

DA-IICT Centre for Entrepreneurship and Incubation (DCEI)

DA-IICT Centre for Entrepreneurship and Incubation (DCEI) provides innovation ecosystem to support both students and faculty members with an entrepreneurial bent of mind to come up with innovative ideas and channelise their efforts to give births to new ventures in the ICT domain. It aims to create entrepreneurial environments that facilitate connections and speed innovative ideas from concept to reality.

ICT plays an important role in the startup ecosystem in different sectors of business such as finance, e-commerce, synthetic biology, artificial intelligence, robotics, e-governance etc. Currently in India there are many start-ups, however, only few are innovation based. DA-IICT has strength in research and innovation in interdisciplinary areas, thus it is a natural enabler for economic growth of both Gujarat as well as India.

It stands for a confluence of several interrelated disciplines, from technology and basic sciences to humanities and social sciences catering to both academy and industry. The product development is a part of DA-IICT's curriculum and specialized research labs at the institute is equipped with the latest gadgets in the that are used in the industry and where students can perform open-ended experiments.

During Orientation programme, the Student Executive Council of DCEI conducts various programs to foster the spirit of the business acumen and entrepreneurship. To be innovative, the students must have the ability to transform ideas into reality. Innovation requires a variety of skills rather than one specific attribute or ability. Getting Along with Others, Leadership, Risk Taking, Independence, Self Confidence, Determination and Perseverance, Goal Setting, Need to Achieve, Creativity and Decision Making are few of such abilities. These abilities are usually measured by an [aptitude test](#) which is a structured self assessment that aims to evaluate students in terms of these skills, knowledge, ability and personality.

The DCEI is currently supported by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) to nurture and develop business ideas based on latest and emerging technology. It has received a grant of Rs. 150.0 lakhs under the scheme 'Expansion of Technology Incubation and Development of Entrepreneurs (TIDE)' from MeitY. The DCEI has also been recognised as a Nodal Institute for Start-up/Innovation to mentor the innovators by the Industries Commissionerate, Government of Gujarat. It has received a grant of Rs. 15.0 lakhs from the Industries Commissionerate. It is also a Partner to Govt. of Gujarat (Ministry of Education) under SSIP (Student Startup and Innovation Policy). The DCEI has received the first installment of Rs. 10.0 lakhs out of total sanctioned grant of Rs. 100.0 lakhs for five years under SSIP."

The DCEI has received "Certificate of Appreciation" from MeitY, Govt. of India for promotion of innovation and development of entrepreneurs in ICT. The Government of Gujarat has also conferred the "Best University in Innovation" award to DA-IICT. At present, it has an independent legal status and is now a Section 8 company.

The total funding disbursed by the DCEI to Start-ups has resulted in many incubates out of which two are started by DA-IICT faculty. For example, Almaconnect Solutions Private Limited creates a network for educational institutions and track its alumni members. It has received

further funding from Angel Investors (AI)/Venture Capitalists (VC). The company over the past year or so has progressed a lot and got many international institutes including IITs to sign up for its platform.

Another student-led company is Playpower Labs Private Limited. It develops game curriculum for school students and data analytics for companies involved in the field of education. It's a game curriculum for high school students in the grade of 2-8. It was featured by Apple in 33 countries. EdOptimize helps organizations harness Big Data to measurably improve student and system efficacy outcomes, such as learning and engagement. They have a pilot with Kaplan, USA and currently, educational initiatives in India are being pursued.

Appbin Labs Private Limited is another successful startup from DCEI which got published on BetaList and are in the process of launching a beta version of their product "Appbin" on all desktop platforms – Mac OSX, Linux and Windows. Further recently they got selected for the "Start-up Brazil program". SB Edu Analytics Consultancy Private Limited in the educational domain aims to develop an education analytics engine for student interest and performance pattern (SIPP) and commercialize a set of educational institutes/schools data management and communication web-based system which has analytics engine at its core. The company also aims to develop a teaching resources portal.

Another start-up is Innorruption Tech Solutions Private Limited. It is a hyper-local job marketplace for the blue-collar and entry-level segment. It enables an instant view of all jobs and job seekers around you, leveraging the mobile GPS, filter by category or search by keyword, instant chat or call with the interested party, simple to use and multilingual mobile app, and recommendation engine which recommends suitable jobs.

A faculty led-startup Yoctosehns Technologies helps thorough monitoring of cattle at low cost and it helps in disease detection in cows with a simpler user interface. Another faculty led-startup RAXter.io got on track from DA-IICT. The start-up is an online research workflow management and collaboration platform research, students and faculties. The idea was to build a research paper discovery platform based on the ongoing research activity of any researcher.

The other interesting student-led startup is Urban Naps. It is India's first smart Napping pods for rest, relax and recreation at urban spaces. They have installed the pods at co-working spaces as well as at the Airport.

Various innovative ideas/projects are also supported under SSIP by DCEI. These include Generic approach based accident detection and notification system for motor-vehicles, Energy harvesting Using IOT, Neuro-Track-3D, System Development from Monitoring E-metering & Automated Leakage detection of Home supply (MEAL), Real-time, sensor based Smart Monitoring System for Detection of Concrete Maturity in Construction Site, Smart Microscope, Development and Implementation of an IoT Testbed, Development of Smart - Robotic Toys. The DCEI continues to extend mentorship and other support to the promoted start-ups.

Ecosystem for Entrepreneurship

- DA-IICT Centre for Entrepreneurship and Incubation (DCEI) conducts various activities throughout the year through its Student Executive Council. Some of these activities include 10x Challenge, Entrepreneur's Talks, Guest Lectures, other workshops. Recently on 28th November 2021, DCEI organized “SellOut 2021”, a fruitful event to give platform to the students to showcase their marketing skills and to make them think about solutions to real-life problems and present them with their own creativity. The online chat session with Mr. Tikam Singh Alma, alumnus of DA-IICT and Accelerator talk session with Mr. Saurabh Jain, Founder, Fun2Do Labs have taken place in January-February 2022.
- Funding support is provided for prototyping the ideas and patent filing. They are mentored by faculty members and also provided access to the specialized research laboratories and Resource Centre of the Institute for development of innovative technological solutions in ICT domain. DCEI Executive Council helps the prospective innovators/entrepreneurs in grant writing and fund raising, evaluation, selection and review of business proposals (for start-ups) by the Screening Committee. DCEI also helps the incubators by engaging services of external consultants/agencies as applicable for investment agreement and other activities leading and following through the investment process - business due diligence, portfolio management, recovery, closure agreement and exit process. It also helps the incubators by engaging services of Accounts Section (of DA-IICT) for tax compliance, preparation of Utilization Certificate and maintenance of tax records of DCEI and engaging services of a consultant to facilitate MCA (Ministry of Corporate Affairs) Compliances.