



Incubation centers in institutions of higher learning



Executive Summary

January 2012

Innovation and entrepreneurship are on the rise with qualified and experienced professionals taking the initiative to set up new ventures. There has been a continuous growth of knowledge-based industries in India for the last couple of decades which are providing good scope for techno-entrepreneurship.

The world-wide growth of the business incubators during the last two decades has provided enabling environment to new ventures. Incubators have become an important part of the business support framework offering critical mentoring and infrastructure support to start-ups.

This report is the outcome of the first collaborative venture between Latitude Edutech Consulting and IIIT-Bangalore and holds the promise for many such initiatives to come up in the future.

Objectives

- To study pre-incubation and existing routes to support spin-offs and start-ups in institutes of higher learning. In this regard, models in Finland and Germany have been studied as starting points for understanding conditions critical for successful pre-incubation.
- To understand the role of incubation centers in academic institutions in encouraging entrepreneurship

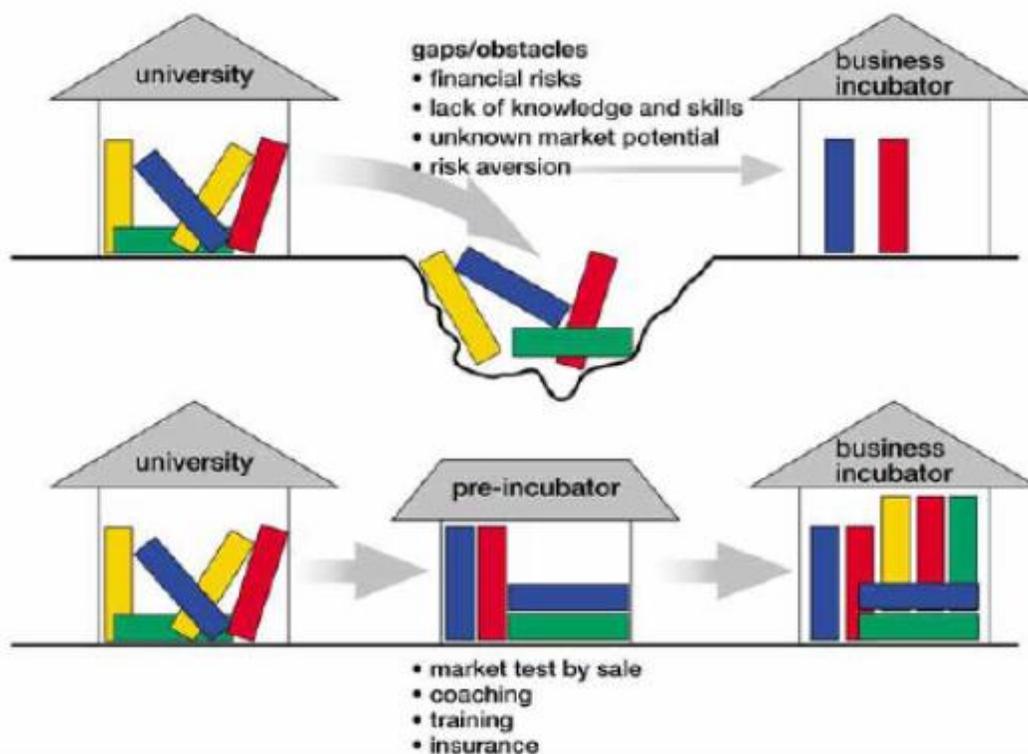
Observations:

- Across the world, a number of government programs have been developed to stimulate links between universities and businesses. Some examples include incubators and innovation centers and support for collaborative innovation and research. Incubator programs in the developing and emerging economies are typically focused on technology ventures. The interests of civil society call for the government, private sector and universities in all nations to address the wider concerns of empowering disadvantaged groups through employment and facilitated access to capital (human, knowledge, social and financial).
- While incubators have grown in numbers, the uneven performance and low sustainability in many settings have become serious issues with the governments and sponsors who continue to subsidize many of them.
- Apart from the above, it is the core education in higher education institutions that needs to encourage entrepreneurship among students. At present, in addition to the small but special entrepreneurship training, Enterprise Education in Indian educational institutions also needs to instill certain basic ideas about doing business.

Emerging initiatives

- The Government of India, through its various Ministries has implemented a number of schemes to support entrepreneurship and incubation activities. Amongst these, the Department of Information Technology's (DIT) Technological Incubation and Development of Entrepreneurs (TIDE) scheme was launched in the year 2008. This initiative has been examined in detail.
- There has been recent interest in identifying 'best practices' that could then be applied elsewhere. These practices are location, culture and time-specific, and can only be adapted to the conditions prevailing in local situations. The emerging lessons on enhancing performance for India are outlined.

Pre-incubator is designed to fill the gap between the institute of higher education and the business incubator



Source: *Pre-incubation in higher education: Examples of pre-incubation and some critical conditions to be taken into account in order to establish pre-incubation activities*, Report by Laura Rajaniemi, Eija-Riitta Niinikoski, Eelis Kokko, Oulu University, Oulu Southern Institute, Finland, 2005

**International Institute of Information
Technology - Bangalore**

26/C, Electronics City
Hosur Road
Bangalore - 560 100
www.iiitb.ac.in

Latitude Edutech Consulting Pvt. Ltd.

UNI Building, First Floor, Millers Tank Bund Road
Vasanthnagar
Bangalore 560 052
www.latitudegroup.in