Academic Entrepreneurship for Scaling Innovation

Neeta Baporikar, Namibia University of Science and Technology, Windhoek, Namibia

ABSTRACT

Academic Entrepreneurship in the last three decades has risen to greater heights. There are various reasons too. Indian’s education sector has been undergoing sea changes in these decades. Every state has been opening up and there has been a plethora of institutions established. In the process, India has earned itself a reputation of a brainpower generator. Apart from this academic entrepreneurship in India has played a seminal role in not only accomplishing this status but also enabled to scale innovations. The proposed study aims to understand how academic entrepreneurship in India has been the enabler to scale innovations. It will also analyze to bring out the factors that have key impact on the growth of academic entrepreneurship. Best practices will also be delved so as to reckon the significance of academic entrepreneurship which is of both theoretical and practical importance for both developed and developing countries.

KEYWORDS

Academic, Entrepreneurship, India, Innovation, Role, Scaling, Theory
INTRODUCTION

Over the past thirty years, there has been an increasing interest toward academic entrepreneurship, i.e. the direct approach towards commercializing education or involvement of academicians and scientists into the development and commercialization of knowledge, research (Baporikar, 2009). In fact, education has become a playfield for entrepreneurs. Academic entrepreneurship takes several forms: starting institutions as enterprises, industry-university collaborations, university-based incubator firms, start-ups by academicians, double appointments of faculty in firms and universities, etc. Though the term academic entrepreneurship is used to indicate different cases, in this paper it means and deals with individuals and institutions that have entered the field of academics with an entrepreneurial perspective. However, need based the terms “Entrepreneur,” “Scientist,” “Researcher” and “Inventor” have been used interchangeably. Further, the distinction between ‘Entrepreneur’ and ‘Academic Entrepreneur’ is also made as it is our belief that the academic entrepreneurship can be developed only by better adaptation to the local requirements. Through in depth literature review and grounded theory approach, the paper focuses on understanding the importance of academic entrepreneurship in the Indian context. It raises a number of questions: what is a right perspective for academic entrepreneurship and how should it be developed? What role can government play? How academic resources and capabilities should be configured to develop the right quality of academic entrepreneurship and enterprises. How academic entrepreneurship has enabled scaling innovations in education? The goal of these questions is to provide the reader with a suitable analysis platform for decision-making. It also aims to ensure growth and success for academic entrepreneurs through optimization of knowledge management process. After the introduction, is the literature review, then the key factors, impact of entrepreneurs, the role of government and thumb rules for academic entrepreneurship are discussed. The last part is the findings, implications and conclusion.

Literature Review

Several authors claim that since universities and academics perform fundamental science and this basic knowledge is increasingly important in high-technology sectors and more generally in the knowledge economy, and because knowledge may be hard to transfer, it is desirable to directly involve academic organizations and scientists into commercially oriented activities (Baporikar, 2009). Moreover, these scientists would be ‘disciplined’ by such commercial involvement, since they would choose research projects still of scientific value, but also with practical applications. Academic scientists will therefore strike a virtuous compromise between the production of scientifically relevant knowledge, and the translation of this knowledge into economic and social value (Ezkowitz, 2004). A vast empirical literature has provided evidence consistent with these claims. Several studies have shown that the presence of academic scientists in start-up and young, science intensive companies (e.g. in biotech and semiconductors) has a positive impact on the innovative and financial performance of
Industry-Academia Collaboration in Business Schools

www.igi-global.com/chapter/industry-academia-collaboration-in-business-schools/212024?camid=4v1a