Report on Two-Day National Workshop on Design Thinking for Entrepreneurial Success

Introduction:

A two-day National Workshop on "Design Thinking for Entrepreneurial Success" was successfully held on 4th and 5th October 2023 at Auditorium, organized by Iqbal Institute of Technology & Management. The event aimed to equip participants with the knowledge and tools of design thinking to drive entrepreneurial success. The workshop featured prominent academicians, industry leaders, and experts, providing participants with valuable insights into innovation and problem-solving.

Objectives of the Workshop:

The primary objectives of the workshop were:

- To introduce the principles and methodologies of design thinking.
- To foster creative problem-solving skills in entrepreneurship.
- To provide hands-on experience in applying design thinking to real-world challenges.
- To create networking opportunities among students, entrepreneurs, and industry professionals.

Inauguration and Welcome

The workshop began with a warm welcome from **Dr. Yousuf-ul-Umar (Chairman, IMT)** and **Dr. R.A. Thakur (Director, IITM)**, who greeted the esteemed guests and participants. The inaugural ceremony was presided over by **Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice-Chancellor, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST)**, who delivered the inaugural address as the **Chief Guest**. In his speech, he highlighted the critical role of design thinking in fostering innovation and driving entrepreneurial ventures.

Day 1: Sessions and Activities

Keynote Address

The workshop was led by the renowned **Dr. Anju Singh**, an expert in design thinking from **IIS University Jaipur**. Her keynote address, titled "**Design Thinking: A Catalyst for Entrepreneurial Success**", set the tone for the workshop. Dr. Singh emphasized the importance of empathy, creativity, and innovation in solving complex problems.

Interactive Session: Empathy and User-Centric Design

Facilitator: **Dr. Aijaz-ul-Islam**, Faculty of HSS&M Department, NIT Srinagar Participants were introduced to the concept of empathy in design thinking, learning techniques to understand user needs and challenges. Role-playing and group activities were conducted to reinforce these skills.

Customer Journey Mapping

Participants were guided through the process of creating customer journey maps under the mentorship of **Dr. Rumaan Bashir**, Dean of the School of Engineering and Technology, IUST. Teams identified key pain points and opportunities for improvement.

Day 2: Sessions and Activities

Ideation Workshop

Facilitator: **Dr. Farooq Ahmad Mir**, Director of Admissions. Kashmir University The second day commenced with a brainstorming session where participants explored

divergent thinking techniques. Teams generated innovative solutions to selected problems, focusing on feasibility and desirability.

Prototyping and Iteration

Participants created low-fidelity prototypes under the guidance of **Dr. Aijaz Kumar**, Scientist at NIELIT. Feedback sessions allowed teams to refine their designs and concepts, enhancing their problem-solving approach.

Panel Discussion: Pathways to Entrepreneurial Success

A panel discussion featuring all notable speakers provided insights into transitioning ideas from concept to market. Panelists shared their experiences, challenges, and strategies for scaling entrepreneurial ventures. The session also addressed funding opportunities and the importance of stakeholder engagement.

Valedictory Session

The workshop concluded with a valedictory session presided over by **Dr. Anju Singh**. Certificates of participation were distributed, and the organizers expressed their gratitude to the speakers, facilitators, and participants. A closing address by the Chief Guest, **Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai**, emphasized the need for continued efforts in fostering innovation and entrepreneurship.

Key Outcomes

- Participants gained a thorough understanding of the design thinking process and its relevance to entrepreneurship.
- Teams developed innovative, user-centric solutions to real-world problems through hands-on activities.
- The event fostered collaboration and networking, creating opportunities for future partnerships.
- Attendees expressed increased confidence in applying design thinking principles to entrepreneurial challenges.

Feedback from Participants

Participants praised the workshop's interactive format and the expertise of the facilitators. Many expressed a desire for similar events to delve deeper into specific aspects of entrepreneurship and design thinking.

Conclusion

The Two-Day National Workshop on "Design Thinking for Entrepreneurial Success" successfully achieved its objectives of promoting creativity and innovation among participants. The event provided a robust platform for learning, collaboration, and inspiration, underscoring the transformative power of design thinking in entrepreneurship. The organizers expressed their commitment to hosting more such initiatives to nurture the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

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Report on National Seminar: Digital Transformation: Empowering the Future



IITM College successfully hosted a National Seminar titled "Digital Transformation: Empowering the Future" on June 17, 2023. The seminar aimed to explore the transformative impact of digital technologies on various sectors and to inspire students to embrace innovation in the digital age.

The event witnessed the participation of 120 students, along with faculty members and guest speakers from academia and industry. The keynote address was

delivered by the esteemed Dr. Randhawa, who emphasized the importance of digital literacy and the need for students to adapt to emerging technologies to remain competitive in a dynamic world.

Expert-led sessions explored topics such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, and cloud computing, with discussions on their applications in business, education, and governance. Panel discussions also addressed ethical challenges and the role of digital transformation in achieving sustainable development goals.

Interactive workshops provided hands-on experience in cutting-edge technologies, fostering practical skills among the participants. Students appreciated the opportunity to engage with industry professionals and gain valuable insights into the future of digital innovation.

The seminar concluded with a vote of thanks by the organizing committee, highlighting IITM College's commitment to empowering students with knowledge and skills to lead in a digitally driven world.