the IGNOU Staff and Faculty. She suggested few focus areas for innovations such as designing better SLM, counseling in different way, preparing blended video programmes on few units, designing innovative question papers, etc.
3. She wanted that the NIDE may develop an application software for handling the applications and cases at Vigilance Cell. For this a separate meeting was suggested to discuss in detail.
4. Dr. Biplab suggested to develop mobile apps for students on different problems. He shared an innovative initiative taken by them in which they had involved the learners in the process of curriculum design.
5. Further, he suggested to develop OER based awareness/appreciation programmes and also work on e-book development. He informed about the online counseling of medical students which was a good example of innovations in counseling.
6. Dr. M. Salooja expressed his view regarding importance of innovation club. He said each school come for innovation when we are in teaching institute.

7. Dr. Moumita Das gave a detailed view from the beginning of NCIDE and its innovative activities and also explained about Innovation Club under the direction of Visitor of the Universities.
8. Dr. O. P. Sharma further elaborated the purpose of the innovation club and shared some innovative experiences. He also suggested to all the members to give a write up regarding innovative activities and steps to be taken in this regard.
9. Dr. Madhu Parhar also asked the member about the activities of the innovation club that who will do innovation. Further, one suggested that we should spread this information widely for nurturing this club through video/technology/vigilance. She also suggested to offer course on innovation.
10. Dr. Shubha Ghokhle also suggested developing some innovative material for the student. Members suggested about a booklet or monogram may be developed. She also suggested about the ENNOVATE link and said that it should be at the top of the IGNOU website page.
11. Members suggested that the brain storming meetings of the club should be theme based. For the newt meeting, it was suggested to focus of innovations in SLM development. For this meeting some of those faculty members may be approached who have been awarded gold medal for their innovations in Self Instructional Material Development.
12. It was also suggested that a series of working papers may be brought out by the club.
13. It was suggested that while bringing out the Newsletter Ennovate, there should be a provision to get comments of the readers on the articles.
14. All the members were requested to contribute articles for the Ennovate.

Report of the 2nd Meeting of the InnovationClub@IGNOU

Presentation on

“Innovations in Self Learning Material Development”

The second meeting of the InnovationClub@IGNOU was held on May 13, 2015 at 11.00 AM in the Conference Room of NCIDE. Total 12 members were present in the meeting.

At the outset, Dr. O. P. Sharma, Coordinator, Innovation club@IGNOU welcomed the members and presented the Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the club, which were approved unanimously. Thereafter, he informed about the action taken on following issues :

- 1) A proposal along with a note has been forwarded to the RSD regarding setting up of InnovationClub@RCs. For their views and informing the RCs to take further necessary action in this regard.
- 2) The Ennovate – eNewsletter on Innovation has been re-started. Content for the May, 2015 issue of Ennovate has been collected and edited for final publishing of the news letter. Its online template is also being prepared.
- 3) A Blog named as ‘Innovations@IGNOU’ has been created. Its URL is ‘innovations-at-ignou.blogspot.in’.

Thereafter, Dr. Jyotsna Dikshit, Director (I/c), NCIDE informed about the following other innovate initiatives taken up by NCIDE during the last month as Incubation activities.

1. A prototype of web support platform was developed which will provide the facilities to the faculty to create, and integrate e-content, initiate discussion forums and chat sessions, upload files and lessons, divide learners into groups for collaborative learning, create online tests and monitor engagement of learners, analyse learner logs, and management of learning journey for students.
2. A prototype for Certificate in Arabic Language in collaboration with School of Foreign Language has been developed by NCIDE which includes interactive multimedia module with alphabet and picture game, Web support portal with learner activity, animations and web 2.0 tools and tablet enabled interactive multimedia module for learning Arabic language.

As decided in the first meeting of the innovation Club, the main theme of discussion was ‘Innovations in Self Learning Material Development’. Dr. Kamalika Banerjee from SOS shared her experiences on evaluation parameters of OER on SLM. In this context, Prof. Madhu Parhar informed that the OER Commons has developed a tool kit on how to evaluate OER.

Thereafter, Dr. Shubha Gokhale shared the innovative initiatives taken by the SOS while developing the SLM for B.Sc. courses. She assured to provide a write up highlighting the innovative features of their SLM which could be published in the Ennovate as well as in the Blog.

Next to it Dr. Praveen Kumar Jain, SOA also shared about their innovations in the development of SLM for their courses. He informed that in this SLM they have used Re-usable Learning Objects (RLO) as simple learning objects in the SLM. He informed that using RLOs, students can create their own courses. He also assured to provide a write up for the blog and newsletter. They have also used meta data to make it easily searchable on internet.

In continuation to the above mentioned deliberations Dr. Jyotsna Dikshit, Director (I/c) NCIDE apprised the members about the potentials and various uses of interactive printed self learning material using augmented reality. Discussions on Pen reader technology for printed self learning materials were also held.

Further, it was suggested that the edited video programmes of IGNOU should be made available on IGNOU YouTube.

It was decided that the discussion on the same theme, i.e. Innovations in SLM should continue in the next meeting of the club and the meeting will be held on June 17, 2015.

Report of the 3rd Meeting of the Innovation Club

Presentation on

“Understanding innovations”

The third meeting of the InnovationClub@IGNOU was held on June 17, 2015. Total 7 members were present in the meeting.

After welcome of the members and presentation of the minutes of the previous meeting of the InnovationClub@IGNOU, discussion was held on the basic issues related to innovation such as the meaning of innovation, innovation parameters, difference between the an innovation and invention, etc. In the meeting following suggestions were given :

1. All the members should explore details about innovation and related issues. It was also suggested that brief write ups be prepared on such topics which should be shared through Innovation blog.
2. In order to clarify the concept of innovations, various examples of innovations from daily life were discussed and it was suggested that each member should provide a list of few innovations highlighting why do they come in the category of innovation.
3. While discussing about innovation, it was suggested that the club should identify the areas of innovations, particularly in ODL and possible solutions should be worked out.
4. The best practices being collected by the IUC may be reviewed and their innovative features may be shared through blog or *Ennovate* Newsletter.

Thereafter, presentation was made by Dr. O. P. Sharma on understanding innovations. He said that presently, the term ‘innovation’ is being used very frequently in almost all walks of our life. Most of the business houses, industries and educational institutes have special provisions for promoting innovation. Not only this, knowingly or unknowingly we also do innovation in our day-to-day life. Many of people do you know what does ‘innovation’ mean? Many a times, it is noticed that many of us consider innovation as the introduction of new technologies. It is true that innovation has led to the development of several new technological products and processes, but the fact is that innovation is much more than just the introduction of new technologies. Let us see how innovation is being defined by different dictionaries and researchers.

According to the BusinessDictionary.com “an idea, to be called an innovation, must be replicable at an economical cost and must satisfy a specific need. Innovation involves deliberate application of information, imagination and initiative in deriving greater or different values from resources, and includes all processes by which new ideas are generated and converted into useful products”.

The University of Melbourne perceives innovation as “something new or improved, having marketable potential, including refinement of existing technologies, or development of new applications for existing technologies”.

Wikipedia defines Innovation is as new idea, more effective device or process. Further it says that innovation can be viewed as the application of better solutions that meet new requirements, inarticulated needs, or existing market needs. This is accomplished through more effective products, processes, services, technologies, or ideas that are readily available to markets, governments and society. The term innovation can be defined as something original and more effective and, as a consequence, new, that "breaks into" the market or society. As per the Merriam-Webster Dictionary innovation is the act or process of introducing new ideas, devices, or methods.

According to a report ‘Something new under the sun : A Special report on innovation’, by Vaitheeswaran, Vijay published in the Economist on October 13, 2007, “Technically, “innovation” is defined merely as “introducing something new;” there are no qualifiers of how ground-breaking or world-shattering that something needs to be - only that it needs to be better than what was there before. And that’s where the trouble starts when an organization requests “innovation services” from a consulting firm. Exactly what are they really requesting? The fact is, innovation means different things to different people”.

Marc Chason, Motorola Labs defines innovation as “The actions required to create new ideas, processes or products which when implemented lead to positive effective change. While invention requires the creation of new ideas, processes or products, innovation moves one step further and requires implementation of the inventive act. Innovation also implies a value system which seeks to derive a positive outcome from the inventive act. For example, actions which lead to a negative performance metric would not be considered innovative, even if they met the requirements of novelty and enabling actions”.

In view of the above mentioned definitions, we can come out to a consensus that “Innovation is something fresh which may be new, original, or improved that adds value. “In fact something new cannot be enough for the definition of innovation unless there is value addition. Here it is important to be noted that the “something” could be a process, product, or service and can start as small as your ideas and thoughts in your brain. In that case, it might just be innovative thinking.

In simple terms we can say that innovation means doing something new, different, and smarter or better that leads to positive difference in the product, process or service. Innovation can be defined as the process of implementing new ideas to add values to the system, process, product or processes. It is also viewed as the application of better solutions to existing problems and inarticulate needs. It is about identifying and/or creating new approaches to do what we have been doing. The term innovation may refer to both radical and incremental changes to products, processes or services.

Evidently, innovation is the key to the growth and progress of an organization. It is true that the organizations that do not innovate effectively may be destroyed by those who do. In fact, innovation is linked to performance and growth through improvements in efficiency, productivity, quality, competitive positioning and market share, etc. Normally the unspoken goal of innovation is to solve a problem.

Report of the 4th Meeting of the Innovation Club

Discussion on

“Parameters of Innovations”

The 4th meeting of the InnovationClub@IGNOU was held on July 21, 2015 at 11.00 AM at NCIDE. Total 13 members were present in the Meeting.

After welcoming the members, Dr. O. P. Sharma, Coordinator of Innovation Club presented the minutes of the previous meeting and apprised of the members with the action taken on the minutes. He presented a brief write up on Innovation highlighting its meaning and concept. Thereafter, Dr. Moumita Dass shared the parameters of innovations devised by the NCIDE for evaluating the entries for Gold Medal in Innovation. Both the presentations were followed by discussion. As a result of discussion, following suggestions emerged :

1. NCIDE may customize the definition of innovation in context with the ODL system.
2. Club members or other faculty members may suggest some innovative model to ensure that the students make full use of study material developed by the IGNOU. Because, it has been noticed that many of the students use guide books and other material instead of IGNOU SLM.
3. Dr. C. K. Ghosh suggested to experiment with the Open Book Exam System to involve the students in learning process and also to curb the use of unfair means, if any. In this context Prof. Anu Aneja offered to explore the possibility of Open Book Exams in SOGDS after consulting with the concerned course coordinators for the BDP Elective Gender Sensitization course currently under development.
4. Further Dr. C. K. Ghosh suggested to develop Guided Practical Exercise Book also for practical based courses.
5. It was also suggested to explore whether we can improve the existing assignment system on the lines of open book exam.
6. Ms. Jatinder Jit Kaur, suggested to develop some innovative audio-video programmes.
7. Dr. Jyotsna Diskhit proposed to organize a half day seminar on some topic related to ODL. This was agreed upon by all and it was suggested that there could be a series of such seminars. Further, it was decided that the first such seminar may focus on Innovations in Design, Development, Implementation and Evaluation of Students' Assignments in ODL System.
8. It was also suggested that a webportal be created for the IGNOU Alumnae and RCs may be requested to publishes the portal.

Report of the 5th Meeting of InnovationClub@IGNOU

Demonstration of

“Innovative Virtual Set Technology and Its Relevance in ODL”

The 5th meeting of the InnovationClub@IGNOU was held on August 27, 2015 at 11.00 AM at EMPC. Total 27 participants were present in the meeting. Dr. Jyotsna Dikshit, Director, NCIDE welcomed the participants and gave a brief introduction about the topic of the discussion i.e. the virtual set technology and its relevance in ODL context.

Thereafter, Shri Ravi Kanth, Joint Director, EMPC gave an introduction to the virtual set technology and a demonstration video of the Brainstorming software, highlighting its applications was shown. He mentioned that earlier Chroma key technology was used for creating virtual background set. He mentioned that the Doordarshan has been using the Chroma key technology in presenting its programmes. Further, he said that IGNOU has also used the technology to develop some video programmes. He mentioned that the Chroma key technology is basically a 2-D technology and has several limitations, e.g. in Chroma key technology, if we zoom in or zoom out then the background remains unchanged because of which the effects are not as we need. But, further he said that the use of Brainstorming software makes it possible to create any kind of virtual set with high definition in 3-D mode. In this kind of virtual set technology, the presenter as well as the background can be zoomed in or zoomed out. Both the technologies were demonstrated and their strengths and weaknesses were explained by the experts from EMPC. Thereafter the participants were given the live demonstration also by taking them in the virtual set studio.

Shri G. Prasad, VEX mentioned that earlier Chroma key technology was used for creating virtual background set and EMPC has been using this technology in presenting its video programmes. A video programme on chroma key was shown.

Shri Vinod Mago, E-n-C added that Television Technology is changing at a fast pace and now we have 4K, 8K, Ultra HD, even 16K. Shri Anil Saxena, JD (G), explained the set designing process in virtual medium so as to generate cost-effective sets. In this kind of virtual set technology, the presenter as well as the background can be zoomed in or zoomed out. The precautions which need to be taken (especially pertaining to the colour of the costumes to be worn) were mentioned

Shri Ravi Ayyagari, Producer (SG) gave a presentation about the use of virtual 3D set and how he had utilized it in making of video programs. Dr. Amitosh Dubey showed his video programme which he had made as part of the training programme on use of virtual set.

The participants were then shown a demo in the video studio-I using the virtual set and the virtual technology was demonstrated while highlighting its strengths and

limitations. All the participants enjoyed the innovative virtual set technology and got an idea how they can use it for designing and developing more effective video programmes for their courses. Dr. Neerja Sood, Prof. Anu Aneja and Dr. Hemlata showed interest in experimenting with the technology for their respective video programmes.

Report of 6th Meeting of InnovationClub@IGNOU

Half Day Seminar on

“Sharing Creative Technological Interventions in ODL”

The InnovationClub@IGNOU organized a half day seminar on “Sharing Creative Technological Interventions in ODL” on September 22, 2015 at 11.00 AM at Conference Room of VCO. The half day seminar had two presentations. The seminar was attended by 21 participants. In this seminar two presentations were made. The first presentation on ‘SLMLIVE-An Innovative Intervention in SLM’ was given by Dr. Sanjiv Kumar, Associate Professor, SOS. Whereas the second presentation was on “V-Lrn” by Mr. Anil Aggarwal and his team from the PCTI, Pitampura. A brief report of the presentations is given below :

Presentation-1 : On ‘SLM LIVE – An Innovative Intervention in SLM’

“SLM-LIVE’ consists of annotated approved Self Learning Unit and provides a quality assured learning support to the learners. The annotations provide contextual linkages to relevant animations, simulations, video lectures, quizzes, events, and presentations, etc. from the open source as well as the ones developed specifically for the Unit. The objective of these annotations is to do e-augmentation (value addition) of the content and to engage and facilitate the learner in achieving the desired outcomes.

Dr. Kumar began his presentation by sharing the rationale behind the intervention. Herein he highlighted the fact that despite variety of mediums used by IGNOU to reach out to the learners, the print material remains the main stay. He argued that the distance learner has concerns that need to be addressed-the learner needs hand holding in her/his endeavor to learn and ‘SLM-LIVE’ is an effort in this direction. Thereafter he shared a prototype of the ‘SLM-LIVE’ in which the annotations are introduced as QR codes in the Self Learning material in print. These QR codes can be accessed with the help of a smart phone using simple apps like QR code reader/QR code scanner and need web connectivity through Wi-Fi/Data card. Thereafter he justified such an intervention with the help of data on accessibility of smart phones and improving web connectivity.

The innovative intervention in SLM, presented by Dr. Sanjiv Kumar was highly appreciated by the participants. A number of constructive suggestions emanated from the discussion that followed the presentation.

Presentation-2 : On “V-Lrn”

While presenting about the V-Lrn, presenter from the V-Lrn team told that this is a web based teaching-learning platform being used to supplement the face-to-face counseling of the IGNOU students of Regional Centre-2, Delhi. She informed that the V-Lrn has enabled the learners to access the study material online, watch the videos of online classes, and interact with the teachers in a live session. Further she highlighted that the V-Lrn has several other useful features such as learning management system, e-content, glossary, provision for online assignment, online exam and feedback, etc. She said that the platform has learner centric modules. She mentioned that they have taken special security measures. She mentioned that there is a provision for live classes also. Looking into the features of the V-Lrn, it was suggested that it could be experimented as an integrated approach of web support along with the offline courses. In this context, Prof. Anu Aneja proposed to take up it as a pilot project.

Report of the 7th Meeting of the InnovationClub@IGNOU

Presentation on

“Living in Intellectual Property Right Era”

A meeting of the InnovationClub@IGNOU was held on October 14, 2015 at 11.00 AM. In the Conference Roof of SOCE. Total 12 members were present in the meeting.

As there were few new participants, the coordinator of the Innovation Club @ IGNOU gave a brief introduction about the genesis of the club and its major activities. Some of the participants suggested that the activities of the club should be publicized widely through electronic as well as print media including University News published by the Association of Indian Universities. It was also suggested to expend the club membership and include some more members from different Schools, Divisions and Centres, etc.

Thereafter, Dr. Shubha Gokhale, Associate Professor, SOS gave a presentation on “Living in Intellectual Property Era”.

While talking about intellectual property rights, Dr. Shubha Gokhale highlighted how innovation is related to intellectual property rights. She mentioned that in context with the increasing emphasis on innovations, it becomes imperative to know about protections of intellectual property right and patenting of the innovations. She informed that the Visitor of all the central universities in India is also expecting more and more technological innovations.

Further, she pointed out why do we think about intellectual property right. We always want to know if there is any copy right issue linked with the text or video, etc. that we use. She said that it becomes more pertinent to know about the intellectual property rights and related issued particularly in our context. Tracing the historical genesis of intellectual property rights, she talked about tangible and intelligible intellectual property and highlighted the rationale behind intellectual property right. She talked about nature of IPR, types of IPR and highlighted the enforcement problems.

Further, she mentioned about the conditions and criteria of patenting which includes novel, inventive step, and industrial applications. She also gave an idea about trademarks, service marks and trade name etc. with the help of common examples. She also mentioned about the concept of trade secrete highlighting in which cases trade secrete is preferred. Further, she gave a presentation on copy right which includes moral rights and economic rights. She mentioned about durability of copy rights of authors, translators etc. in various situations. In this context, she also talked about Open Education Resources (OER) highlighting its meaning, possible uses and licenses under Creative Commons. The presentation was followed by interaction with the participants who asked questions related to IPR and clarified their doubts.

Report of the 8th Meeting of InnovationClub@IGNOU

Presentation on

“Difference between Innovation and Invention”

A meeting of the InnovationClub@IGNOU was held on November 24, 2015 at conference room of SOCE at 2.30 PM. Total 6 members were present in the meeting.

First of all Dr. O. P. Sharma, Coordinator of the club welcomed the participants and briefed them about the activities undertaken by the club during the last two months. Thereafter, he requested the members to give their suggestions about the activities to be undertaken by the Innovation Club in future. In this context, following suggestions were given by the members :

1. Some good and innovative open source software being used by the members may be shared in the club meetings.
2. The members of the club should identify the areas of innovation from their work experience and present the same in the club meeting. In this context, it was suggested to identify problems and suggest innovative solutions for the same.
3. Each member should prepare a write-up on some innovations experienced by them in any field. This kind of practice will help in clarifying the concept of innovation and hence in creating the culture of innovation.
4. Special efforts should be made to collect the innovative ideas and innovative practices.

Thereafter, Dr. O. P. Sharma said that most of the time people are confused with the terms like invention, innovation, discovery and creativity. Therefore, it would be better to understand the difference between such terms. He initiated discussion on understanding the difference between invention and innovation. In this context, first he requested the members to express their views about the invention and innovation. Based on discussion, it emerged that anything new that nobody knows before would be called as invention, whereas some value addition in the already existing things or process would be called as innovation. In order to further clarify the concepts, Dr. Sharma gave a brief presentation on invention vs Innovation. He took up both the concepts together and highlighted the differences with the help of examples from daily life. He said that as per the Cambridge Dictionary, “Something that has never been made before or the process of creating something that has never been made before is called invention” and as per Wikipedia, “an invention is a unique or novel device, method, composition or process. It may be an improvement upon a machine or product, or a new process for creating an object or a result. Further he said that according to the Business Dictionary, “an invention is a new scientific or technical idea, and the means of its embodiment or accomplishment”. Finally keeping in view the given definitions and the discussion, he said that ‘Invention’ can be defined as the creation of a manmade new device/product or introduction of a process for the first time”.

Presenting further on the concept of innovation, he said that as per Business Dictionary, "the process of translating an idea or invention into a good or service that creates value or for which customers will pay is called innovation". According to another definition, innovation occurs if someone improves on or makes a significant contribution to an existing product, process or service. Whereas the Wikipedia says that "an innovation is something that is new, better, and has been adopted". Based on the discussion, it was concluded that an innovation is a better way of doing things or improving the existing processes."

It was also decided that in future meeting we should discuss such more concepts related to innovation and creativity.

Report of the 9th Meeting of InnovationClub@IGNOU

Live Demonstration on

“Creating Online Questionnaire by Using Qualtrics”

A meeting of the InnovationClub@IGNOU was held on December 18, 2015 at NCIDE. Total 7 members attended the meeting. Besides general discussion on innovation and related aspects, the main focus of the meeting was to demonstrate about the innovative use of Web based resources to create online questionnaires for research studies and surveys.

In this context, Dr. S. K. Pulist, Deputy Director, SRD gave a live demonstration on “Creating Online Questionnaire by using Qualtrics”. In his presentation Dr. Pulist besides highlighting the features of the Qualtrics software, demonstrated how to use the software. At the same time based on his experience he told about the limitations of the software and highlighted on what not to do. He informed that the Qualtrics is capable of creating different types of questions as per the need of the study. Qualtrics can also be used to analyze the data and generate various types of statistical graphs and reports of the study. While discussing about the features of Qualtrics he tried to explain how it is better than the other such online survey tools like Google Form and Monkey Survey etc. However, he mentioned that the free version of Qualtrics can be used only for maximum 100 respondents. He informed that the paid version have almost all types features which are required in any good online survey tool both for collecting data and analyzing it in details.

Report of the 10th Meeting of InnovationClub@IGNOU

Presentation on

'Innovative Pedagogy in Teaching English'

A meeting of the InnovationClub@IGNOU was held on January 28, 2016 at 11.00 AM at NCIDE. Total 12 members were present in the meeting.

Besides discussion on innovations and related aspects, for the last few meetings the InnovationClub@IGNOU has been inviting the innovators to share their innovative initiatives and experiences of implementing that innovation. In the series, Mr. Jitendra Srivastava from an organization 'icandoit' (<http://icandoit.org.in/>) was invited to give a presentation on 'Innovative Pedagogy in Teaching English'.

Mr. Srivastava, at the outset, pointed out that there is a huge gap between what we teach and what students need. He said that the traditional method of teaching is mainly examination oriented, which misses out on focusing on the actual learning processes, and this needs to change.

In connection with teaching of spoken English, he is of the view that although logic is required for thoughts, to present those thoughts, one does not require logic but a structured language. He said that the practice is, to express one's thoughts, a person first thinks in his/her mother tongue and then translates it into English in his/her mind, and then speaks in English. This method is flawed as it results in many anomalies. Therefore, in his approach of teaching English, his focus has been to bring students out of this method and train them to make structured sentences in English using well-designed and innovative pedagogic tools. This approach of teaching is different from the traditional method as it encourages a person to think in that language itself, feel that language and communicate in that language.

The innovative features of his approach of teaching English included the following :

- Firstly, emphasis should be on understanding why the student doesn't speak the language. Is it due to the lack of thoughts, vocabulary and structures or is it just due to hesitation?
- Secondly, he suggests that as one converses using only those thoughts, vocabulary and structures that one know, so, the first objective to help the students collect and retain these essential fundamental elements of the Language. Further, in his approach, he makes the students listen and repeat, read the text aloud and try to remember that verbatim, using just the repeated process of loud and rhythmic reading patterns, using the sound unit identification method and simple two level voice modulations.
- Thirdly, he pointed out that normally the students are good at answering but they don't ask enough questions. In his approach, he encourages students to ask questions rather than merely answering them. In fact, in this context, he teaches four basic things like asking questions, reading fast (sound units), drill with tenses creating open and closed questions

along with a repeat with the trainer session for picking up the pronunciation and voice modulation in natural way.

- Finally, he concluded that the students should be encouraged to create new sentences by making simple substitutions to the statements they have learnt and should be asked to create a dialogue conversation with a given scenario.

According to Mr. Srivastava, the process of learning English is same for different age group students but their pace of learning may be different.

He teaches English to make it spiral learning. In spiral learning the training topics should be arranged in such a way that the most important and difficult lessons should be dealt first and repeated in the forthcoming sessions. This repeated training will make the important and difficult topics settle down well and connect to the candidates reflexes for spontaneous use. He calls it spiral as it is similar to going on a circular path repeatedly but making it a bigger by adding few additional topics based on feedback and priority.

Further, he suggests his students to make full use of the social networking sites and modern technologies for practicing their English Speaking Skills.

Report of the 11th Meeting of the InnovationClub@IGNOU

Discussion on

“Science and Innovation”

A meeting of the InnovationClub@IGNOU was held on February 29, 2016 at 11.00 AM in the NCIDE. Total 5 members were present in the meeting.

At the outset, Dr. O. P. Sharma, Coordinator, innovation Club@IGNOU welcomed the members and said that every year February, 28 is observed as the National Science Day that celebrate the physicist C. V. Raman’s discovery of the Raman effect. As this day is commemorated to uphold the significance of scientific applications in our daily life, there is a need to create a culture of innovation and work towards development of scientific temper in the society. For that purpose, the main discussion of the meeting was on “Science and Innovation”. In this context, Dr. Subha Goghley informed that recently the SOS has organized on National Science Day Programme in which a few students of IGNOU had showcased their innovations. Further, she suggested that the NCIDE should take up this type of activities on a wider scale.

In this context, Dr. O. P. Sharma informed that the NCIDE has already proposed a scheme to identify students’ innovations, recognize and nurture such innovations. In this context he referred to use Science, Technology and Innovation Policy-2013 of the Government of India. He said that STI Policy envisages the creation of a world class infrastructure for R&D, skill development, inclusive growth as well as encouraging the scientific community by providing adequate opportunities and career options in India. The policy document is expected to guide India’s development model in the coming few decades. Further, he said that in the present competitive world, when our country is striving to be one of the top five global scientific power by 2020, the role of Universities and Academic Institutes, National and Regional Research Laboratories and private sector are for more critical.

IGNOU having a major contribution in the gross enrolment ratio at higher education level, has great role to play by harnessing the potential of its learners in the field of research, innovation and development. Besides developing scientific team per among its learners, IGNOU should promote the culture of innovation.

Further, he gave details of the concept paper prepared by the NCIDE. The members gave certain suggestions such as identifying the local mentors and link such innovations with start ups. Besides it, the RCs should also be involved in the entire process of identification and selection of innovations.

A video clip on----- was also screened and discussed.

Further, it was suggested to invite more members in the InnovationClub@IGNOU. For this purpose, it was recommended to give an open invitation to all the staff members of IGNOU.

The meeting ended with thanks to all.

Setting up of InnovationClub@RCs of IGNOU

Taking action on the directions of the Hon'ble President of India as Visitor of Central Universities, an InnovationClub@IGNOU has been formulated at NCIDE with the approval of the Vice Chancellor. The InnovationClub@IGNOU aims at creating the culture of innovation and motivating the faculty and students to do innovations.

In IGNOU where the students are geographically spread, it becomes imperative to set up the Innovation Clubs at the Regional Centres also. The Competent authority approved, as one of the activities of the InnovationClub@IGNOU, to set up InnovationClubs@RCs of IGNOU also. Accordingly all the RCs were requested through Regional Service Division, to set up Innovation Clubs @RC of IGNOU. So far following three RCs have set up InnovationClubs@RC :

1. RC, Madurai
2. RC, Nagpur
3. RC, Delhi-3

But no report of the activities has been received from any of these RCs. All RCs have been reminded to set up Innovation Clubs and also to organize activities on regular basis.

Objectives of the InnovationClub@RC

The basic Objectives of the InnovationClub@RCs will be as follows :

- to generate awareness about creativity and innovations amongst the students in the respective region,
- to identify the grass-root level innovations by the faculty and the students of IGNOU, and
- to create a network of innovators and create a culture of innovation at the Regional Centres as well as at the study centres.

Suggested Activities of InnovationClub@RCs

In order to meet the objectives of the InnovationClub@IGNOU, a verity of activities may be organized on regular basis by the InnovationClubs@RCs. Some of such important activities to be initiated by the Innovation Club at Regional Centres would be as follows :

1. Organizing periodic meetings of the club members to generate new ideas and explore and identify innovations by students, faculty, and staff of Regional Centres.

2. Invite students, faculty and staff members to share their innovative ideas and skills and showcase their innovative products and processes.
3. Organising awareness campaign and exhibitions on Creativity and Innovations in the regional by involving the study centres.
4. Organising various competitions like quiz, debates, posters, etc. on innovation and creativity at the regional centre level,
5. Contributing reports of activities, news items, write ups, articles to the e-news letter '*Ennovate*' on innovation being brought out by NCIDE.

The Innovation Clubs at the Regional Centres will work in close coordination with the NCIDE and will provide monthly report of the activities of the InnovationClub@RCs to the InnovationClub@IGNOU for compilation and further reporting to the President of India.

Members of InnovationClub@IGNOU

The members of the Innovation Club at Regional Centre may have the following constitution :

1. Regional Director
2. Faculty and staff members of the RC
3. Representatives of the Study Centres
4. Selected students from the region

The club may engage as many students, faculty and staff as possible in the innovative activities of the university.

Budgetary Provision

Initially there will not be much expenditure except the expenditure on tea and refreshment during the meetings of the club members which can be met from the existing budget of the RCs. Later on whenever any bigger programme is organized, specific proposal may be submitted to the NCIDE for approval of the competent authority. Accordingly budgetary support may be provided by the NCIDE to the concerned RC for such activities.