

**EDITORIAL**

# Role, Importance of ORIC and Entrepreneurship in Universities

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The entrepreneurial universities aim to facilitate practical knowledge to students and industries to foster economic development. Many ideas were put forward to pioneer universities in the United States like Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Stanford establish a solid patent policy, technology transfer policy and Liaison between university and industry. The next great change occurred in Western Europe, with most of the universities transforming themselves into institutions supporting entrepreneurs. The last was the tip of the iceberg i.e. newly emerging economies helped these universities to reach their desired goal.

Entrepreneurship as part of academics is increasing in every institution and the new firms or projects or industry are going through the infancy period, but the future is the coalition between the social and economic strategies and this is the future of entrepreneur universities. To analyze an entrepreneurial university a framework was structured on existing literature, with five criteria: entrepreneurial thinking, linkages with industry, resources from the university or industry, innovation and last but not the least is research<sup>1</sup>.

Higher Education Commission of Pakistan (HEC) in 2010 issued a policy document making it mandatory for all the universities to establish the Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC). There are at present 66 ORIC offices established in Pakistan that are registered and partially funded by HEC. Innovation sits at the cross roads of invention, and all depends on collaboration, teamwork and entrepreneurship<sup>2</sup>.

Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC) has been established with the guidelines of HEC in different universities. The higher education plans to start and accomplish a very intense, cosmopolitan and competitive research sector in Pakistan that makes a major contribution to our industrial sector, uplifting economic standards and the transference and pursuance of knowledge. With this background, Pakistan has been acknowledged as a rising star in a number of research disciplines with percentage increase in internationally cited research publications. The office of research and innovation will try to provide support to the researcher in the form of laboratory or working space equipment if possible funding and academic support also. The main objective should be to facilitate linkages between the University and Industry for marketing the research<sup>3</sup>.

The concept and ideology of medical school innovation and entrepreneur programs in United States is rapidly expanding to address new technologies and technical skills needed by physicians due to ongoing changes in the healthcare system, the skilled entrepreneur workshops remain relatively few and small compared to large class format. This innovation in medical education should focus on the development of a programmed educational or entrepreneur model and make it part of their curriculum<sup>4</sup>.

The main players in any economy is the business industry and as science and technology have grown more advanced with Artificial intelligence, robotics and others like cyber technologies. Universities roles have taken a 3600 turn in their curriculum and not just academia they are focusing on invention, innovation, and commercialization. Connecting innovations to industry rather from bench to bedside and then to the industry or market is the pathway but has not been possible due to lack of coalition between academia and industry and secondly a medical university needs funding and research from the industry which they are lacking. Instead, university researchers quite appropriately concentrate on basic research. "Since the Industrial Revolution, the growth of economies around the world has been driven largely by the pursuit of scientific understanding, the application of engineering solutions, and continual technological innovation" (National Academy of Sciences and National Academy of Engineering 2006)<sup>3</sup>.

According to Pakistan's Economic Policy, it is mandatory for universities to pursue and search the market and where there is dearth of research they have to come up with a totally new batch of Pakistani scientist or researchers which are fit to throw up the future tycoons of business Industry. Our focus should be to make our local universities a role model of high growth and innovation and to become the backbone of research and economic development for Pakistan.

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