



Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, Nashik – 422 222

3.3.1: Initiatives for creating an innovative Ecosystem for Innovation

The University has created an ecosystem for innovation including establishment of Krishi Vigyan Kendra for reaching out to rural communities and other initiatives for the creation and transfer of knowledge. The University takes pride in mentioning some of the activities that create an ecosystem for innovation, creation and transfer of knowledge. The State of the Art Infrastructure support includes innovative learning system, innovative learner support system, collaboration and networking of learner support centers.

The list of initiatives undertaken by the university is listed below:

1. Center for Collaboration and Special Initiatives (CCSI):

The Centre for Collaborations and Special Initiatives was established in the university in 2010 to cater to the special target groups deprived of education and help raise their socio-economic status by providing general, vocational and technical courses, to bring them into the mainstream of education. Also to undertake their certification by examining and validating their working skills. The Centre for Collaborations and Special Initiatives has developed need based courses for special target groups in the community such as Indian Army, prisoners, policemen, drivers, farmers, industrial workers and functionaries of non government organizations etc. The center has separate Advisory Committee for special initiatives chaired by the Vice Chancellor of the university.

Currently the Center is coordinating with the Indian Army, Maharashtra Police, Maharashtra Jails and National Association for the Blind for joint collaboration for course development and operations. The objectives of the center are listed below:

- To collaborate with various government and non government organizations and institutions for the development need based certificate, Diploma and Post Graduate Diploma Programs
- To develop and implement the program for the special target groups of learners.e.g. Prisoners, Transgender, Blind, Army, Police.
- To recognize and certify prior Knowledge of skilled workers and certify them to add value in the job market.
- To Develop and offer Skill based certificate, diploma program and produce trained and responsible youth.

The center currently has following programs run in collaboration with following organization:

Organization	Program
Artillery Center, Nashik	Certification program in various Trades: Surveyor, Operator (Radio Communication), Gunner, Driver, Chef, House Keeper, Steward, Hair Dresser, Painter, Tailor, Fire Controller, Store Keeper etc.
RambhauMhalgiPrabodhini, Mumbai	P.G. Diploma Program in Leadership, Politics and Governance
National Association for the Blinds	Diploma Program in Perfumery
Advantage Nashik Foundation	Certificate in Road Transport, Safety and Awareness
Skill mate Academy, Mumbai.	Skill based online certificate program
Janardhan Swami YogabhyasiMandal, Nagpur.	Certificate and diploma program in Yoga
Inspector General of Police, Nagpur	Preparatory B.A/ B.com and Skill based Program for tribal inNaxlite prone area of Gadchiroli District.

The center is currently running following programs in collaboration with various organizations as listed above:

1. Certificate Program in various Trades for Army Person
2. Certificate Program in Security Services (Security Guard)
3. Certificate Program in Security Services (Security Officer)
4. Certificate Program in Rural Transport Safety and Awareness
5. Certificate Program forGramRojgarSevak
6. Certificate Program in Farmers Producer Company
7. Certificate Program in Bee Keeping

It is interesting to note that 1563 army men enrolled for 18 different Trades under Artillery Center (Sr.No.1) and more than 2000 learners are enrolled for remaining 6 certificate programs (Sr. No. 2 to 7) including farmers. Thus the total number of beneficiaries under the Center for Collaboration and Special Initiatives are more than 3500,otherwisethese learners are left out from the main stream of skilled empowerment.

1. Innovation and incubation center

The University has established Innovation and Incubation center under KrishiVigyan Kendra with the financial support from Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi. The KVK Center is working in close collaboration with the government and non-government organization.The University has organized various trainings, workshopsand seminarsand lead lectures such as transfer of technology from lab to land, soft skills development, Entrepreneurship development programs etc. The center is dealing with research, training and production of agricultural production system and services to farmers through distribution of bio-fertilizers and bio-pesticides at affordable cost. This will enhance, nurture and grow new businesses by supporting them through the early stages of development and progress to fruition.

2. Research Council and Research Programs:

The Research Council is created to facilitate research culture and attitude amongst the learners, PG students and teachers. Currently 2 faculty members have been awarded Ph.D. degree while 3 faculty members are pursuing for Ph.D. degree. The university has 22 Teachers are recognized as research guides and 13 Ph.D. degrees awarded to students under their guidance. The teachers have published 200 research papers in the UGC notified journals. 150 research papers in seminars and conferences and 158 books/ Chapters in various reputed publications. The university has organized 15 seminars, conferences and workshops in the last five years from 2015 to 2020. The university has established 24 linkages and signed 25 MOU's for research collaboration, academic program development, faculty exchange and learner exchange programs.

3. Research and Production Laboratory and Commercial Plantation:

The University has established a Soil and Water Testing Laboratory, Vermi-compost Production Unit, bio-fertilizer and bio-pesticides production, horticulture nursery, fruits and vegetables production unit on 100 acre land. This farm laboratories and production unit catering to the need based and field based problems of practicing farmers and farm labour. The unit mainly takes care of training and empowerment of farm women on large scale including artisans.

4. Intellectual Property Right Cell (IPR Cell) :

The IPR Cell of the university monitors and addresses various issues related to researched products and processes developed by the university teachers. Few activities / workshops were conducted under the IPR cell such as: National Seminar on IPR: An Introduction and Process of Filing Patents.

5. Career Counseling and Placement Cell :

The University has a well functioning placement cell which organizes annual activities like placement drives and on campus placement to distance learners, lectures on placement opportunities and entrepreneurship development for student.




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