



All about Student Startup and Innovation Policy – SSIP 2.0

Guide

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Introduction

Government of Gujarat has developed a policy to provide assistance to startups/innovations. Under this scheme, any person/group of persons having an innovative idea/concept will be eligible and/or Universities/Educational Institutions, Incubation Centers/PSUs/R&D Institutions/Private and other organizations will be eligible as institutions to support and guide the innovators. as approved by the Committee. Startups in technology sectors of the economy are an important indicator of technological performance for several reasons.

Student Startup and Innovation Policy was first launch by Gujarat government for 2017 - 2021 year group which is shortly known as SSIP 1.0. SSIP 1.0 had provisioned Rs. 100 crores for five years (2017-2022) for supporting innovation and start-ups among students of state university and higher technical institutes with a focus on technology led innovations. Also, the support was for existing students and former students not older than five years. Compared to SSIP 1.0, the outreach for SSIP 2.0 has increased fivefold from one million students to five million students in higher and technical education institutions.

Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and Education Minister Jitu Vaghani launched the Student Startup and Innovation Policy (SSIP) 2.0, which aims to financially support school students in innovation, at a vibrant summit ahead of the International Conference of Academic Institutions (ICAI-2022) was held on Wednesday at Science City.

SSIP 2.0 is being launched with a vision of sustainable development and inclusive growth towards the realization of a self-reliant Gujarat. Many innovations are done by school students but they don't get any platform and are forgotten. But with this new policy and additional budget from the state government, school students' innovations will be supported financially as well as taken from mind to market, a first of its kind in India.

In addition, SSIP 2.0 provides aggregate financial support for a period of five years of Rs. 200 to Rs. 500 crores have been made. State Rs. 300 crore and through matching contribution and external sources Rs. 200 crores will be collected.

Under SSIP 2.0, the state government plans to set up functional innovation and incubation centers in all state universities. It aims to introduce several innovative approaches like digitization and paperless process, good governance for timely and adequate support to beneficiaries, special incentives to sunrise sectors and innovation that can enhance more inclusive development of the state.

Gujarat Student Innovation Policy

The Student Innovation Policy of the Government of Gujarat aims to create an integrated, state-wide, university-based innovation ecosystem to support the innovation and ideas of young students and provide a conducive environment for the best use of their creative pursuits.

The Student Innovation Policy coordinates complementary efforts by students, stakeholders, pre-incubation support and other necessary steps to nurture and sustain student innovation while making strong efforts towards cultural change.

Primarily, at the department of education level, resources will be used to build innovation support systems, processes and university-centric innovation ecosystems across the geography of the state that foster innovative ideas and develop a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in educational institutions. Gujarat. The policy ensures that missing links in the innovation value chain such as prototype support, IP protection, knowledge-based enterprise development, platforms to showcase success stories and similar challenges are mitigated through the policy and associated support.

Through this policy, innovation and pre-incubation support in education sector across the state will be inclusive across sectors, space and other aspects. It will also aspire to create student innovators who venture beyond the technology domain into startups.

The Student Innovation Policy mandates interventions at three levels: a) State-level (strategy and planning) b) University-level (contextual policy implementation and handholding) c) Institution-level (grassroots level deployment and end-to-end support of ideas and innovations).

Objectives of SSIP 2.0

The key objectives of SSIP 2.0 are as follow.

- Developing student centric Innovation and Pre-incubation Ecosystem for Students (IPIES).
- Creating environment for creativity to flourish and an end-to-end support system in educational institutions to allow ample support to ideas for better execution.
- Build internal capacity of educational institutions and key components of the innovation ecosystem to enable deployed processes to make sustainable impact at scale.
- Create pathways for mind to market by harnessing and handholding projects/ research/ innovation/ ideas of students in Gujarat.
- Creating and facilitating sectoral and regional innovation efforts in state around educational institutions.
- Create a common platform to showcase, support and showcase upscale innovations to motivate stakeholders as well as the opportunity to create value for money and value for many.
- Leverage public system initiatives by academia, industry and other ecosystem stakeholders/domain experts and organizations at state and central levels to undertake an inclusive effort.

Goals of SSIP 2.0

Key goals of SSIP 2.0 are as follow.

- Empower all state universities to set-up and implement a comprehensive agenda of innovation and pre-incubation.
- Aim to create an environment that converts at least 1% of graduates into job creators through innovation and allied means.
- Support at least 1,000 student-led innovations per year and aim to file 1000 patents per year from state universities.
- Employ 500 student startups and upscale in next 5 years.
- Empower universities and educational institutions to strengthen innovation and pre-incubation support systems within.

- Create incentives, rewards, appreciation and benchmarks for innovation and student startups and related efforts at all levels.
- Build capacity for at least 200 educational institutions in the state over the next five years, to provide strong pre-incubation support for student/alumni startups and innovations.
- Undertake strategic interventions to enable all state universities to develop a full-fledged pre-incubation ecosystem in the next 5 years.
- Ensure that innovation processes systematically link academia, society and SMEs so that students and teachers can solve their challenges and create more entrepreneurial opportunities.

Role of Stake Holders

- **Government:** Mandate, support, integrate and scale.
- **Academic Stakeholders:** Deploy agenda within, quality assurance, create end-to-end support system and codification.
- **Non-academic, industry and other ecosystem stakeholders:** Mentoring, market access and domain knowledge.

Key Facets of SSIP

The following are the key facets of the Gujarat SSIP:

- The policy aims to intervene and support at i) idea level, ii) innovation level and iii) pre-incubation level to achieve the broad goals of the policy.
- The policy is to be implemented at three main levels viz. i) State Government, ii) Universities and iii) Educational Institutions.
- Resources for policy implementation and implementation are to be mobilized from state education budgets, internal resources of universities, central and state aid systems and private-sector resources including CSR funds.
- Common facilities and resources such as geographical resources, hard and soft infrastructure resources, procedural and pedagogical resources and field systems will be created to bring inclusion in the process.
- Successful implementation of the goals will be evaluated by considering the impact of metrics such as output-based indicators, emphasis on sustainable process design, competitive motivation-based co-creation and appropriate scale-up and turnkey measures.

● The broad goals of the policy will be achieved through pedagogy, co-curricular level and community/ecosystem-based interventions. The policy creates incentive structures at several levels viz. Idea level, educational institution level, university level to drive policy and deployment and cluster level to include non-academic elements.

Intervention at State Level

- 1. Government-level top-level policy support to take leadership in Gujarat's innovation and student startup movement. Such and related initiatives receive top-level support from the Department of Education, so 'innovation' becomes one of the top priorities of the government.
- Creation of Student Innovation Fund to support policy provisions.
- Develop linkages between industry and academia to act as a bridge between aspiring students for internship/field exposure and local industry.
- Liaison with various Ministries and Agencies at State and Centre Government levels such as finance, industry and education comprise the innovation and pre-startup ecosystem.
- Linking existing Technology Business Incubators (TBIs), Incubation and Specialized Institutions with University Startup Support System/Council for mutual learning, capacity building and co-creation.
- To build a culture of student startups and innovations by celebrating efforts and success stories through conferences, workshops, festivals and other periodic events. Create avenues in state and national level events to showcase student startups and provide a platform for such startups to grow.
- Linking the best practices of university centric startup ecosystems around the world with the efforts made by the universities here in facilitating conditions.
- Creating systematic outreach through academia to change the mindset of children and youth to inculcate a strong entrepreneurial culture. All schools, universities can be avenues of information and engagement.
- Build linkages with external stakeholders such as industry, private sector and other relevant organizations to provide knowledge inputs
- Creating a global exposure program for local student innovations and startups.
- To document and codify the best practices of the Gujarat student startup and innovation ecosystem and pave the way for them to be showcased at national and international levels.
- Continuous monitoring of startup environment including state-level, national-level and global level policies, initiatives and impacts.

Intervention at University Level

- Every university should create a basic facility in the form of a Student Innovation and Entrepreneurship Council, use human resources to oversee the council, assign a senior competent authority to coordinate such a facility at the university level to develop action agendas for the short and long term. And share the same with the state.
- Create action plans and strategies to support startups and processes to support them. Take a holistic approach and create systems to support ecosystems, processes, start-ups, including sectors and spaces.
- Student startup manual like tool kit development which will be easy to follow basic essential requirements for support teams and institutes/universities to give them best possible handholding in the startup value chain.
- Create, recognize and reward appropriate open innovation models to create more student innovators and startups. Institutionalize innovation and student startup awards.
- Creating a funnel to support ideas at the prototype stage by creating pre-seed funds/grants.
- Ensure minimum exposure to students on how to solve problems, innovate and start up in college.
- Through various research grants and other means, students will face much needed challenges. These challenges will be based on local and global issues. Universities also encourage students to create products, services, solutions and convert them into enterprises for value creation.
- Develop appropriate and flexible protocols for student innovators to take advantage of existing infrastructure, mentors, testing facilities, operational space etc. in universities across Gujarat after regular class hours. Also create networking opportunities for students among various internal and external stakeholders.
- Each university will categorize and prioritize interventions that may include low-cost interventions, medium-cost interventions, and others.
- Create processes and mechanisms so that access to facilities and benefits is accessible to student innovators and idea-stage startups with equal ease based on merit. Innovate to reduce transaction time and costs by facilitating access and support to various infrastructures for startups while leveraging existing facilities in the government and/or private domain.

Intervention at University Level

- Annually the best innovation/projects that have the potential to be taken forward.
- Mobilize existing available resources for prototyping/IPR support with universities/state government and link such resources with students.
- Create basic IPR and prototyping support for student projects.
- Allow innovative students to use existing labs and workshops to develop proof of concept.
- Conduct culture building activities like workshops, hackathons etc. frequently.
- Involve existing local entrepreneurs and involve them in mentoring processes of students and researchers.
- Build a miniature do-it-yourself (DIY) lab with basic pre-incubation facility.
- Facilitate exposure of innovators and student startups through institute level programs and activities like cultural festivals, tech fests etc.
- Facilitate access to benefits provided under the Startup India scheme and other available benefits to student innovators.
- Promote innovation and startups agenda as recommended in this policy, through regular co-curricular activities.

Conclusion

Thus, the policy leverages complementary and complementary efforts from various existing policies, schemes and other initiatives of state and central governments, universities and ecosystem stakeholders. Develop an application portal to facilitate registration of student ideas and innovations as well as researchers. Resources for implementation and implementation of the policy are to be mobilized from the state education budget, internal resources of universities, central and state support systems and private-sector resources including CSR funds.

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