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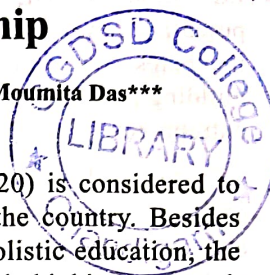
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Implementing NEP-2020 by Empowering IGNOU Students towards Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Oum Prakash Sharma*, Jyotsna Dikshit**, Moumita Das***
 and Sujata Santosh****



The National Education Policy (NEP-2020) is considered to revolutionise the entire education system in the country. Besides focusing on providing multidisciplinary and holistic education, the NEP-2020 aims at fostering creativity, critical thinking, research and innovation among the students for transforming India into a knowledge and self-reliant society. Some of the major thrust areas which are categorically emphasised in NEP-2020 include research and innovation, setting up start-up incubation centres, industry-academic linkages, hand-holding mechanisms for nurturing creative and innovative ideas of students, organising competitions for promoting innovation and creativity among student communities, and creating a culture for innovation. NEP-2020 also advocates for innovations in teaching and pedagogy, innovation in technology-enabled teaching-learning, curriculum, pedagogy, and assessment, etc., aimed at enabling the higher education institutions to contribute towards an empowered society. In that context, empowerment of an individual, particularly the students in higher education, both in curricular and co-curricular areas, is very important. The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), being a great contributor in the field of higher education, caters to the educational needs of more than 3.7 million students and almost similar number of alumni across the country, and since a majority of them are youth, they have the potential to contribute to the growth of economy and development of the country.

In order to implement the National Education Policy-2020 in the context of innovation and entrepreneurship, IGNOU has taken several initiatives to empower the students in both curricular and co-curricular areas. On one hand, IGNOU has brought several innovative changes in the curriculum, pedagogy, learner support system and assessment mechanism. On the other hand, it has taken several initiatives to promote and support innovation, entrepreneurship

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