

NMIMS Sobus Center of Excellence
for Innovation & Entrepreneurship, Shirpur

BI-MONTHLY REPORT SEPT - OCT 2022

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LAUNCH OF CoE

SEPTEMBER 01, 2022

The NMIMS SOBUS Center of Excellence (CoE) came into existence on September 1st, 2022 after an MoU was signed on August 25.

The focus of the CoE is to create a holistic ecosystem to support potential innovators, social & other entrepreneurs from idea to impact in the spaces of Agriculture & Dairy (AgriTech & Agribusiness); Food & Nutrition; Wellness & HealthTech and Textiles.

Post that a series of events and interventions began on the Shirpur campus that has given an impetus to the work.



SEPTEMBER EVENTS

We kickstarted the month with a workshop on the journey of "Discovery". Faculty and students participated in the workshop with enthusiasm and zeal. The groups shared ideas, thoughts, and opinions on different aspects of entrepreneurship and industry.

The facilitators of the workshop were:
Mr. Digvijay Choudhari and
Mr. Deepak Menon



Digvijay Choudhari - Founder SOBUS Insight Forum and SOBUS Ventures Studio. An IITian, Digvijay returned from a lucrative job in the US to give back to India. Experiences being an 'accidental' social entrepreneur led him to launch an accelerator and venture studio for purpose-driven individuals



Deepak Menon - An executive coach, supporting entrepreneurs, and progressive corporate leaders in becoming powerful leaders, developing high-performing leadership teams and designing thriving work cultures.



DISCOVERY WORKSHOP WITH FACULTY

SEPTEMBER 17, 2022

Over 51 faculty members representing the four streams on campus - engineering, pharmacy, agriculture, and textiles - attended a discovery workshop conducted by Digvijay Choudhari and Deepak Menon.

Through a workshop format, the faculty shared their inputs on the different aspects, including:

Local ecosystem problems	Faculty benefits of having a CoE	Ecosystem Benefit
Job creation	Industry connections	Local job creation
Confidence/self-esteem	Global exposure	Quality of living
Crop productivity	Local, social connection	Reduce migration
Tribal issues	Become entrepreneurs	Attract talent
Income generation for farmers	NMIMS - ranking, accreditation	Market linkages
Malnutrition	Consultancy, Thought leader	Local value capture



SOME TAKEAWAYS SHARED BY THE PARTICIPANTS ARE:

"Stop and think about things we can change around us in a better way."



"Entrepreneurship can be about solving social problems of a larger group of people than what it seems to be right now."



"There are so many opportunities we need to plan well to transform the idea into reality."



"We should keep on thinking and focus on implementing ideas for a better tomorrow."



MAKER, INNOVATOR, ENTREPRENEUR - WHO ARE YOU?

STUDENT SESSION WITH DIGVIJAY CHOUDHARI AND DEEPAK MENON.
SEPTEMBER 17, 2022

Participation was from a mix of students from all streams and explored different aspects of being an entrepreneur. They also shared their ideas on the kind of activities they would like to see at the CoE. There was also a Q&A with Digvijay Choudhari, specifically on his journey and his background as an IIT Mumbai alumnus

Of the 84 students who attended the program, 75% said that they would like to participate in such events.



"The session was quite interactive and I gained a lot of knowledge from this session about entrepreneurship, mentorship, etc."

"The session was full of enthusiasm and it gave me confidence and was very knowledgeable on the mentality of being an entrepreneur."

"That we got our space to speak what there in our mind as well as we were helped in the best way possible to know ourselves."



SOME TAKEAWAYS SHARED BY THE PARTICIPANTS ARE:

"Entrepreneurship is going to require you to sharpen yourself hard to succeed."



"From this session, I got to learn about how to manage your planning and how to improve your thoughts and make it more interactive."

"I learned about new mindsets and their different ideas."



"There are many but the conclusion is that there are lots of micro and macro skills which we need to incorporate in ourselves to become a successful businessman or entrepreneur."

START OF THE CoE CLUB

SEPTEMBER 17, 2022

Several students have come forward to become a part of the CoE club. A few student interactions, several discussions, and brainstorming have led to the creation of committees.



OCTOBER EVENTS

The month of October was full of engaging, interactive and informative sessions with the students. Activities ranged from education to practical aspects of running a factory! Students broadened their understanding and knowledge of innovation, strategy and user perspectives.

1

October 7 and 10, 2022

Introduction to innovation and entrepreneurship by Mr. Nitin Kulkarni

2

October 8 and 9, 2022

A 2-day Ideathon workshop for students

3

October 16, 2022

Industrial Visit with students to Deesan Textile Park.



INTRODUCTION TO INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

OCTOBER 7 AND 10, 2022



Workshop facilitator: Dr. Nitin Kulkarni
- Director, Sobus Centers of Excellence

With over 37 years of industrial and academic experience, Dr. Kulkarni is known for his work in youth empowerment, entrepreneurship development, enabling tech start-ups, and innovation interventions.

He served as the Founder-Director, KLE Center for Technology Innovation and Entrepreneurship at KLE Technological University Hubli. Over 10 years, the start-ups grew from 6 to 120, creating employment opportunities for over 1,000 people in the region.

A session on innovation and entrepreneurship with Dr. Nitin Kulkarni was attended by the students from the Agriculture and Textile streams.



IDEATHON

OCTOBER 8 & 9, 2022

The 2-day workshop helped students to build and nurture their ideas, starting with identification of the right problems, framing ideas, and finding solutions.

This workshop gave them the experience to build their business models, pitching and presenting skills. It improved their communication and teamwork qualities. There were a total of 11 groups and one wild card entry and they worked across different problems such as digital addiction, health and nutrition and farmer problems.

The groups pitched before a panel of judges and the three best ideas were awarded with cash prizes.

First prize:

A team from Agriculture & Textile

They aimed at providing facilities and value addition for farmers producing maize to reduce the moisture content to directly increase the price of produce and enable storage for further use.



FEEDBACK FROM THE PARTICIPANTS :

	SCORE: Very low = 1, Low = 2, Average = 3, High = 4, Very high = 5	Avg.	
	My level of understanding regarding ideation prior to entering this program was	3.3	
	My level of understanding regarding ideation after this program is	4.2	
	My level of understanding regarding Entrepreneurship and Business Model Innovation prior to entering this program was	3.0	
	My level of understanding regarding Entrepreneurship and Business Model Innovation after this program is	3.1	
	My level of understanding regarding storytelling and pitching prior to entering this program was	3.3	
	My level of understanding regarding storytelling and pitching after this program is	4.1	
	SCORE: Strongly disagree = 1, disagree = 2, neutral = 3, agree = 4, Strongly agree = 5	Avg.	
	I really enjoyed the camp and it was definitely worth my time to be here this weekend.	5.0	
	The camp has significantly improved my understanding of ideation and entrepreneurship	4.4	
	The presentations were well delivered and gave good new insights	4.5	
	The structure of the camp makes sense and worked well for my team	4.7	
	I feel inspired and the program has increased my interest in becoming an entrepreneur.	4.8	
	I would recommend the innovation camp to students who wants to learn about entrepreneurship	4.8	



FEEDBACK FROM THE PARTICIPANTS:

"We're working for the last 2 days. First of all, we want to be thankful for such a unique opportunity to work with the thought processes.

We all are surrounded by problems. We just need to think about that problem and come up with simple solutions to manage them...

This workshop was really useful and we are happy to join such events in future too. Thanks!!"



"The best weekend I can say."

"It was really a great experience to be part of Sobus and get to know how to make an impact in the group work."

"It was a wonderful event. Got much more knowledge about entrepreneurship and innovations."

DISCOVERY SESSION ON CAMPUS

Dr. Kulkarni interacted with students as well as members from different departments to understand the kind of projects that are happening across the schools.

Presentation by the agriculture team on their project ideas, including documentation of indigenous traditional knowledge systems, creation of FPOs, studying chilies, creation of traps for pests, etc.

Presentation by the textile team on their project ideas and how the CoE can support them; The textile ideas ranged from reusable sanitary napkins, sewing and embroidery projects with SHGs in Shirpur, and a process to create cotton swabs for medical treatment. They will be creating proposals for their projects as next steps.



INDUSTRIAL VISIT

OCTOBER 16, 2022

We had an industrial visit for 32 NMIMS students to the Shirpur textile park. It ranks amongst the biggest parks in the country. Students were from pharmacy, engineering, and agriculture streams. They had a walk-through of the different units, a briefing, and a Q&A session later.

The students were curious about the factory working, industry, trends, waste management, and future plans.



"My first experience in the textile industry...a great experience, seeing a bigger industry. The team really spoke with us, and I enjoyed it a lot."

"It was an amazing experience coming to Deesan textile. All of the heads were present and they explained a lot to us. We got a totally new experience."

"The way all the three partners co-ordinate to make a final product... It also gave us exposure to a new field and the overlook of the textile industry."

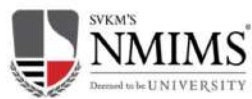
APPLICATION TO THE ATAL COMMUNITY INNOVATION CENTER (ACIC)

OCTOBER, 2022

Atal Innovation Mission of NITI Aayog, is a flagship initiative setup by NITI Aayog to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in the underserved areas of India through its program, Atal Community Innovation Center (ACIC). The NMIMS and SOBUS teams worked together to apply for the establishment of an ACIC from the Shirpur campus in September.

NMIMS Shirpur was shortlisted for an interview round which was held in Delhi on October 4.





SOBUS

If you have an idea for a project, innovation or business,
get in touch with us.

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