

Report of the

Festival of Ideas

(28th February-1st March 2019)

Organised by

Under the aegis of Institution's Innovation Council (IIC)



**National Centre for Innovation in Distance Education
Indira Gandhi National Open University**

Background

The Festival of Ideas was organised by the National Centre for Innovation in Distance Education (NCIDE) under the aegis of the Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) on 28th February and 1st March, 2019 at IGNOU, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi. For this Festival, ideas of the IGNOU students were invited from all over India in seven theme areas. Over one hundred IGNOU students submitted their original and creative ideas, which can solve the problems of daily life. Out of these, twenty ideas were selected by a panel of experts. The selection was done on the basis of the criteria of novelty, usability, practicability, marketability, profitability, scalability, sustainability, well-researched idea, clarity on the need of R&D, and clarity on the resources needed. These twenty students, hailing from different parts of India were invited to participate in the Festival on 28th February -01st March 2019 at IGNOU, New Delhi (*Annexure I- List of Participants*). This Festival aimed to facilitate the students to show their talent, test their ideas, connect with mentors, challenge themselves to think innovatively, and win exciting prizes. This was expected to help the students to enhance their social and emotional learning, while boosting their competitive spirit.

Objectives

The objectives of the Festival were to recognize, share, nurture and promote the ideas of the students of IGNOU.

Themes of ideas

The following were the themes in which ideas were invited:

- Food, Agriculture and Rural development
- Clean Energy and Alternate Fuel
- Clean Water and Water Management
- *Swacchata* Initiatives and Waste Management
- Health Care and Hygiene
- Education and Open University System
- Smart Transportation and Traffic Management

Duration

The duration of the Festival was of two days. It was in two parts. In the first part, an idea competition was held. In the second part, a workshop on Business Plan Development was held (*Annexure II- Programme Schedule*).

Idea competition

An idea competition was organized on 28th February 2018 to evaluate the ideas, proof of concept and prototypes. In this competition, an exhibition of ideas was organised through posters and oral presentation. 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.

Workshop on Business Plan Development

A workshop on Business Plan Development was organised for all the selected students on 01st March 2019. The workshop was aimed to

1. impart knowledge and skills related to Intellectual Property Rights, Design thinking, and Business Plan Development.
2. facilitate them to convert their ideas into innovative products and services.

A session on Intellectual Property Rights 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 dos 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 an 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 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 process of developing a business plan. She elaborated on the different elements that needed to be taken into consideration for 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.

Outcome

The outcome of the idea competition was that the participants gained an experience of designing a poster on their ideas, creating and communicating their ideas in a clear and lucid manner. They got a platform to interact with the expert judges and peer group on their ideas and got to enrich their ideas further.

The outcome of the workshop on business proposal development gave them the necessary knowledge on what was a business proposal and how to develop one for their own idea. They gained knowledge about how to implement design thinking to enrich their idea. They also gained knowledge and understanding in the various aspects of IPR that they would need to keep in mind. They got the knowledge on how to develop a good business proposal so that is accepted

for funding by any investor. All this knowledge will be helpful for them when they actually begin to write their business proposals for the upcoming Regional Competition of the MIC.

An abstract of the ideas of the students was prepared and circulated among the students (*Annexure III-Abstract of Ideas*).

Selection Committee for Idea Competition

1. Prof. Prabir K. Biswas, STRIDE, IGNOU
2. Prof. M.K. Salooja, SOA, IGNOU
3. Prof. Nehal. M. Farooque, SOEDS, IGNOU
4. Dr. P. V. Suresh, SOCIS, IGNOU
5. Dr. Sanjay Agrawal, SOET, IGNOU
6. Dr. Anupriya Pandey, SOMS, IGNOU
7. Dr. Shachi Shah, SOITS, IGNOU
8. Dr. Neerja Sood, SOHS, IGNOU
9. Dr. Oum Prakash Sharma, NCIDE, IGNOU
10. Dr. Moumita Das, NCIDE, IGNOU

Evaluators of Idea Competition

1. Prof. Prabir K. Biswas, STRIDE, IGNOU
2. Prof. Nehal. M. Farooque, SOEDS, IGNOU
3. Dr. P. V. Suresh, SOCIS, IGNOU
4. Dr. Shachi Shah, SOITS, IGNOU
5. Dr. Jyotsna Dikshit, NCIDE, IGNOU
6. Dr. Oum Prakash Sharma, NCIDE, IGNOU
7. Dr. Moumita Das, NCIDE, IGNOU
8. Dr. Sujata Santosh, NCIDE, IGNOU

Resource Persons

1. Prof. Prabir K. Biswas, STRIDE, IGNOU
2. Dr. Anupriya Pandey, SOMS, IGNOU
3. Dr. Suneet K. Srivastava, SOL, IGNOU
4. Prof. Sanjiv Mittal, GGSIP University, Delhi
5. Mr. Rajneesh Prajapat, Founder, entrepreneur.com

Coordinator

Dr. Moumita Das, NCIDE, IGNOU

Report prepared by
Dr. Moumita Das
Coordinator and Convener IIC, IGNOU

Photo Gallery



