

## 13th Biennial Conference..... Encouraging Entrepreneurial Perspectives

Entrepreneurship is all about the readiness to take risks, create structures and handle a business with a dynamic mindset. In India, entrepreneurship and start-up activities have grown immensely over the last two decades. Not only there is a huge advancement in the technology and innovation sector but the ease of finding source for funds and capital has encouraged more and more people to take to start-ups. Entrepreneurship is certainly creating an atmosphere of excitement in the world. From family businesses to innovative start-ups and social enterprises, entrepreneurship has come a long way. Research in the area has been a major factor that has brought the trends and nuances to the fore and has ensured interventions in the right areas. Over the past 24 years, the Biennial Conferences on Entrepreneurship have been organised by the Centre for Research in Entrepreneurship Education and Development (CREED) at EDII to probe the various aspects of entrepreneurship and to bring the researchers from the nation and across the world on a common platform. This year, the Thirteenth Biennial Conference on Entrepreneurship was held at EDII during February 20-22, 2019.

The 13th International Biennial Conference on Entrepreneurship as inaugurated by Padma Shri Late Dr. V. G. Patel,

Noted Expert on Entrepreneurship and Founder & Former Director of EDII, Ahmedabad. The three-day Conference witnessed over 235 academicians, practitioners, thinkers and researchers engaged in the field of Entrepreneurship from prestigious national and international institutions. Over 300 papers were received, out of which 147 papers were accepted including 16 papers from international academicians from countries like Bangladesh, France, Iran, Israel, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Switzerland and Russia.

Padma Shri Late Dr. V. G. Patel in his inaugural address congratulated the institute for organizing this conference and significantly broadening the frontiers of the important discipline of entrepreneurship. During his brief speech, he spoke about the early years of India during the 70s when setting up an enterprise was all about filling 42 different sorts of forms and even waiting 2 years for the sanctioned loan amount. It was then, he said, they removed the constraint of money that was found out to be the major problem for starting of a business. Dr. Patel realised that it was a beginning of addressing a big problem that India faced in setting up enterprises. Hence, he spoke to various technologists, artisans, small time businesses to find out the other problems that stopped them from succeeding.

Finally, he narrowed down to 5 constraints that any potential entrepreneur faces to start his enterprise – lack of confidence and motivation, lack of credit, unaware of good business opportunity, making a reliable and presentable business plan and a good management team. Dr. Patel then appealed the government during that time to provide 100% loan to such potential entrepreneurs with no collaterals. Initially the banks objected to this idea but later gave in which led to a total of 3000 entrepreneurs getting loans and resulting in 60% success rate.



*Padma Shri Late Dr. V. G. Patel,  
Founder Director, EDII, Ahmedabad,  
addressing the audience during the inauguration.*

That was how the first ever Entrepreneurship Development Programme Model was evolved wherein a total of 200 people applied and 40 were selected. The success of the model led to several institutions coming up with similar programmes which started failing and thus was felt the need to create a national level institute with a cadre of competent trainers, and so EDII came into being. Dr. Patel further elaborated on the concept of entrepreneurship, the growth and entry level barriers and how the changes must be effected to achieve better in the existing scenario.

Dr. Sasi Misra, Conference Chair, EDII gave a briefing on the conference informing all that the themes to be covered include; Entrepreneurship Perspectives & Practices, Entrepreneurship Education, Women Entrepreneurship, Social Entrepreneurship, Innovation, Agripreneurship, Sectoral Entrepreneurship, Startups, Incubators & Accelerators etc.

The Conference promoted and advanced the understanding of entrepreneurship theory and research in the above mentioned areas. The conference successfully imbibed an entrepreneurial mind-set among the researchers with the hope that they will delve further into the finer aspects and seek

to establish a connection between entrepreneurship and the changing market dimensions on the fast growing 21st century.

Dr. Patel requested researchers to continue upgrading themselves on research methodology and take up some pertinent research topics like:

- Why close to 40 % of the start-ups fail in the first three years?
- What are the behavioural qualities needed in potential entrepreneurs to succeed; need to review the existing selection tests?
- What creates a great institution in the wake of the fact that out of 11 Entrepreneurship Development institutes in the country, close to 9 have failed?
- Why do family businesses fail by the second or the third generation?



*Seen in the picture is the Chief Guest (in the center) Padma Shri Late Dr. V. G. Patel with (on the L) Dr. Sunil Shukla, Director, EDII-Ahmedabad and (on the R) Dr. Sasi Misra, Institute Professor & Conference Chair releasing the proceedings of the 13th Biennial Conference.*