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## Creating an Ecosystem for Research, Innovation and Quality Education

Urvashi Kuhad\* and R C Kuhad\*\*

Research and Development (R&D) initiatives enhance the exposure of students in academic institutions towards real-world problems and also create opportunities for working on the state-of-the-art R&D infrastructure. These initiatives bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical applications and help in building a very strong academia-industry ecosystem. R&D in academic institutions, hence, increases the exposure of students beyond the boundaries of our traditional education system and propels them to the forefront of global education. This equips them for cutting-edge research, interdisciplinary collaboration, intellectual contributions, and to meet the demands of a knowledge-driven society.

A number of Indian Institutions are engaged in research (academic and sponsored) and have made this an essential part of their curriculum. Higher Educational Institutions are expected to carry out quality research and integrate the same in academics to ensure quality education. Moreover, the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) are also expected to create practical linkages with a focus on specific areas of research and collaborate to create synergies in the areas of core competencies. Also, it is desired to create a system of preservation/conservation of earlier research outputs and link them with the latest cutting-edge research to build a structured development system/process.

Largely speaking, researchers in our country undertake new research problems instead of building on earlier research studies done by others, which can have more ramifications. We, as a nation, still lack a talent pool of scientific knowledge-based manpower, along with a second line of researchers, teachers, and managers. This could be because of an apparent lack of coordination among educators, researchers and industrialists in catering to the market demands and needs of the population in general. Research and innovation in any discipline play a major role in shaping and enabling researchers at an individual and collective/group level to ensure the greatest good of the greatest number. To achieve this, in a country like ours, there is a need to create opportunities and avenues for young minds/students/researchers. Moreover, to attract a greater number of students/persons/citizens to think about innovative research and skill-based education, we need to develop a learner friendly/ free thinking /people-user centric ecosystem. This can only be possible by understanding the relationship between education, research, innovation, employment, and skill development, which is missing from the conventional

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